



NEWSLETTER

of Tools For Solidarity

Give a new life to your old tools!

TOOLS FOR SOLIDARITY NEWSLETTER

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With 151 items and 4,784 kg, this shipment included:

- 38 sewing machines
- 20 treadles
- 16 tool kits
- workshop equipment including power tools
- electrical fitting material & generators
- office material
- over 20 boxes clothing
- 15 hospital beds
- further hospital equipment units

Bon voyage!

Shipping Time Again

You may have realized, that this season's newsletter is hitting the road slightly delayed (or you may not, as delays are nothing particularly unusual in our publicity section..) – but at least, this time, we have a reason, a good reason: Long planned, realized yet on rather short notice, we had a shipment in the first week of July!

In one week of hard work, another container load was ed by TFS and partners is now on its way to Uganda. Here TFS's partner projects WORI – a tailoring centre in Kigoma – and RUPAD – cooperating with several Vocational Training Colleges – will be provided with sewing machines, workshop accessories, tools, material – and a workshop. As the container itself will be used as a workshop by WORI, the first undertaking after the arrival of the container in the backyard of Edenderry Industrial Estate was, to fit the container out with wiring for electricity, fit in a workbench and give the inside a quick paint over the walls. John, the electrician, Hugh and Chris from Downpatrick and Nancy all did a great job here!

This took all of the first Monday, and what followed on Tuesday morning was nothing less than spectacular and requires a bit of a foreword. As WORI and RUPAD are both projects operating in a comparatively small scale, it was to expect, that the material shipped by TFS would not fill the container by far, so that we were looking for partners, wanting to ship any material to Uganda and share a container's space. We were successful in our search for cooperation and, next to some other smaller amounts of material to be sent by others, Father Daeo from Limerick bestowed us with a 40'-container full of hospital beds and equipment to be shipped together with our things – in our 20'-container, which looked rather tweet next to this delivery! True, communication between him and our office concerning the volume of his material wasn't exactly easy – but this was still quite unexpected. Schedules had to be slightly readjusted and we spent most time of the next three days with very unfamiliar workpieces: hospital beds and how to squeeze as many in half a container as physically or any other way just possible!



The core volunteers in front of this July's container

I don't exactly remember how, but we actually could manage to get more than a dozen of the beds plus mattresses squeezed in our container, in addition to our number of sewing machines, treadles and tools as well as our other partners' further hospital equipment and....

Wednesday then was the first day for our just newly arrived EVS volunteer from Portugal, Ricardo, who immediately found the perfect task during the shipment: his graffiti experience qualified him for the honourable task of painting the container – it is beautiful! Many thanks also to all the other painters and painting supporters: Adela, local artists Paddy, Paul, Glen and his friends from BlazeFX and Charlie!

After all the funny work with hospital beds, we eventually also found the time to load our own material, some volunteers we wanted to get rid of and maybe some gardening tools, they take too much space in the workshop anyway... (ok, not so sure about the last two things – but the first one for sure!) So that finally, Friday afternoon the container was full, finished, closed and is now on its way to the harbor, the sea, Uganda...

Many many thanks to everyone supported us in this hard, but very essential week of work – this is what all the work in TFS is about and thanks to all the help we successfully finished another shipment!

The Latest from Downpatrick

Following a typical hectic year we have spruced up our working environment, most importantly Dave will shortly be enjoying his birthday in our now fully enclosed kitchen area provided by Chris and Hugh's masterclass of carpentry. Winters are now much more bearable when we settle for tea in the warmth. Also Chris and Hugh have worked hard on making a new office area and improved sewing machine storage space which are greatly appreciated.

We had an enlightening health and safety inspection which we passed with flying colours (of course)

We have welcomed several new volunteers, namely Lawrence who comes on a Wednesday and Ronnie, who comes on a Tuesday who have joined the tools refur-

bishment group, as well as Graham and his P.A. Gary who provide us with lots of nice biscuits! Ray who volunteers Monday and Thursday mornings is Chris's right hand man when it comes to keeping the workshop organised and tidy. We also would like to thank the local volunteers who have left us and the European volunteers, past and present, who suffer early morning wake up calls to come down and help in our workshop.

We are intending to start doing car boot sales again to raise more funds. If anyone reading this would like to donate their time or good quality items we would be very grateful.

Tools for Solidarity Downpatrick and several of our volunteers received awards in

recognition of their valued support to volunteering and for the many hours they put into volunteer work as a gesture of thanks from Action Mental Health.

