

TFSR CYMRU



**TOOLS**  
For Self Reliance  
**CYMRU**  
**ANNUAL**  
**REVIEW**  
**2010-2011**



FAIR TRADE TOOLS MADE BY LAZOA BLACKSMITHS IN TANZANIA



## Director's Report Sept 2010 - Aug 2011



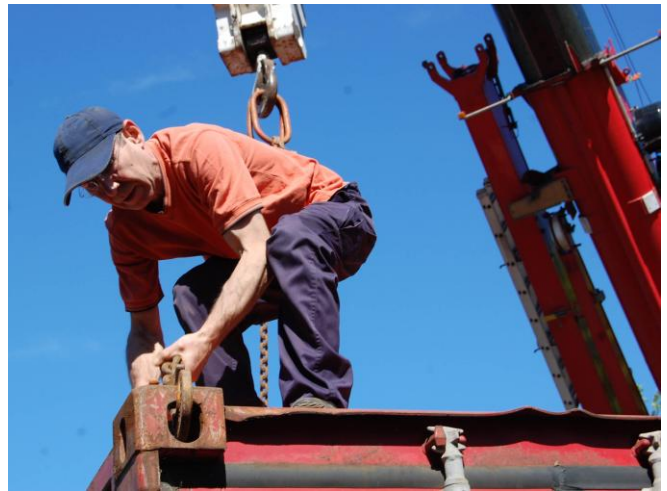
We were aware in the autumn of 2010 that external events were beginning to cause great changes to the economic environment that TFSR Cymru was working in. As we write this report in the last few weeks of 2011 the effects of those changes are starting to bite, as an example; the cost of purchasing our 5<sup>th</sup> container has risen to £1650 compared to £600 for our first.

In anticipation of changing circumstances and to try and keep our organisation flexible and able to respond your trustees embarked early in 2011 on a root and branch assessment of all stages of our work both here and in Tanzania.

At our last AGM we reported that having looked at available local options for accommodation we had decided to maintain the Standard Street workshop as our main base for refurbishment with our small shop as our public face.

The future of our off site storage was uncertain and remained that way for much of the year as we awaited the outcome of efforts to redevelop the Cwrt-y-Gollen army camp.

That has at last been resolved at least for the short and medium term and we are able to continue to store and sort tools there before loading containers. Concerted efforts by Peter the workshop co-ordinator and others has meant that we have been able to keep on top of the weekly influx of donated tools, freeing up valuable space for refurbishment.



We recognise that a key ingredient, and a major constraint on the success of TFSR Cymru is the number and quality of the people involved in our work. Being almost entirely dependant on volunteer input we have looked in detail at this aspect:

Cuts in Government spending and the overall economic situation has meant that there are increasing demands by an ever increasing number of organisations for voluntary input of time and energy, our population's goodwill is being stretched.

We have been fortunate to have had a range of volunteers over the years and hope that they will all continue to help us in the future. However we recognise that we will have to offer a greater range of volunteering options if new people are to help us. In particular we need self-motivated and fairly skilled individuals who can work with the minimum of supervision.



In order to make ourselves as volunteer friendly as we can may involve opening the workshop at times more convenient to the availability of potential volunteers rather than what suits us best.

Demand for our services has continued to increase which has led to more tool sales and money to fund our African work. Our small tool shop is recognised locally as a reliable source of tools and repairs and staffed by friendly and accommodating people.

We are attending more events over a longer season. In the past, the summer months were targeted for such activities but we are now also being asked to attend earlier and later in the year and have had to decline a few requests when we reached capacity of available refurbished tools and or volunteers to attend. We have purchased a more manageable gazebo and set of display panels for the smaller events and the purpose built trailer we bought last year has been in constant use.



A pleasant diversion or should that be Tsunami- occurred during the summer when we had a pre arranged visit by over 50 members (in two batches) of the Tools and Trades History Society, enthusiasts one and all they were very excited by the most obscure and arcane examples we had stashed on our shelves, identifying tools we had long ago stopped trying to conjecture a use for. They left happy and weighed down, as was our cash box, come again friends it was fun.

The expansion of the Events calendar has seriously constricted the time slot available for another important annual task – that of face to face contact with our African partners. December and January are now the only months available.

