

TFSR CYMRU



TOOLS
For Self Reliance
CYMRU
ANNUAL
REVIEW
2009-2010



Forging a side axe from a lorry half-shaft - ITAHWA BLACKSMITHS



Directors Report Sept 1st 2009 – Aug 31st 2010

Hello, this year we are changing the format of our annual report to primarily focus on two areas of our work. In the central part we look closely at the positive effects sending our tools has had on individual livelihoods in Africa and we explore in some depth our new project - the marketing of fairly traded, hand made tools from Tanzania.

As a registered charity there are certain items our report must contain by law and these are included in the appendix.

In previous years we have reported across the full range of our activities both in Wales and Africa, explaining in detail how the various strands of our work contribute to our main purpose – to provide tools for African artisans so that they can be more self reliant and resilient to changes affecting their communities.

That work has continued unabated and we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the fantastic support we have been given by our volunteers, our partners in Tanzania, our funders (including a generous £10,000 individual bequest from the estate of a supporter) and of course the general public who have continued to donate tools and purchase refurbishments. Thank you all.

In this introduction we would also like to share with you the changing nature of our work and highlight the challenges that we feel will have to be faced in the not too distant future:

For many years we have been recognised locally as a reliable source of good quality refurbished gardening tools and have used the money generated to part fund our African activities. But over the past two years we have seen a big increase in demand for all horticultural and woodland management tools and equipment. We have had no end of requests to attend “green” events and we now have a presence at green skills fairs, seedy Sundays, hedge-laying and ploughing championships and several transition town initiatives in addition to our regular small holders fair, Glastonbury, Green Man Festival and the Abergavenny Food Festival.



At the same time, we have seen an increase in interest from local woodland groups, allotment societies, City farms and Wildlife Trusts all trying to source quality hand tools. So far we have been able to keep up with this demand - just. The repair and refurbishment of hand tools for UK use is taking up more of our time and a lot of storage space.



We have known for some time that there is an unsatisfied demand in the UK for green woodworker's edge tools, such as side axes, draw knives and froes, and we commissioned samples of these from skilled Tanzanian blacksmiths that we have supported in the past. The success of that experiment and its development into our Fairly Traded Tools Project is detailed later in this report. It is mentioned here as another example of our expanded

efforts and to highlight the extra work that will be generated to support it, particularly the web based sales that we expect.

Whilst these new areas have been developed we have also seen a steady increase in the output from our sewing and knitting machine group and we have had to find warm, clean and well-lit work space for them and more storage for the donated and refurbished machines.



With all this activity our annual accounts show a significant increase in income (from sales and grants) and expenditure (amongst other costs we managed to send two containers to Mwanza within this last financial year). Without the generous donation of storage space at Cwrt-y-Gollen camp by the Llanover Estates we would not have been able to sort, store and load the tools into the containers sent to Tanzania, in fact we would not have been able to service the Mwanza workshop at all.



And so to the future:

Pinned up in our workshop is the notice: "No Condition is Permanent".

Mindful of this your trustees have been peering into the short to medium future to see how we might continue our support for communities in Tanzania.

As the effects of financial constraint bite we feel it is likely that our supply of donated tools to replace our exported stocks will continue for some time at least. However in an era of austerity with increasing unemployment and reduced access to credit it is likely that people no longer move house so often, no longer clear out inherited possessions or purchase new electrical handheld tools from China. They may well start to do more for themselves, learn how to sharpen granddad's planes and chisels, forgo retail therapy and learn or relearn old skills. We have seen the trend in home grown food and the demand for quality gardening tools, we may have to find new ways of sourcing tools for our partners.



Bidding for funding is becoming more complicated and we know that we will need access to reliable evidence of the likely outcomes of any project put forward for grant aid. Most funders want hard data, the facts and figures and a track record of success. We will have to work harder with our partners to provide such information and be more creative with the type of descriptive, anecdotal evidence that we have collected in the past.

