

Wishing Wells

A wishing well is a well in which a person throws a coin and at the same time makes a wish. The person hopes that, as they have given some money to the well, their wish will be granted. However, the story of wishing wells doesn't end there.

After tossing in a coin and making a wish, people believe their wish will then be granted by the guardian or dweller of the well, who lives underneath it, and was based upon how the coin would land at the bottom. If the coin landed heads up, the guardian of the well would grant the wish, but the wish of a tails up coin would be ignored.

The guardians of the well were never seen but there were numerous rumours of who it was. Some people believed the keepers to be fairies, whilst others believed it to be the work of elves or trolls.

Definitions:

A **well** is a hole that is dug into the Earth to get water (or oil or natural gas) out of the ground. They can be as simple as a hole that a bucket on a rope can be lowered into, or very complex with pipes and high-powered pumps to get the water out. Clean water is a problem for many African countries. Many charities are helping to build wells in local villages to help stop lengthy travel to distant water supplies.

A **wish** is a hope or desire for something.

Some examples of wishing wells:

