

The Anvil

Your monthly update from Tools For Self Reliance Cymru

We're back

Well, it's been a busy summer. With lots of events and festivals under our belt we've got a little more time to catch our breath and reflect on our work and our future. Over the 'events season' we've been to Glastonbury, Fire in the Mountain. The Green Gathering, The Green Man, Between the Trees, The Devauden Music Festival and many, many other events. We were busy away from our base but the work there didn't stop. We are almost ready to close the doors on container 21 and we've sent nearly three tons of tools and equipment to Workaid where they are filling a container that is also heading to Kalwande.

It's done!



The new workshop in Kalwande is now complete. At the beginning of summer (and before we started our major fund raising work) we found cash flow was making it

difficult to fund the final work on the building. Our friends at Workaid were able to help out with a short term loan that allowed us to complete construction. That loan is now completely repaid (thanks to everyone joining us at the events and who supported us as volunteers or bought our lovely refurbished tools) and the workshop is now a real working environment for the refurbishing of tools. Our team has moved into the new space and they will soon be fully equipped. Well done to everyone at Kalwande for keeping the project on track.

Containers 21a and 21b

Our depot team has nearly filled container 21a. There has been an incredible amount of tool donations these last few months and the shelves at the depot have been overflowing. Along with the usual carpentry and mechanic's type tools we've been provided with several industrial sewing machines, large workshop equipment like radial arm saws and pedestal grinders, engineering and woodworking lathes, table saws...it's been amazing.

Much of this heavy equipment will be set up in our new workshop and some will be offered to the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology and Hakizetu Tanzania Organization to support their training operations but all this pales next to the many dozens of sewing machines and tons of hand tools that we've received which will directly help our local, rural artisans in the lake zone.

You may be wondering why there's a 21a and 21b. This year Workaid, who are now formally partnered with Kalwande, will be sending a container there for the first time. Workaid are also funding the next two short training courses, with more to come in 2025.

We have been offered to fill half of their container which is a tremendous savings for us. It will probably arrive ahead of our 21a so we've sent most of the big items for the workshop in the Workaid container along with many much needed sewing machines.

Many thanks to the collectors like the Soroptimists, the Rotary groups, individuals like Paul Verney and Colin Hill who gather tools for us and all the many people who have donated to us especially TFSR South Shropshire Group for their very helpful donation. We couldn't do our work without everyone's assistance and your generous donations.

Interested in helping us?

We are currently recruiting volunteers to help at events for next season and for volunteers to help with the management of the charity as trustees. If you have an interest take a look at our website. There is a lot of information there about being a trustee and your help would be rewarding for our charity, our Tanzanian artisans and of course for you personally. Our website is <https://tfsrcymru.org.uk> or you can email us for more info at contact@tfsrcymru.org.uk.

Local Events:

Although the major fund raising events are behind us there are still opportunities to visit us before Christmas. Our shop in Crickhowell is open as usual, there's plenty of interesting things in our eBay shop and we will be visiting the following events:

- Harvestime at Much Marcle October 12/13 and
 - Fairtrade Christmas Market Hay-on-Wye: Saturday December 7th
- Details on our website.

Thank you, and as we say in Wales and Tanzania: **Diolch yn fawr / Asante Sana**