Transport costs are rising with oil price increases, and the free movement of goods by sea is constrained by a reduction in credit guarantees for cargo. The cost of transportation in Tanzania is rising even faster than here. And whenever China increases its output so does the scarcity and therefore the cost of steel shipping containers.



We have been successful in increasing our output of tools to Tanzania over the past 10 years. We were able to do this by combining plentiful donations, free storage, cheap transport, access to funding, good sales, good partners and fantastic and skilled volunteers. Not all these elements will remain constant and we will have to be inventive to pursue our goals. It is essential that if TFSR Cymru itself is to remain self-

reliant it must remain aware of the changes that are coming, it too needs to be resilient.

To that end, trustees have had a long look at our options locally for new premises and although the future of our storage facility is uncertain at the moment we have decided against going down the commercial rental route, paid for in large part by external funding. Instead we are pursuing a partnership approach with a greater degree of self-generated income, we feel this approach is more in keeping with our ethos and allow us to be effective in Tanzania for longer. We hope to have more information on this available for our AGM on 8th March 2011. (cont on back page)

ARTISAN GROUPS WE HAVE SUPPORTED

The Amani Tailors had received one treadle and 4 hand machines from Wales in 2008, and they had put 2 hand machines into treadle bases. The group consisted of 14 members of whom 9 were trainees, working from two workshops. The group leader Mercy Haule is very keen to provide training to younger girls and also to help those who were less fortunate, so the group also has six disabled members. Trainees stay for one year and then return to their villages, so there will be a need for more machines in this area.



Ian and Tony modelling their shirts: the group made them during their visit



Their main workshop was tiny, squeezed between a cobblers shop and a general store, but they managed to fit in six sewing machines, plus room for ironing in the back room. They were well organised and had plenty of customers for dresses, shirts and school uniforms. The group were looking forward to receiving more machines from TFSR Cymru later in the year.

ITAHWA BLACKSMITHS GROUP

Our old friends at Itahwa were on top form during our visit. Seen here making one of their small garden forks, they are using their new letter stamps to add the group name to the finished fork. These are made from old lorry chassis, and are as tough as old boots. We bought twenty for the Fair Trade Tools Project, and they sold out in months.



The group currently has 13 members, including 2 women and 1 disabled man who works with leather. Their workshop is always a hive of activity. They were one of the ten groups chosen to make tools for our Fair Trade Tools Project. We ordered hand forks, adzes and side axes, and decided to give the order for hand trowels to the nearby breakaway group, Jitegeme. This group is also making claw hammer heads for the Mwanza workshop, as we are unable to provide enough of these from Wales. This is another benefit of the project: groups who improve their production techniques are given tool orders to boost Their order books, and we buy these tools for distribution with tool kits from the workshop.



Here is a small selection of the tools made by Itahwa, showing their forks and trowels. Itahwa group are still using their pedal grinder made by Tugeme Workshop – the design of this was a winner in a previous Mashinji Prize at the Regional Exhibition in Bukoba. The group is always looking for new products, and new markets, so they are very happy to be part of our project.

Our Fair Trade Tools Project, funded by WAG: Wales in Africa Programme.

The aims of our project are: to raise the profile and capacity of Tanzanian Blacksmiths in Wales and in TZ, to raise the income and standards of living of the selected blacksmiths groups, to raise the standards of production and marketing of the blacksmiths groups, to secure a regular supply of Greenwood tools for TFSR Cymru to sell in Wales, and to educate the people of Wales about the lives and problems of rural TZ artisans.

Ten groups were selected from three areas: around Shinyanga, Geita and Bukoba towns. The range of tools made for us in the past was increased to include different types of wood carving adze, hand forks and trowels, side axes, root lifters, goat bells and leather sheaths for draw knives, adzes and billhooks.

Among the other benefits of the project are the improved skills and the quality of the blacksmiths' products, the good price paid for the tools, plus a bonus to benefit the group and their dependants, a new web site for us with an online shop to sell the tools, and a far greater range of tools for green woodworkers and community woodland groups in Wales.

