

The Anvil

Your monthly update from Tools For Self Reliance Cymru

Container #20

It's full, doors are locked and the lorry scheduled to pick it up on Thursday March 7. Thanks to all the people who donated tools and sewing machines it was an amazing six months to fill this one and it has some wonderful tools in it. Our team in Kalwande will be very busy when it arrives. However long that might take.



This year due to the issues surrounding shipping through the Suez Canal we have arranged shipping around the cape. It's a long, long journey but all the shipping lines are recommending it now. It's a bit more expensive but we hope a safer way to go. If you'd like to help us pay for this (our largest annual expense and the reason we work at so many festivals and fairs) please see our website for information on how to support us. A list of events we will be attending is on the website as well as ways to donate directly.

Remember The Request!

Please, if you are interested in contributing to help with our eBay shop, and this essential and rewarding part of the Charity's work, call Corin on **07764 176082** or email him at corin@tfsrcymru.org.uk

You are welcome to visit the Depot for a chat - and a cup of tea or coffee, on any Wednesday from 10:00am to about 1:30pm

Some experience in selling privately on eBay would be advantageous, but not necessary. The art can easily be learnt, and full training will be given.

Another Request

The trustees are actively searching for volunteers to join them in directing the charity into the future. There is lots of information on our website about the roles available and the environment you would be joining so please take a look at it following this link.

If you saw the pop up but missed a chance to read the documents you can find everything you need [on this page](#).

In memoriam

David Smith, a long-time member and a wealth of knowledge died this month surrounded by his family. He was well known in the village and was a close friend of our co-chair, Corin Mills. Here is an excerpt from Corin's memorial talk:



“I first met him when I retired and came to live in Ewyas Harold in 2015. A kind neighbour told his wife that a chap had moved into the village, bringing with him a 50 year old Fiat 500, a bunch of assorted stationary engines and an old cement mixer.

David quickly realised that he and I must have the same disease – an addiction to old things and fixing them, so he asked me to visit the charity with him and I took the bait, hook, line, and sinker.

He gave me some excellent advice – “Beware of getting involved with the administration” he said. Unfortunately, I took no notice of him and before long, I'd become a Trustee, and finally Co-Chairman, which is why I'm here today, speaking to you all.

David was the “go to” man when it came to the identification and use of many unusual, donated tools. His knowledge was wide ranging and immense. His mantra was – “You've got to have the right tools for the job, and they have to be kept in working condition”. To this end, he was forever nagging his wife to clean the garden tools properly after use so they wouldn't go rusty.

He was a perfectionist when it came to the rehandling of tools and the sharpening of axes and scythes, no doubt due to his work as a youth in the old blacksmiths shop, where the Forge Garage now stands. He didn't keep his skills to himself either and he was always a patient adviser to the volunteers in the workshop on the best techniques to refurbish tools.

But he didn't volunteer just because of his interest in old tools, he firmly believed that he was helping to reduce poverty in rural Tanzania, so I have to tell you a little about the Charity itself. “

Local Events:

The events season is in full swing. We've been to Hereford, Leominster and Monmouth. And we thank all the organisers for inviting us along and all the people who came to support us (and all the volunteers who did the work!)

March will see us in:

- Abergavenny Seedy Sunday, March 3rd
- Carmarthen Seedy Saturday, March 16th

Locations and hours are always on the website.

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