We would also like to thank Unicorn Food Co-op who support projects addressing imbalances arising from unfair world trade and the consequent effects on peoples' health and lives. They contribute a sum equal to 5% of their total wage bill to causes, both local and international. They provided us with much needed funding of £3000 per year for 3 years which will go towards the running costs of the workshop.

News from the Isle of Man

Thurston from the Isle of Man also had some news to share with us:

On Friday we sent off another crate of sewing machines and tools on The Mezeron Shipping Co. Silver River (picture enclosed) from Ramsey to sunny Belfast. I once hitched a lift home to the Island from Belfast on the Silver River - they even gave us our own private cabin - you couldn't do that nowadays due to international maritime regulations..

My mate Quilley finishes work early on a Friday so he meets me outside Douglas with his Landrover Defender and trailer. (Well tooled up is our Quilley)

There was quite a bit of stuff built up at the Southern Amenity site, Port St Mary, due partly to TT fortnight holding everything up and partly due to the crate getting lost again at Belfast port! The boxes were so full down at the Amenity Site that the staff have been bravely fighting off the punters from diving in! There was a fair bit to sort out and the staff told us to put anything we didn't want in the scrap bin. In fact as it was raining

they even drove the digger over to us and told us to throw all the scrap in the digger bucket. I hate chucking everything in the scrap bin (mainly plastic handled saws, bow saws, and whitworth spanners, also miscellaneous junk) but they do insist on keeping their lovely amenity site nice and clean and tidy. Someone even came over and questioned us over it and asked why we were chucking so much out. I tried to explain that the shipping costs were so high to Africa that we couldn't afford to send out a load of junk.

He then picked up a stamped out bicycle multi spanner of the sort you get free with a new bike and said "aren't you being a bit picky? "

To which I had to admit "yes that spanner would be valued in Africa but we are being picky because we don't want to send them a load of junk, we send made up specialist kits for blacksmiths etc. using good quality tools and would he feel free to find a home for the scrap?"- to which he replied "I'm taking all the scrap - I'm from the skip hire company!" So we parted and I said "Good luck!"



The Sunny Ramsey, bringing the tools from Ramsey to Belfast

him- "what do you mean 'good luck'?"

me- "good luck in finding a home for all that scrap!" (last word merchant)

Then it was the long haul (or Manx standards!) from Port St Mary back up to Ramsey, stopping at Foxdale for a cup of tea.

At Ramsey we drive along the quay to the Mezeron. The forklift lads unearth the famous crate which the Mezeron kindly hold onto for us, which usually ends up buried in miscellaneous cargo. I nip upstairs for that all important bit of white paper then we load up the crate until we can't squeeze anything else in (like John Cleese "wan waffer thin meent") and we leg it out of there.

The Evolution of the Axe

By Fercho

In order to expand a pseudo-scientific approach about the role of the axe in the household economy over the time, I want to invite you to think of the images of any documentary, fictional film or archive footage about the first caveman. For the older ones, Ice Age or Captain Caveman could be good examples. These visual documents help to realize how the essential function of this millennial tool has not significantly changed to the present.

Evolution primarily means change – progressive change over a long period of time such that the later appearances differ considerably from the earlier ones. Therefore, this concept of evolution differs of the condition of the axe because the structure of this tool has remained stable over the time. The axe's simple, basic, elemental appearance has persisted unaltered; hence, it seems illogical to connect the concept of "evolution" to axes. I believe, however that despite the fact that the axe, or at least its structure has not significantly evolved, the use that societies have had for the tool and its relation to productivity have changed. For that reason, I attempt to analyze briefly how society has shifted in relation to the use of axes.

With the intention to provide a better understanding about axes' evolution, I designed a simple model; the model divides society in three big groups: pre-industrial, industrial and solidarity communities. The value that axes have had throughout the years is compared in these three stages as follows:

1. Pre-industrial (Reciprocity Economies): The five levels of value that axes passed through during this stage are: a) Production, b) Use, c) Refurbishment d) Reuse and d) Finish.
2. Industrial (The current Economy Buy & Sell): The four levels of value in the industrial era are: a) Production, b) Use, c) Waste, d) Finish.
3. Supportive/Intentional/Solidarity (Cooperative Culture): The five levels of Supportive societies are: a) Production, b) Use, c) Refurbishment d) Reuse, and e) Finish.

