

The Anvil

Your monthly update from Tools For Self Reliance Cymru

Our eighteenth container has shipped.

We normally manage to ship one full container per year but this year we squeezed out two! The first, container 17 was nearly 18 tonnes and container 18, which was filled to the brim was 15 tonnes.

Here are a couple of pictures of the event and there is a short video for those who like to watch machines working (some of us do 😊 but yeah, it's a bit niche) [which can be found here](#).



This container (18) has quite a few workshop machines in it which we hope will greatly improve the level of training we can deliver at Kalwande. Machines like welders, industrial pillar drills, saw benches and even generators were sent. It's an unusual load as it also contains many nails, screws, bolts, hinges, and other ironmonger items that we were lucky enough to have donated at just the right time by the good folks in Llanelli/Carmarthen, headed up by our associate and long time supporter, Colin Hill. We also managed to include over 150 sewing machines, some of which will be installed in the new sewing machine centre at Kalwande. Training for tailors as well as mechanics will begin once construction has been completed. More on that below.

A Kalwande Project Update:

Break the cycle of poverty and give them independence.

It takes as little as £195 to provide a potential artisan with an **all-inclusive training course** at our Partner's Vocational Training Centre at Kalwande on the southern shores of Lake Victoria, and the skills learned will last a lifetime. We provide these courses free of cost to students throughout the lake zone.

What and how can you sponsor a trainee?

For many reasons we would prefer a medium to long term commitment, so regular giving gives us the certainty of being able to provide continuity. But a one-off donation of **any** amount is also incredibly valuable. Our website has a link to a donation page (via PayPal, but any card will do) and can be found at: - <https://tinyurl.com/DonatetoTFSRCymru>

Your donation can help Break the Cycle and change lives.

For more details [click here](#)

Construction is underway on the Sewing Machine Workshop.

The roof is going on! This has been a big project for local trades people and it is quickly nearing completion. Starting from a derelict shell the new centre will be the site for refurbishing all the donated sewing machines we send. It will be a centre for employing the 'Fundis' that are trained by our good friend, Dickson Shenkalwa who is now ably assisted by Kalwande's new assistant head of the Sewing Machine Workshop and trainer, Lucas Atanus. TFSR Cymru has been kept up to date on construction and costs by the local team and we're very pleased with the progress so far. It's a very exciting project as it will greatly expand our ability to "Keep them Singers Singing", as we like to say. Here are some project update photos:



And More Locally

Fair Trade Tools

A shipment of fair trade tools, and a pretty big one at that, is soon to arrive. We will post an announcement as soon as they arrive. All the usual goodies will be included.

A funny story: These tools, and there's nearly 200 kg of them, will be sent to us in metal toolboxes which are then packed into banana boxes for transport. The same boxes we send tools down to Tanzania in. The circle closes. Those banana boxes really get around. They come to local groceries stores all the way from Central America and then to us. We then send them all the way to Africa ... and then back again! We may even send them back to Tanzania in the next container!

Some shout outs:

A massive thank you to everyone who donated tools to fill the 18th container and particularly...

- Colin Hill at the Llanelli/Carmarthen workshop
- The good folks at our parent group TFSR who donated a massive number of tools
- David King from the Cardiff Rivers Group for his regular large deliveries
- Paul Verney for the amazing number of sewing machines all the way from Stroud
- John Pitman and Gerry Whitaker for collecting all the banana boxes
- Andrew Pyne for making the beautiful wooden tool chests
- All the volunteers working at the workshop and depot in Crickhowell
- And to all you wonderful people who have let us benefit from your unused tools.

We simply can't do this without your support. Thank you.

Recent Events

Yes, we're still out there.

Check our [website](#) for a calendar of events we be visiting soon.

In preparation for Christmas we have already been *to The Swansea Green Fair, The Hay Christmas Fair Trade Fair* and we will be at the *Crickhowell Late Night Shopping Event* and the *Gilwern Victorian Christmas Market* (which sounds like fun). We hope to see you at an event soon to answer questions and possibly provide just the perfect gift for someone you know.

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