Part of the assessment of all our operations has been to look very closely at how and what we supply to our joint workshop in Mwanza, how well that workshop runs and ultimately how effective we have been in helping Tanzanian artisans to be more self reliant. This is ongoing work and we expect to have a presentation and verbal update at our next AGM in March 2012.

We recognise that it is not enough just to provide tools and create a few full time jobs and so have paid for enhanced training in Tanzania:





- Saidi Maguta is teaching blacksmith groups more advanced techniques.
- John Mtalingi is training carpenters in tool maintenance, and introducing new products.
- Dickson and Saka have received training in sewing machine maintenance and troubleshooting and are available to help groups in their regions.
- All groups receiving sewing machines and carpentry kits are given introductory sessions related to their new tools.
- We are working towards providing a tools introduction package to all recipient groups whatever their trade.



We have been successful in obtaining funding for Tony Care to go and assess the operation of the fairly traded tool scheme which we have been promoting; to instigate a tighter quality control system and look for new products, and we have financed our newest trustee Jim Pollard to accompany Tony and see at first hand the challenges and benefits involved in our partnership.

Additional funding has also been found for Gwyn Dix to visit Mwanza and look in depth at the workshop and the end users of our tools to see how we might be more effective.

A spin off from feedback regarding the hardness of African produced green wood working tools has led to two of our trustees - Jeff Thomas and Gwyn Dix attending night classes at the Hereford blacksmiths school to increase our corporate knowledge. Proving perhaps that it is possible to teach old dogs new tricks? In any event we have now seen the renaissance of our Standard Street forge, no longer a black hole taking up valuable real estate but a functioning tool.

Our sewing machine workers have also upped their game and are now able to handle a greater range of machine types and have increased their volunteer base, thanks to Lynne and her team.



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## An Example of our work - A TALE OF A VILLAGE IN RURAL TANZANIA

Shigala is a village in rural Tanzania 35 kilometres from the town of Magu, which is itself one hour's drive from the city of Mwanza. That 35 kilometres is on a dirt road that is usually travelled by bicycle or by the daily *dala-dala*, a local mini bus that is so crammed full of passengers that you are lucky to find a place and not everyone gets a seat.

Shigala and its surrounds has a population of 3,500 and so is not that much bigger than our home villages of Crickhowell and Llangattock. There is one secondary school, two primary schools and one dispensary - again like home. There the similarity ends as the schools have up to 90 in a class, and the dispensary has only one doctor whose supplies are rather meagre compared to the Crickhowell Health Centre.

So far TFSR Cymru has supplied one tool kit to this village, to a bunch of bicycle-menders, the Magonda Group. The kit was refurbished and sent by our Mwanza workshop in 2010, and has made a great difference to their capability to keep bicycles on the road.

Joseph Magonda is the group leader and there are five members, all fundis or skilled workers.



They mend 10 to 12 bikes a day, and the group is unusual as it also has the means to carry out gas brazing in Joseph's nearby house. The roads are rough and the loads so heavy that the bikes sometimes break and need their frames brazing back together. In this part of Tanzania the bicycle is **the** means of transport, and is used to carry charcoal and other produce to Magu market. The bicycles have their carriers modified by the local blacksmiths so they can carry up to three bags of charcoal weighing 50 kilos each. This is one of the most popular products for a rural blacksmith made out of reinforcing bar. They can also carry two extra passengers if needed.



Just over the road from Magonda Group is a rough mud brick workshop where Limbe Shinogu works as a shoe mender and leather worker. He sits on a small mountain of old discarded shoes which are his spare parts. He has been disabled all his life and has worked here since 1978. His tools are few, and when we visited him we promised to get a leather workers tool kit to him as soon as possible. We also promised him a hand Singer sewing machine to enable him to sew simple leather



products. He has four trainees working with him, and since he started work here he has also trained ten other youngsters. They make very robust sandals out of old lorry tyres which sell locally for 2000 Tanzanian shillings, that's less than a pound. He gets a bit more if they are sold in Magu or further afield.