The scheme listed above suggests that the "Wasting phase" only appears on industrialized societies while the "Refurbishment" and "Reuse" phases are characteristic only of pre-industrial and intentional/supportive societies. Although there is an

increasing effort to promote the reuse of tools in industrial and rich societies, this behavior is still uncommon and wasting is preferred to recycling.

My experience in Tools for Solidarity has shown me that currently, the "Waste" stage of industrialized societies is a huge and persistent problem, whereas a simple axe in the past was never considered waste or rubbish. This misconception only belongs to the contemporary "wasting culture". Thus, the evolution of the axe or any other tool should never end as waste as it does in industrialized societies. Axes will continue their evolving process when they pass the barrier of being wasted to be refurbished and reused. In fact, these stages in my opinion demonstrate how intelligent and evolved a society can be. Finally, the idea of refurbishing and reusing tools is not new at all. Early cultures did it long time ago. Why can we not follow the same behavior, particularly when we have thousands and thousands of tools that are so called "waste"? I am sure that Captain Caveman would have recycled his axe as well. He would be proud of us if we decide to reuse our tools more often.

Tools Staffed —TFS by its volunteers

4 MONTHS IN A VOLUNTEER HOUSE'S LIFE

It seems ages that the last TFS newsletter kept you updated about coming and going volunteers and indeed lots of things happened and changed! Many left, few stayed, some new ones arrived and some more are going to arrive – a lot of things to say, so let's start with first things first:

And first to leave - at the end of April - were the two EVS volunteers who had arrived exactly one year before, in May 2011: Coco and Marta, the 'oldies' among the international volunteers and both heads of tools and sewing machine section.

The workshop seems very quiet now without Coco's continuous either French swearing or singalong. Walking from the wood area to the boxing shelf to the office and back, with his tools book in his hands, he was always able to pretend to be very busy with boxing up, paperwork and 'organisation' of the tools section. He became a proud expert in building tools boards and tried to keep the main workshop as tidy and coordinated as possible - considered, how messy his tools colleagues are, this was not an easy task indeed. The always good humour and coordinating skills of our allround sporting ace are missed a lot - especially Liam misses chatting and practicing his French with

'Cocopops', who is now enjoying the summer back in sunny south of France.

Marta was head, heart and soul of the Sewing machine section and also working in the publicity and, as an expert on international development, the new project subgroups, being responsible for newsletters, campaigns and partner proposals whenever she found the time in between the endless number of sewing machines to be fixed, paperwork to be done and mountains of material to be sorted out - a task she happily shared with Claudia (and there are even rumours about another subgroup she was involved in - dealing with concerns and sorrows of us volunteers..). Even if we miss her, her good humour and her laugh-

ter a lot in the workshop, there is one good point about her leaving: After only two weeks in Spain she is now back in Belfast for a couple more weeks and it is great to have her around again, even if it's only for a while!

Next, in the beginning of May then, were our so truly Swiss fellows Miro and Martina. Miro, who worked pretty much everywhere in the workshop: after becoming an expert in shelving, hammers, braces, scissors and saws, one section held just not enough work and challenge for him, so that finally the tools section had to share his time with the sewing machine section, where he worked on modification and electrics. And eventually, we could even convince him to take on one or another challenge on UNO in our tea breaks! We miss his amazingly methodical way of working and his and finely dosed, but never went short Swiss humour.

Martina had become a master of hand drills, and even if she was only in two days a week, she boxed mountains and mountains of them - but mostly we definitely miss this kind and generous woman for her fantastic cooking skills and her cake was probably one of the best goodbyepresents our workshop ever received. Af-

ter taking the long way back via train and ferry, they are both now well in Switzerland - but if they thought, they would be safe from TFS in this far away country, they were wrong: rumour says, TFS-ambassador Sam, who's been cycling around the earth for several months now, has traced and faced them in Fribourg!

And only one month later, another member of the tools section had to leave: due to unfortunate circumstances, William from France had to end his EVS-placement early at the end of May. After an initial short internship in the sewing machine section he decided to rather spend his time with tools, building mountains of boxes and filling them with fixed and refurbished hammers and vices. His time here was too short and it is sad, that we have to miss his relaxed and friendly character. Being used to the climates in Togo and Gabon, Belfast was just not the right place for him: he needed to enjoy two weeks of holiday in the Canarian sun first, before he returned to France for his work and studies.

