

# The Anvil

## Your monthly update from Tools For Self Reliance Cymru

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Welcome to 2023! In this installment we'll have news from Tanzania and some good news about our fairly traded tools and of course some pictures.

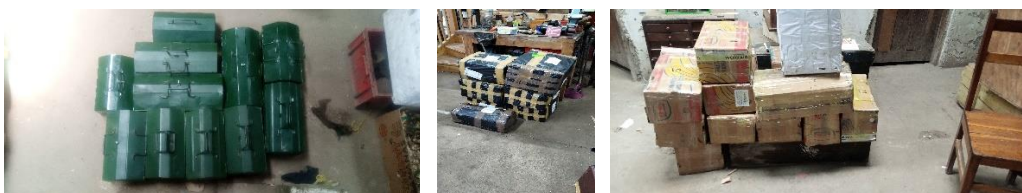
**Container 18** was safely delivered to the Kalwande site joining **container 17**. There is now in excess of 30 tons of tools ready to be refurbished and distributed. By all reports word has gotten around and requests are stacking up. The sewing machine workshop is already bustling and soon the tools workshop will also be a hive of activity. Our team in Tanzania have quite a chore ahead of them with sorting and storing.



We're still working on raising funds for this (and other projects) and we're already starting to fill **container 19** with tools. We've been very lucky recently, some large donations have made work at our depot quite challenging but we still need more tools.

### Fairly Trading and the circular economy.

Historically we have been able to provide tools like hammers and anvils for blacksmiths and for many years we've employed these same blacksmiths to supply us with hand forged, high quality tools for gardening and greenwood work. These have finally arrived in Crickhowell. We have trowels, hand forks, billhooks, bean planters, adzes, drawknives, even side axes as well as some bunting and bells. All will be on display and for sale in our shop and, of course, at events in the coming months. We always sell out of these items so please check our [website](#) for the calendar of events.



## About Kalwande.

The very rural parts of Tanzania we focus on offer very few opportunities for young, often vulnerable people and we've been supporting these communities for many years with tools and training. Now we've partnered with the Kalwande Vocational Training College, Started many years ago by Dutch missionaries, it currently belongs to the RC Diocese and is administered locally and is open to all students regardless of religious beliefs. Since the refocusing by the Government of Vocational provision to the larger towns and cities the College declined and on a visit in February 2020 our trustees determined that with a small investment in capital and training the College would make an ideal location for developing first class opportunities for young artisans seeking to improve their life chances.

Since our visit we have funded five two-week residential training courses and provided a certificated programme for around 120 male and female artisans. This represents excellent value for money and our initial impact assessment is that the partnership is not only hugely appreciated, but has begun to show great results.

Clearly it's early days in this new location, but our experience of running similar courses in other parts of Tanzania shows a clear link between the provision and improved incomes. Currently work is underway to develop more short practical courses and as the details are finalized we'll include them in these newsletters.

## Local News

Please note that there is a second pdf attached to this update. It's a great bit of history written by fellow member John Pitman and really worth a read.

February sees us back in the fields and halls. As we're all getting geared up for spring in our gardens you'll be able to find us at three seed swap events:

- Hereford Seed Swap, Feb. 4
- Leominster Seed Swap, Feb. 11
- Monmouth Seed Swap, Feb. 25

Come by our stall and say hello and of course see the tools we have to offer. As always, if you wish to support our work but can't get to us at events or our shop you can donate to us directly through this [link](#). Paypal provides this service without commission, you don't need an account and you can use any card.

Thank you, and as we say in Wales and Tanzania: **Diolch yn fawr / Asante Sana**