Milundumo Group: makers of Shinyanga Bells. The tiny rural village of Zakaluba is 40 kilometres from Shinyanga town, down narrow winding tracks and is the home of Milundumo group. There are 15 members - 11 men & 4 women - who make ox ploughs and other country products: jikos or charcoal stoves, and various farming tools.



The main tribe in this area is Sukuma and most members of the group have large families, so there are about 100 people who benefit from the group income.

As well as paying a fair price for the bells, our fair trade project also pays a bonus to the group when all the work has been delivered to our satisfaction. When asked what they would spend this on, the group replied that they would buy a shearing machine to make their workshop more

productive. The goat bells have been one of the most popular of the fair trade products and have sold out long ago, so we are ordering plenty more. Their shearing machine is on the way!

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2010

INCOME	2009	2010
Donations in kind, refurbished tools	£28,296	£35,766
Donations in kind, un-refurbished tools	£46,197	£57,654
Grants	£11,000	£23,195
Donations	£9,763	£15,469
GiftAid refunds	£1,739	£1,384
Sales of Tools	£19,676	£19,818
Fund-raising events	£0	£870
VAT	£1,283	£1,050
Interest received	£736	£175
Membership fees	£4	£3
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>£118,694</u>	<u>£155,384</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Refurbished tools dispatched	£28,296	£35,766
Un-refurbished tools dispatched	£46,197	£57,654
Refurbishing expenses	£2,669	£1,935
Purchase of tools	£820	£804
Workshop equipment	£3,086	£443
Publicity and Information	£862	£1,681
Partnership development	£19,030	£22,204
Project Coordinator	£14,207	£15,407
Workshop Coordinator	£2,248	£2,954
Administration	£4,150	£5,419
Sewing machine workshop costs	£2,676	£2,426
S. machine workshop manager	£2,215	£3,536
Depreciation	£2,119	£1,842
Transport costs	£25	£0
Feasibility studies	£0	£2,800
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>£128,600</u>	<u>£152,071</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the year	-£9,906	£3,313

No recognized gains or losses are included in the Income and Expenditure Account

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 AUGUST 2010

<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>	2009	2010
Tangible assets	£34,703	£33,305
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
Stocks	£2,800	
Debtors	£2,719	
Cash in hand and at bank	£23,106	
Total	£28,625	
<u>CREDITORS</u>		
Amounts falling due within one year	£1,102	
<u>NET CURRENT ASSETS</u>	£27,523	
<u>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>	£56,119	£60,828
<u>RESERVES</u>		
Retained funds	£56,119	£60,828

The full version of the Annual Report and Accounts is available on request

(cont)

Finally your trustees would like to make two personal announcements:



The first is to introduce Dr William Shija who has kindly agreed to be our first Patron. Dr Shija is the Secretary General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and is based in London. His post has just been extended for another five years. He comes from Sengerema, a small town in Mwanza Region where we have sent a lot of our tool kits.

Formally he was the MP for Mwanza – the home of our Wales SIDO Tool Refurbishing Workshop. We look forward to working with Dr Shija and cementing further our ties and understanding of Tanzania.

Secondly we are proud to announce that Tony Care our long standing member and tireless supporter been awarded the “Outstanding Contribution Award” at the Wales Recycling Awards for 2010.

Eric Bowles, Chair of Trustees

Financial Report

We have a policy of maintaining reserves to cover six months running costs; 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 to . . .

Gibbs and Morel Trusts
SR & PH Southall Charitable Trust
Crickhowell Rotary Club
Cardiff Rotary Club
Glyn Coed School
Crickhowell Probus
Almeley Meeting
Bethel Methodist Church
FOE Cymru, Fair Trade Crickhowell
Bridgend and Llanelli TFSR Groups
Staff at the Vine Tree, Llangattock for hospitality throughout the year



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