With us for two weeks of intensive vices refurbishment was Veronica – she just had some spare time over here before she went

back to Italy and decided to use it well helping out in TFS for a bit – thanks also to her!

At this point, international volunteers were few in number, the workshop was quiet and the volunteer house only half full. So we were all very happy to welcome “a new guy” after a while: Ricardo from Portugal arrived at the beginning of July! He successfully accomplished a short apprenticeship on hammers and is now receiving lessons about sewing machines and how to deal with them. Apparently this expert on sustainable energy is a quick learner and he promises to be a great win for us for the 6 months of his stay. We're also happy to



Tea time!

welcome Adela in the house and are looking forward to see her in the workshop every here and then!

And only a few days later, another addition to the volunteers' team: Not only 'welcome', but 'welcome back', Fercho! He finally arrived, having definitely the longest travel of all our volunteers: This always-on-the-go adventurer made all his way from Columbia to Belfast to be with TFS again! Having had to interrupt a short earlier stay with TFS some years ago he is now back to refresh his skills and is already doing a good amount of work in the tools section. We hope, his stay now will be longer than the last one!

Michael's greatest success was probably the taming of the backroom. After spending the longest time of his one-year-stay registering and sorting the zillions of sewing machines hiding there, he just had enough time to explain the newly arrived volunteers, how to keep it in this fantastic order, before he had to leave us in the middle of July. His friendly character is already missed as well as his focus and patience which helped to sort out any problem appearing, be it a sewing machine or whatever else – and of course his one and only, over one year well practiced and improved rice-with-sauce-lunch! We hope

he'll enjoy his now following summer holiday and wish him all the best for his studies back in Germany!

And finally the very latest news, another newcomer: Mirko from Pisa, Italy arrived not even two weeks ago. Welcome also to him! He already likes Guinness and with his comfortableness he has exactly the right attitude to survive his year in Tools without bigger permanent damage..:) All the best for his stay!

So far about the changes – that makes not more than three volunteers having survived from the last newsletter! Let's see how they are getting on...

No more Michael's-special-rice-with-sauce-lunch? Sad, but at least one good point about it: More delightingly delicious cucina Italiana by Claudia! Even if recently she barely finds the time: as the only “older” member of her section, she's not getting tired of working on all fronts the sewing machine section has to offer: sorting piles of material as well as boxes of spare parts, which are appearing just in every corner of the big, full workshop, disputing with John about paperwork and some exotic types of machine and of course perfecting her skills in fixing industrial and normal sewing machines (sometimes by talking to them,

using some well-known magic Italian vocabulary) as well as her English.

Hard enough, with all the trials and tribulations of the sewing machine section. But not only in this section has the personnel diminished: Not more than as well two of the international volunteers are now trying to compete with the mountains and mountains of tools in and around the workshop, just very recently enjoying the company two new tools apprentices.

These two grown tools masters will now have to quickly pass on all their achieved knowledge and gainings, before they both leave their section to the next generation of tools volunteers in early August.

“Hey, [anyone around], could you give me a hand lifting this, please?” – whenever you hear this in the workshop, it's probably Jasmin, trying to balance a hilariously heavy box on top of one of the storage shelves – to subsequently sit down and relax with the to the boxing up pertinent paperwork. After having returned to some respectable work with planes, drill bits, publicity work or trials of coordination she will surely need to take another break with one or two cups of tea and an UNO-match.

At least, when Omar is not, as many times, able to finish collecting, sorting, refurbishing and oiling so many boxes of tools, at a speed that makes the boxing up almost work like a perfect production line. The fact, that he's continuously trying to recruit anyone just available for his work might have a considerable effect on the amount of braces, hammers, calibres and *whatever* the workshop holds, done, though, and gives our Palestinian whiskey-expert a little bit of time for his urgently needed cigarette breaks.

Whom (more or less available) he could recruit, you might wonder? Well, luckily, these two are not all alone with all the tools, but there are enough local volunteers around, doing a huge amount of work to not let us international volunteers so alone with all the things to do! ;)

"EXCUSE ME, ARE YOU A LOCAL?"

Starting according to the infamous saying "age before beauty": Peter Atkinson, aka. Peter with the white hair or simply "the old Peter", comes in, as since by guess 50 years, every Monday and Tuesday, spending hours and hours in his area, as always

all boxed, but that doesn't mean, there's no more work to do for you, Peter! ;)

Planes, just as an example, we have more than enough. Luckily, Thomas and his co-worker James come in every Wednesday for a couple of hours, they are developing absolute expert skills in the complete refurbishment of planes – painting in fancy colours included.

