

The Anvil

Your monthly update from Tools For Self Reliance Cymru

New Board Members

So much is happening right now it's hard to know where to start but let's start with some business. Recently there have been some changes to the board of trustees. Three new volunteers have joined the ranks as we mentioned last month and we already feel the impact of this new board. Muir Sanderson, Emily Tilling and Katie Blackburn.

Recently there have been some changes to the board of trustees. Three new volunteers have joined, one has retired

Muir Sanderson splits his time between renovating an off-grid farmhouse near Talgarth and London where his wife still works as a doctor. He has had a career in finance and consultancy and is now an executive coach.

Emily Tilling works in construction training and apprenticeships leading a regional team and previously worked for a number of different charities in a variety of management and consultancy roles. She has taken over the role of chair.

Katie Blackburn is local from Llangynidr and brings her consulting, managerial and team building experience from such well matched work experience such as Powys CHC.

Corin Mills has retired from the board and as a member. His work in Tanzania was transformative and his understanding of tools, particularly engineering tools, will be greatly missed. A new coffee mug washer has been elected, however, so there's that, but nothing will replace his experience working the devious miasma of international shipping and the ins and outs of working through TZ bureaucracy.

Please note: our AGM will be on Wed 28th Jan @ 2pm in the Parish Hall, Crickhowell.

New online updates

Volunteer Kevin Jones has reopened our [eBay shop](#) which has an interesting and eclectic array of 'things' which come to us as donations but are not of use in Tanzania or are of such value that they can help fund shipping the containers. It's proven to be an excellent source of income and we're glad it's back on line after a refit.

Our new website! Our board member, Pete Dickson has taken on the task of updating it and it is now live in both English and Welsh. Although much of the Welsh was originally create using ai two of our volunteers, being life long Welsh speakers, are reviewing the translations and making what corrections are required. Be sure to take a look and make notes of upcoming events such as the forecourt sale in Crickhowell, 23 November.



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Speaking of bilingual websites...

The WCVA Volunteer Main Grant we received has now officially come to an end. Over the past 18 months, this funding has enabled us to purchase the new van, refurbish the workshop toilet, almost complete the new depot toilet, provide training opportunities, cover recruitment advertising costs, and modernise our social media presence (Facebook, Instagram, and our website) to make it more up-to-date and bilingual. Many of us were involved in these projects, both at the workshop and the depot – for example, Phil did an excellent job on the workshop toilet, with great support from the team there. We're very grateful to everyone who contributed to delivering these improvements.

In Tanzania

The good news: container 22 arrived safely and has been unloaded and sorted by the crew. It is a much needed influx of tools and a lot of work for them in the coming months.

The bad news: The run up to the elections was difficult and tinged with inuendo and outright claims of corruption. The ruling party imprisoned opposition leaders and, it was claimed, rigged the election outcome to ensure a continuation of the current government. When the result was announced rioting and deaths occurred across the nation and was felt most deeply in Dar es Salaam and Mwanza. The government shut down all Internet access and we lost communication with our staff for a few tense days. We've managed to contact them, now the 'net is back, and they're safe but worried as you might expect.

TFSR Cymru has no interest in who runs the government of Tanzania, we are far too grassroots to get involved with such things, we only hope that the people of Tanzania can find a way to resolve this as soon as possible and let the violence subside.

Locally

Check the website at <https://tfsrcymru.org.uk> for event updates. There are still a few opportunities to buy wonderfully refurbished garden tools for your green fingered friends and family members (or yourselves) or consider a gift certificate which would be accepted at our shop in Crickhowell (not eBay).

Coming up we have:

The pre-Christmas forecourt sales :

- 23, November from 10:00am till 3:00pm
- 4, December from 2:00pm till 8:00pm

at our shop and car park in Standard Street, Crickhowell. Directions and a map can be found on our website.

Well, that was a lot of words and not any photos so here's a picture of something nice. The African Christmas Trees blossom every year around this time ... they can be stunning.



Thank you / Diolch yn fawr / Asante Sana