

# Out of Africa and into Ormskirk

**A** Lancashire businessman's road trip to Africa became a life-changing moment for him and an amazing group of artists he met on his travels.

Ian Unsworth was driving in Kenya when he saw lifelike sculptures of wildlife being sold at the roadside.

He bought a giraffe and after meeting artist Moses Ocheing and his community in Nairobi decided to ship a container of their work over to the UK to see if they would sell. They did.

Today Pangea Sculptures has an impressive showroom in Ormskirk, is developing a global market and is helping transform the lives of people in east Africa.

It has become 62-year-old Ian's passion. He embarked on his African adventure in 2014 after selling his successful business.

"I was looking for something to do and wanted to help people," he explains. Stumbling across the roadside art was the catalyst. Today the venture turns over in the region £500,000 a year and 30 per cent of whatever money is made in the UK goes back to Africa to help improve lives.

A 36-strong workforce at the Ark Collective is employed making the animal sculptures of Africa's marvellous wildlife – including hippos, rhinos and crocodiles as

well as the ever popular giraffes. There are plans to create better working conditions for them, with Ian spearheading a project to build a new factory.

The aim is to open it later this year. Ian says: "Our goal is also to generate enough profit to build a new school for the area."

People come from across the UK to visit Pangea's Ormskirk showroom. And the works of art can be found across the world.

Ian says: "We are working to ensure Pangea is a sustainable company for the craftsmen and their families."