Anthony never stops providing us with plenty of pallets – and vegetables from the allotment, also not to be despised for keeping all the volunteers healthy! ;)

Clement's company has been missed for quite a while – what happened to him? We'd like to see him more often, be it working on treadles or just spreading his good-humoured sarcasm.

The most recent "addition" to the part-time-tools-team is David, coming in once a week and on the best way to become a vies expert.

On the sewing-machine-side of things, John, also coming in once a week, has all the skills needed to give our machines a decent electrical check.

overflooded with the most rusty, most exotic and just most numerous tools coming in and to be sorted out – in which Peter is doing just the best job ever, whenever he's not busy with preparing wood or listening to his Edith Piaf CD.

Ian, who started off learning about planes and is now, after a short holiday break, ready for any tools challenge, be it braces, boxes, stilsons or just many more planes – Ian will take it with his patient, but efficient way of working.

Or the "Tuesday guys": Gary, who is still day-dreaming of holidays on the Bahamas while oiling approximately one zillion of tools every single Tuesday – and he also gives the international volunteers some free lessons in "How to speak Belfast" and "How to understand Belfast jokes". Richard then is a rather quiet fellow, pointing out his punch lines never lavishly, but always aptly. Even though he usually starts his "tools working day" with a tea break, sooner or later he always gets on to doing, what he obviously enjoys most in the workshop: holding, admiring, dismantling or sanding and oiling tools.

Also, but not only on Tuesdays we see

Also Patrick, who had done some work in the tools section earlier, is now back and starting off as a sewing machine apprentice, learning all the secrets about how to fix and maintain them.

And finally three more local volunteers, who are neither in one of the two "sections" but of course not to be forgotten – our "office workers":

Jim, accountant by profession (ok, pretending to be in the sewing machine section, but... seriously?;)), entertaining all the volunteers around with more or less funny and more or less true stories and tales and giving the foreign volunteers the best possible practice in understanding Belfast accent.

Then Attracta, coming up from far-away Portstewart every week to tidy anything that needs to be tidied and sorted – be it files on the computer, the whole office itself, some boxes of tools – and helping out greatly with the whole load of office and paper work accumulating.

And also William, the IT-expert, not-French, no matter how strong his French accent may be! He treated our computers to a whole new server system and made them work at a speed never seen before.

Liam, the treadle expert with side job as a hammer-shaft-from-head-remover. Sometimes, in moments of hubris, he considers himself as "Liam boss" and actually thinks, his long experience with tools would make him somewhat superior to the (comparatively "short-term") international volunteers, who he accordingly endues with rather amusing nicknames...;) definitely we appreciate his knowledge about tools and his intelligent and subtle sense of humour. And who could not love a regular biscuit-donator? Every Thursday Liam is accompanied by a big biscuit-ration delighting all the other volunteers.

By far not as regularly, Henry is coming to the workshop: He could show up any day of the week, bring any high-end tool equipment along and do any job that just needs done at the moment – preferably building industrially strong boxes for industrially heavy treadles, but even cooking is not too difficult for this allrounder. His all time favourite activity, though, is definitely teasing and word-fighting with Liam – take care not to get into the firing line when these two are having a chat!

More rarely again we see Peter Duffy in the workshop these times. The Chisels are

Now last but not least – who's missing? Of course: the fabulous Wood Brothers! Obviously a given, but yet not to be forgotten. Probably spending more time in the workshop than anywhere else, these two give the word "workaholic" a whole new meaning! Stephen is the only one who could teach Liam anything about treadles – fortunately he's busy with office and paper work and general organisation most of the time, so Liam's not getting cross about someone knowing things better than himself...;)

John is just messing around in the workshop, mixing up sewing machines and tools and confusing everyone else's working order ;) – and knows, learns and works more about any kind of tool and machine you could imagine.

Thanks to both of them for all their patience and helpfulness with their endless number of apprentices!

Thanks also to all the other volunteers mentioned above for dedicating their time and effort to TFS and to all the others who support us in any possible way!

MSTC Update

By Stephen

There has been a lot going on at the MSTC in the last few months.

They have been working very hard to clear the backlog in providing design training for local tailors - they rented a house and have provided training for more artisans in the last 9 months than in the first 3 years of the project!

Local treadle production is continuing, though many groups are purchasing only the sewing machine head as they already have treadles in their groups.