On the edge of town in a beautiful setting is the local blacksmiths group Umoja which means "Unity" Group. As well as carriers for bicycles they make axes, billhooks, parts for ox ploughs and other agricultural tools. The chairman has attended a SIDO training course, but the group has not yet received tools - they will get them soon. From the picture you can see they have no anvil and use a heavy metal bar to work on.

The most important job the group carry out is mending things when they break, an invaluable service for the village.

There is also a carpentry group in the village, the Tjukombe Group with ten fundis but very few tools. They make furniture but they struggle with their lack of tools. We will be sending tools to all these groups in the near future, all provided by our Mwanza workshop.

With these four tool kits the village will have it's bicycles repaired which is their main form of transport, their shoes repaired, their furniture, doors and windows made, and their agricultural tools provided.

As the groups get more work they will expand and take on and train youngsters who have left school. This is just the start of support for the



village of Shigala. When they receive their tools, SIDO will provide training to the groups, teaching them to improve their practical skills and also increase the range of products they make for use by the village. This will all be funded by TFSR Cymru, and we will get the cash to pay for this by selling garden tools back home in Wales.

As well as servicing the needs of the village, the group members have plenty of dependants of their own. These four groups have a total of 124 dependants in their families. So as soon as the other tool kits arrive, things could well start to change in the village of Shigala. We hope we will be able to repeat this work in other villages across Lake Zone, with tool kits refurbished by our Mwanza workshop.

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2011**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
Donations in kind, refurbished tools	£35,766	£35,712
Donations in kind, un-refurbished tools	£57,654	£29,653
Grants	£23,195	£15,874
Donations	£15,469	£19,612
GiftAid refunds	£1,384	£2,350
Sales of Tools	£19,818	£26,090
Fund-raising events	£870	£100
VAT	£1,050	£1,113
Interest received	£175	£150
Membership fees	£3	£8
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£155,384</b>	<b>£130,663</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Refurbished tools dispatched	£35,766	£35,712
Un-refurbished tools dispatched	£57,654	£29,653
Refurbishing expenses	£1,935	£2,793
Purchase of tools	£804	£3,140
Workshop equipment	£443	£686
Publicity and Information	£1,681	£1,635
Partnership development	£22,204	£17,216
Project Coordinator	£15,407	£16,440
Workshop Coordinator	£2,954	£3,126
Administration	£5,419	£3,799
Sewing machine workshop costs	£2,426	£2,789
S. machine workshop manager	£3,536	£5,640
Depreciation	£1,842	£1,692
Feasibility studies	£2,800	£0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£154,871</b>	<b>£124,321</b>
<b>SURPLUS for the year</b>	<b>£513</b>	<b>£6,342</b>

**BALANCE SHEET AT 31 AUGUST 2011**

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Tangible assets	<b>£33,305</b>	<b>£32,299</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Stocks	£2,800	£3,600
Debtors	£2,719	£1,917
Cash in hand and at bank	£23,106	£31,328
<b>Total</b>	<b>£28,625</b>	<b>£36,845</b>
<b>CREDITORS</b>		
Amounts falling due within one year	£1,102	£1,766
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>£27,523</b>	<b>£35,079</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>£60,828</b>	<b>£67,378</b>
<b>RESERVES</b>		
Retained funds	<b>£60,828</b>	<b>£67,378</b>

(continued)

So to summarise:

- We continue to move forward on many fronts, existing efforts in our workshops and with our present volunteers are very much appreciated – thank you to everyone involved.
- Thank you to the wider public for being so supportive of our efforts by donating tools and buying refurbished items.
- Thanks too for the generosity of Crickhowell Estates in providing off site storage for our tools and containers.
- But we are well aware that life as we have known it is changing fast and that as an organisation we need to be resilient to changes, not to paint ourselves into a corner but be in a position where we too can be SELF RELIANT.



Eric Bowles, Chair of Trustees

## Financial Report

Trustees operate the policy of maintaining reserves to cover six months running costs. This includes salaries, workshop rental, and UK admin costs such as insurance; total £15,000, plus £12,000 to cover the annual operation costs of our Mwanza workshop.

**Many thanks to all** our generous supporters and donors and to . . .

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Llanelli TFSR  
Staff at the Vine Tree Llangattock - for hospitality throughout the year



**Tools For Self Reliance Cymru** ◇ **Patron : Dr William Shija**

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