

The Anvil

Your monthly update from Tools For Self Reliance Cymru

First, an apology for the late arrival of information. Your editor managed to break his wrist and typing has been somewhat challenging. Well, I'm back now and can type almost as good as I used to (which really was never all that good, anyway) and in the time it's taken to heal a lot has happened so let's just get into it:

Containers

Finally, our container arrived at the college. It closely followed the Workaid container which arrived a week or so before ours. The shelves will be bulging by now and tool kits are once more flying out to the artisans. It took absolutely ages to get our container there. First the six weeks sitting on the dock in London waiting for the shipper to find a boat then the long distance trip around the Cape, the many stops in ports before Dar es Salaam, the long wait at the Dar port while negotiations with the Tanzanian Revenue Authority were undertaken and finally, finding transport to Kalwande and a crane to offload it. The cost was staggering and nearly double what it was just a year ago, mostly due to duty.



Back here our next container, C22, is surprisingly close to being completely full. We have been just inundated with generous donations of tools and sewing machines and can't thank all the generous people who support us in this way. We also need funds desperately if we're going to ship this when it's loaded. Which brings us to

Why we do this

Daniel Masunga is a resident of Kiabakari area in Mara region. Four years ago he received some tools from the project. When our Project Officer visited him to know how he is going on, Daniel had this to say:



'I met people from TFSR several times when they came to visit fundis in this area. I remember they promised to provide me and my two other colleagues with some tools two times and finally in 2021 they brought me some good machines which I had

never seen before. As you can see I am a carpenter and I have been in this work for more than ten years but the tools I have been used before were been damaged within a year. But these ones from TFSR are still very strong and work quite well for four years now. And, the way I see them even my children will be using them. Before receiving these modern tools I was using the old tools I inherited from my father and the work was very tough. It was taking many days to complete one item and this was frustrating my customers. But now I work very fast and the tools I am using make me appear very professional. Many customers come to me since they know I make high quality furniture. I can make good beds, tables, cupboards, chairs, sofa sets and recently I received order from the nearby primary school to make students desks. There is really a big difference not only in the way I work but even in my life. The income I am getting since I received these tools is almost three times compared with the amount I was getting before. My two children are in English medium schools and last year I built a good house for my mother in the village. I have provided my wife with capital to establish a hair dressing salon, and, my brother, generally my life is comfortable. By the way do you have machines which are stronger than the normal sewing machines? My plan is also to have some leather work here in future.

The income I am getting since I received these tools is almost three times compared with the amount I was getting before. My two children are in English medium schools and last year I built a good house for my mother in the village.

Please pass my greetings to TFSR and any other people who are making this good project successful. In fact you are very different from others who normally come and have long meetings with us and make many promises but they never come back. Please keep supporting us and don't forget to bring the 'wazungus' to come and see us whenever they come.

Thank you very much'

Locally

Festival season is in top gear now. We've been to a few already, including Hay Festival, The Cart Shed, The Big Apple - Blossomtime, Fire in The Mountain Music Festival and Devauden Music festival. All have been excellent fun and a lot of hard work. And don't forget our little shop in Crickhowell!

Coming up we have

- Hellens Garden, Much Marcle - June 7 - 8
- Glastonbury, - June 24 - 30
- Green Gathering - July 30 - Aug 04
- Green Man - Aug 13 - 18
- Between the trees - Aug 20 - 25

As you can see, we're still very much on the job.



A huge thank you to this group of volunteers who managed to make the Fire in The Mountain festival our biggest event ever.

Thank you / Diolch yn fawr / Asante Sana