

The Anvil

Your monthly update from
Tools For Self Reliance Cymru

Visiting Tanzania



On February 3, 2025 two members of the charity began a journey to visit the artisans, staff, supporters and friends in the Tanzanian Lake Zone. Frequent readers of The Anvil will remember that we send a team to visit every year. This year we were joined by Adrian Hatch of Workaid, a charity with a very similar goal and one we hope will make an excellent partner.

It was a short, very busy fortnight which involved epic flights, friendly greetings at every stop on our itinerary and some very open and honest stories being told. We have plenty of photos to share and we'll be bringing stories and project updates to the subscribers.

Hopefully you'll be both entertained and informed. Some of the stories are sad, some inspiring, and the projects are shaping up to be very exciting. In the planning stages now is a refurbishment of the fabrication classroom and workshop. This will be a joint project with TFSR Cymru, Workaid and Kalwande and will create a much cleaner, safer environment to teach welding and fabricating skills which are in high demand.

These are some shots of the workshop now in full operation:



One Story

Vesta Zachari

Vesta is 21 years old and has seven siblings. Both her parents have died, leaving her an orphan. Together with her siblings she lives with an Aunt. She dropped out of secondary school without any grades and soon realised that she needed to take control of her life and find employment.



Her Aunt persuaded her to apply to Hakizetu and to train as a tailor, at first she wasn't sure but she soon developed a passion and real natural ability in using a sewing machine and designing clothes. She joined the programme in July 2024 and has already completed her practical work experience training with a local tailor.



Rather than Hakizetu placing her with a local company after graduation, she has a determination to establish her own business with two of her friends and fellow trainees. Therefore, subject to satisfactorily completing the training, the group will be given two machines and some funds to cover the first few months of renting a small workshop.

We will endeavour to follow up on our next visit next year to visit her and her two friends to see how their business is doing.

We asked her where she would like to see herself in five years, she was very clear that she wants her own successful business and she wants to train other girls in tailoring and design. In her own words "I want to be a great teacher".

Locally:

We will also have info about the local events we attend this year with lots of pictures of our volunteers here in Wales. We've already attended some events, The Hereford Seed Swap and the Monmouth Seed swap were very successful events in February.

Coming up:

- Abergavenny Seedy Sunday, March 9th
- Hay Fair Trade Spring Market, March 15th.

Again, check out our website for updates, take a look at our interesting eBay shop and read about opportunities to volunteer as a trustee, event helper or all the other ways you can help.

Thank you, and as we say in Wales and Tanzania:

Diolch yn fawr / Asante Sana