

The Anvil

TOOLS
For Self Reliance
CYMRU

Autumn 2006

The Latest News from Tools For Self Reliance Cymru

A Very Successful Summer ...

Which is being followed by a really productive autumn ...

We've been to lots of events over the summer. Some of the most memorable were the Big Green Gathering where we refurbished billhooks and axes to order. We must have sold more than 50 of each, all helping to swell our coffers.

At the Green Man Festival, which took place just down the road from our workshop, we were actually paid to run blacksmithing workshops for adults. Most of our customers were in fact boys and girls who were just itching to have a go. This proved to be an excellent way to get people involved with our Tanzanian-style forging, and a good way of introducing them to the work of African artisans.

The Abergavenny Food Festival was a first for us, thanks to Doug of Kopy Katz, we were in the Green Zone alongside VSO, Friends of the Earth and other friends. We were all surprised by the number of felling axes and slashers that sold at a food festival. And now we are frantically sorting tools to go into our next container, and at the same time refurbishing kits for Singida region. We get a break at Christmas!



Rob and his young apprentice at the Green Man Festival. Over the three days we helped over 40 people learn a little of the skill of the African blacksmith.



Saidi, Vivienne, Jon and Tony on the steps of the Mwanza Workshop

SIDO WALES TOOLS WORKSHOP

Last Easter Jon Ramus and Tony Care visited the Tool Refurbishing Workshop in Mwanza to find out how things were going, and to look into the quality of all the many tools being produced.

The workshop had been very productive, and after 9 months of work they had nearly run out of tools. They had already completed more than the annual target of kits.

One area where their refurbishing was not up to standard was in the sharpening of saws. Jon being our resident joiner was in his element here, he spent time teaching Vivienne this difficult skill.

More tools were already on their way to top up those still in the store. Since then we have agreed to send another container full of tools for refurbishing. Hopefully this will leave Crickhowell before Christmas. We hope to be loading this container in a weekend - the last one took us 8 months.



Mike Kear came to visit in the summer. We hadn't seen him for some time as he has been unwell. Here he is with Fridays group, and we even got Andrew in the photo.

N E W S D E S K

Sue Gray has returned ...

Sue, one of our Trustees, set off round the world for 6 months and stayed away for nearly a year. Now she is back with us again and organising ...

Our "Open Day" on 28th October - 10 - 1 pm

Come and have ago on our **TANGAWIZI FORGE**. Refreshments, and all that sort of thing

Our Next Gig is on 24th November

The Red Eyed Flies - a truly exhilarating R & B band Cwmdru Village Hall, from 8 pm with the usual bar etc



Our 300th kit surfaces in Kagera Region. The Maruka Group were so pleased with it, they demonstrated every tool in the box. It was sent in Feb 05, taking nearly a year to arrive.

It's' been a long time

since you heard from us, very sorry about that - We've all been so busy doing things, there hasn't been time to write about it. Hoping the next newsletter won't take so long to reach you.

We have been swamped with tools over the summer; Mark has been doing a great job keeping the alleyways clear in the workshop. We are not in a position to take any more sewing machines at present, so hang on to them for a couple of months if you have one for us.

Many thanks for all the generous donations you have made over the past year. If you haven't got round to it yet, better late than never!

Enclosed is another one of our leaflets. Please pass it on to somebody you think would be interested in supporting us, either with tools or with cash - or both? The tear-off slips are starting to pay off, returning with donations attached. Many thanks again for your help in this.

Our new Sewing Machine workshop

opened in February with a grant from the Brecon Beacons National Park. After eight months we have lost count of the number of machines that have come out of the tiny workshop, all whirring & shiny. In July the grant ran out and after a further 3 months, Trustees have decided not to continue paying the rent.

The plan had always been to move into one of the empty spaces in Crickhowell being created with the arrival of the new CRIC building. We are still waiting for Powys Council to make their decision on letting these empty rooms.

Watch this space - we now have a very keen bunch of refurbishers, anxious to carry on working on the machines - somewhere close by, and soon we hope.

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Workshop Open: Saturdays: 10.30am - 12.30pm for dropping tools & Tool Sales

Wednesdays to Fridays: 10.00 - 2.00pm + Tues & Thurs 7.45 - 9.45pm for Refurbishing

