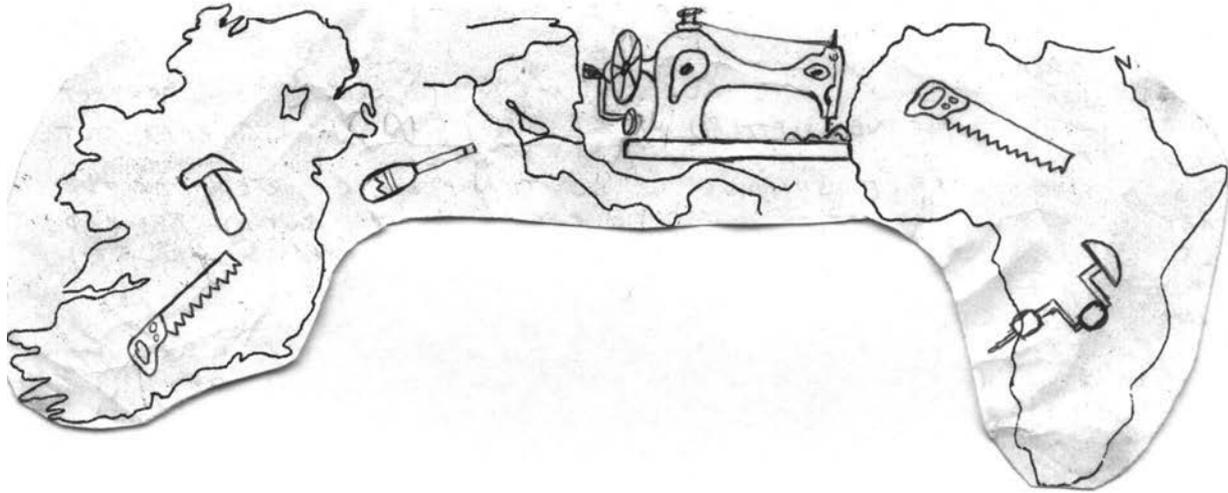




# NEWSLETTER

**of Tools For Solidarity**

Give a new life to your old tools!



February 2007 *SOLIDARITY* NO.21

THE NEWSLETTER OF TOOLS FOR SOLIDARITY

It has been a long time since the last newsletter and so lots of things and changes happened within the Organisation. At first, in the nature of tools a lot of people changed, the EVS Volunteers are all different, we gained support from the new Deal Program, but lost a lot of people as well.

Long term volunteers Hamish and Alistar are leaving the project after over 20 and over 5 years to head for the Netherlands and Dublin in April. Everybody in tools would like to thank you for your commitment and all the work during so many years. The “new rest” works out systems to cope with everyday life and tries to fill the gaps (if that will be possible?). We are also very grateful for the help from Peter who fights every week to get a bit of order and fun in our messy workshop life. And as well we would like to thank: Gordon, Richard, Paul and Paul, Andrew for all the refurbishment, without you we couldn't have done so many kits!

There is also Jim coming twice a week now, he will be part of a sailing crew taking tools to Africa and bringing fair-trade products back to Europe next year. Travor and Colin are doing very good work and are helping out with loads of stuff in the workshop, they came with the new deal programme. We are still looking for someone to feel the gap, which is left by Annie, so if anyone knows someone, who would like to volunteer to do some Development Education work we would be grateful if you would get in touch!

The big Plan, which will bestride the Future developments in tools, is a sewing machine refurbishment centre in Tanzania. We will hopefully start at the end of this year and refurbish over 1000 sewing machines there in the coming 4 years.! We also change the volunteer's work, in a way that every long placed volunteer gets his or her own projects where they will be responsible, for. Ivan will work with our friends in Uganda, Alessandra will manage the sewing area and supported volunteer's in Belfast, as long as she will stay. Our new volunteer, Flavia, will help out in Downpatrick and Henner will try to find a new home for our horticultural tools.

Besides the sewing machine centre, which will dominate the plans for the next year(s), there are several things planned. A new partner in Malawi has a strong request for tools. And In Uganda there are several training colleges waiting for our support.

We have also a new partner organisation in Northern Ireland. In Mourn grange there is a camp hill community which just started to do some of the tool refurbishment with us. But first of all, dear reader, you should hear a bit more about the biggest of our Projects:

## Refurbishing tools in Africa

As part of the field trip in April last year an investigation was carried out into the possibility of refurbishing sewing machines in Tanzania. This has been an aim for TFS for a long time and following some positive discussions with our partners we are now in the process of gathering information to assess it's feasibility.

So why are we looking at refurbishing sewing machines in Tanzania and what are the implications for TFS in Belfast. There are many reasons why it makes more sense to have tools (not just sewing machines) refurbished close to where people will be using them. It means that skills are transferred, training to groups can be given and tools can be more easily maintained ~ brought back to the centre and re-sharpened/repared. The cost of refurbishing is cheaper and the process of getting tools from the people or group in Tanzania is concerned is much better. They get the tools they want at the time and quantity they need.

This will mean that TFS will spend more of its time in setting up and supporting centres in other countries and less in refurbishing tools at Belfast. It is important not to lose the link between work, solidarity and development and this means that some refurbishment will still be carried out. This will in the future be more targeted and work with groups here who will want to be involved in something constructive.

As for the centre the next stage is to visit our partner in Tanzania in April to draw up a project description and business plan for the centre. Funding will then be sought and members of TFS will work with our partners for 2/3 months in Tanzania in establishing the centre.

## Say hello, wave goodbye!

Since our last publication of “Solidarity” we have had 5 new chirpy EVS volunteers, Marianna from Greece, Henner from Germany, Ivan from France, Mario, Alessandra and Flavia from Italy We said farewell to Ellina, who worked in the Downpatrick workshop for 6 months, to Mario, Rene, Andreas and Marianna, who did brilliant work. Annie who did two and a half years of grate Development Education Work and produced, under many, the famous “For a sustainable Future” Schoolpack left us as well unfortunately. Travor and Colin came new to work in the organisation, through the stately “new deal program”.

Goodbye! Auf Wiedersehn! Gao bie! Hasta Luego! Alividercie! Salut! To all of yous who left!!!

And a warm welcome! Willkommen! Benvenuto! Huanyíng! Bon Arrive! Bienvenidos! To all who came!!!

## What's happening?

Tools for Solidarity is a charity which collects old, unwanted hand tools, repairs and ships them out to skilled tradespeople in Africa and Latin America. Address: Unit 1B1, Edenderry Industrial Estate, 326 Crumlin Road, Belfast BT14 7EE. Tel 028 90 747473

visit TFS website:- [toolsforsolidarity.org.uk](http://toolsforsolidarity.org.uk)

Disclaimer: Some of the views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Tools for Solidarity. This newsletter is anti-copyright but it's nice to be acknowledged!



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