



News Release

1 July 2015

Local man helps WaterAid reach milestone in Northern Ireland

Local Ballymoney man, Frank Stewart, has helped the WaterAid Northern Ireland Committee reach its 100th meeting milestone.

Frank, who played a central role in setting up the committee in 1984, has attended the vast majority of the 100 meetings over the past 31 years. Since the committee's existence, Frank has held various positions including Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.

The committee, who initially met triennial, meet now on a quarterly basis throughout the year. The committee consists of representatives from across NI Water and the Water Industry who are dedicated to raising the profile and funds for WaterAid. The Charity work to provide taps and toilets for some of the poorest communities across the world.

At the recent AGM meeting Frank was appointed as the committee's new chair for the next two years as the committee look forward to future fundraising initiatives in Northern Ireland.

Frank explains: "From its humble beginnings back in 1984, the WaterAid Northern Ireland Committee has gone from strength to strength and we now have more meetings per year than ever before. It has been a privilege working alongside so many from the water industry and beyond, raising funds for the vital work of WaterAid. From bun sales and abseils, to our annual flagship Ball and walks, the committee works hard to raise on average £100,000 per year and I look forward to my new role as chair over the next two years. The committee have just set up a new country link to Zambia and any money raised by the committee in Northern Ireland will go directly to WaterAid projects there, a country where over half the population live in poverty and millions lack clean water and basic toilets."

Across the world, 748 million people still have no access to safe, clean water while 2.5 billion lack access to improved sanitation. Every single day, 1,400 children die due to diarrhoeal diseases caused by the lack of these basic services.

WaterAid works with the poorest and most marginalised communities in 26 countries around the developing world to set up *practical and sustainable* water, sanitation and hygiene projects.

As well as providing toilets and taps, WaterAid always promotes good hygiene behaviour to make sure that the health benefits of safe water and sanitation are maximised.

The WaterAid Northern Ireland Committee also have a dedicated team of speakers who can provide an insight into the work of WaterAid and the importance of water and sanitation. If

you would like to arrange a talk for your school, work place or community group, please contact celine.rodgers@niwater.com

Ends