

The Anvil

Your monthly update from Tools For Self Reliance Cymru

Container 19

The container is now in Dar es Salaam. We are expecting it to be off the ship soon and then making its way by truck all the way up to Kalwande. Inside are some very robust workbenches which, when finally liberated and put to work, will make a nice change from working on little workmate type benches. We'll be sure to post a photo once they get settled.

Container 20 is beginning to fill up.

It seems every time the shelves start looking a bit empty we get a windfall donation.

Recently Phil Pope met with the wonderful Soroptomists again to pick up a stunning van load plus some in cars, as well. It was a

remarkable event with many people queuing to drop off sewing machines and tools. Many thanks to all who helped.



The Annual General Meeting

was held and regular reviews, etc took place. This was a 'hybrid' meeting using in person and remote attendance. The board of trustees was elected and once the offices have been filled (at the first trustees meeting in October) the list will be published here.

There are volunteering opportunities here at Tools...if interested in helping out there are many ways you can participate. Aside from the usual events and refurbishing opportunities we are actively seeking people to help in management. Enquire : Contact@tfsrcymru.org.uk

How about a story?

The Upendo group In Nyakato has been a huge success with many young women finding a way to help support their families. Michael Kimaryo received this report recently from their secretary:

Our group received 11 sewing machines from TFSR project last year; it was really a big support since although we were 15 members in the group only three of us had sewing machines of their own. Others have been borrowing from friends and neighbours. Since we received the machines so many changes occurred in our group. Each individual is now working; speed of work has increased since the machines are of high quality; three trainees have joined us; and we are receiving many orders from the surrounding community including schools.



Generally our group is now well known in Nyakato and nearby areas and we are getting requests from new members who want to join but we feel the group will be too big to manage. We are thinking of splitting into Upendo A and B. But, let me add something, despite the group growing bigger as a whole there has been significant benefits at individual level. You know, in our society women are considered to be just receivers when it comes to family income with most of us entirely depending on our husbands. But now we are able to contribute some income to our families and this had a big impact on our status in the families. Our husbands are respecting us as more or less equal partners in homes. We are very happy on this.

Talking about myself individually, I have now two machines including one zig zag I received from the project. That has made my work more effective and I have one trainee who is using the other machine. I am mobilizing and encouraging other women around here to organize themselves and form groups like ours. Working together is helpful in getting tools support from people like you but also makes it easier to access loans from credit schemes.

Lastly may I ask if you can provide us with at least one over lock machine? You know we are now advanced so we need to produce more quality products! Also if you have a training program on sewing at your place let us know, as we have a number of young girls who are in need of becoming tailors

Events and stuff:

September ended up fairly busy for the events teams. We had stalls at :

- The Sennybridge Show
- The Usk Show
- The Makers Market, Hereford

And an information table set up for the **Greener Abergavenny Saturday** event where we tried to highlight our values for reusing, refurbishing and finding new purpose for tools which might otherwise become landfill.

The events season is slowing down now as the weather closes in but we will still be at Hellens Gardens apple fest. Check our website for updates as some events may pop up.

Thank you, and as we say in Wales and Tanzania:

Diolch yn fawr / Asante Sana