



# The Anvil

## a monthly update from Tools For Self Reliance Cymru

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This newsletter was delayed due to an announcement to the members. We try hard not to spam interested parties. If you are not yet a member, please consider joining. Information about membership can be found on our website at [www.tfsrcymru.org.uk](http://www.tfsrcymru.org.uk).

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### A Tanzanian Story

As you can see from this report from our Project Officer in Tanzania, our training initiatives are still focusing on basic skills in areas where they will make the most impact. A tool is only useful if you can operate it well. Tailoring is an excellent way for people, and particularly women, to obtain a better way of life. We are very happy that these groups are taking our initial support and building new lives for many families.

#### Visiting Hakizetu organization

This is an organization based in Mwanza which has benefited from the project in the past. - It is a high-capacity centre for vulnerable girls who are being trained in tailoring and life skills. Currently there are about 25 girls coming from various areas in Mwanza. The coordinator for the organization, Ms Gundegunda, indicated the need for more sewing machines from the project and she is ready to receive up to 20 machines for the tailoring classes. Some girls who graduated from this organization also participated in sewing machine repair training early this year and were among tailoring groups who received machines. They are now working independently.

#### Supporting Tumsifu group of vulnerable girls who had nothing to start with.

In collaboration with Tumsifu's 'matron' Rebecca, TFSR Cymru has arranged for training on tailoring to members of this group. Some volunteers were identified and training classes took place twice a week. Some members who have some basic skills in sewing are using the four machines provided free of charge by TFSR Cymru to make some simple clothes for children and women and sell them to get some income. They intend to add some more machines when they are able.



## **A new anvil in the workshop**

We've always had an anvil in the workshop. It sat, all 450 pounds of it, on a stump near the forge. When covid shut us down we underwent a redesign of the workspaces and increased the size of our storage mezzanine. This meant that we needed another staircase as a fire escape and that meant we had to remove the forge and move some power grinders/wire wheels and other power tools as well. All this left our massive anvil sitting dangerously behind the machine operators and, should something catch or break, a step backwards would have them tripping backwards over the anvil.

A long, detailed and well visited discussion ensued and it was decided, after much deliberation, that it should be replaced with something smaller and portable enough to be moved out of harm's way when not being used. The old anvil, due to its size and weight, was thought to be too difficult to move to a smithy in rural Tanzania and so it was sold locally to a smithy here in Wales. The money earned was put toward a new anvil and one of our volunteers, David Smith, fabricated a sturdy yet mobile base for it.

Everyone was sad to see both the big anvil and the forge go but with the expansion there was no alternative. This is our new one. It's bigger than the 'festival' anvil but much easier to move than the big, and truthfully well worn, old one.



## **John Matalingi's new twins!**



John works in our Mwanza workshop here's a picture of his new kids. Welcome to the TFSR Cymru extended family, Evance and Ernest!

## Container 17 delayed

It is now expected to arrive in Dar on Sept 19th.

Shipping is getting very expensive. We appreciate how difficult it is to find a way to support us during this time of rising costs. If you do need a new tool, or a gift for a friend, please think of us or find us at one of the events we attend and give us a hand helping.

## Festivals and Events

August was a busy month and by the time you read this we will have been to the last two in August, The Green Man and Between the Trees.

Here are some images from the green man. You can see a lot more on our [Facebook Page](#) or [Instagram](#)



More to come at the end of the month. Thank you for taking time to read this.  
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