In April and May the MSTC trained up a mechanic from the Congo and one from Kigoma.

Emmanuel Mwassa from Women for Development and Solidarity (WADS)- Ujiji, Kigoma

Mauwa Songolo from the Federation of Women for Peace and Development

(FEPADE) - Villa, Congo receives her training. She will be able to use her skills to generate an income for herself and her organisation at the same time as she will be able to service machines in her home country, thus benefiting local tailors.

In July the members of the women rights initiative in Jinja came for training. They will be running a small scale pilot project in the coming months - once the container arrives in Uganda - on similar lines to the MSTC.

This represents real South to South Co-operation - a great achievement for the centre and the staff there. The value of the centre as a training centre has been recognised by SIDO who have incorporated it into their training section.

In September we are hoping to welcome Jane, the manager of the MSTC to Belfast -

her first ever visit. We plan to organise a number of events around the time she is here so keep checking the website for details.



Sewing machine training and refurbishment in MSTC



TFS at Lifestyle Green

By Omar & Jasmin

On the 3rd and 4th of June, 2012, Tools participated in the Lifestyle Green Fair. The Fair was held in the Crawfordsburn Country Park. The stall and exhibition were set up and tools volunteers spent the days explain to visitors about the work, aims, and strategies of TFS, in addition to collecting tools donations from visitors. We could collect a considerable amount of tools and successfully reached a lot of visitors informing about development aid.

Global Solidarity Champions visit Tools!

By Omar

On the 9th of May Tools For Solidarity-Belfast workshop was delighted to be visited by the Global Solidarity Champions. GSC are a part of the Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance (NIPSA). The visit was an update on the Mwanza Sewing and Training Centre (MSTC), as NIPSA very kindly funded the transportation of containers to the MSTC for 3 years.



Global Solidarity Champions and TFS volunteers

As all our splendid readers know, every issue of this newsletter features an article dealing generally with a situation or development in politics or business, that TFS feels in any way concerned about. This issue's feature has a close look into the recent incidents in Spain being severely affected by financial and economic crisis. Many thanks to Marta for this contribution.

Concerned citizens are raised to lead a protest which seeks an important change in our society

The Spanish protests started on May 2011 arriving to his first birthday few weeks ago. This protests, also referred as 15-Movement and the Indignants movement, are a serie of demonstrations in the streets of Spain whose origin can be traced to different social networks as like as Real Democracy Now (Democracia Real Ya) or Youth Without a Future (Juventud sin Futuro) among other civilian digital platforms and 200 other small associations.

The series of protests demands a radical change in Spanish politics, as protesters do not consider themselves to be represented by any traditional party nor favoured by the measures approved by politicians. Even though protesters form a heterogeneous and ambiguous group, they share a strong rejection of unemployment, welfare cuts, Spanish politicians, the current two-party system in Spain between the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party and the People's Par-

ty, as well as the current political system, capitalism, banks and bankers, political corruption and firmly support what they call basic rights: home, work, culture, health and education.

Civil society has awakened. Or at least, a part of this, with the youngest to the front. With those who want to be present and no future. With millions of unemployed, long-term unemployed, the mortgage on the verge of eviction, those who fear the arrival of a new bill, those affected by the cuts, disappointed by the poverty of political discourse, outraged by the electoral marketing . A well-educated generation, which grew under the shadow of Saint Google, has decided to get going.

Many wonder how it is possible that there has been so rude awakening in such a short time. Certain worlds have difficulties understanding the dynamics of the network

and the viral propagation of the messages. Certain worlds have difficulties understanding how it may work a horizontal structure, without leaders, without hierarchies. Where all contribute. Where everyone feels part.

But the 15-Movement should face a new challenge, the development of a manifesto is one of the pitfalls that should solve the concentrates. In the assemblies is difficult to agree with everyone. They throw a lot of ideas: reforming the law to make it more proportional electoral systems, review of party funding, redistribution through progressive taxes, establish the Tobin tax on capital movements, suppression of salary for life for ex-politicians, suppression of Sinde Law, the Immigration Law...a great job which doesn't expect immediate results , rather are reflections of a new citizen movement and a new change that has just been born.

Last words...

Almost everything happening in Tools for Solidarity is a group work, this newsletter is no exception.

Therefore, thank you very much to all those who put their writing skills to practice and produced wonderful articles!

A huge thanks also to our "external supporters", who make our work so much easier!

Special thanks to our fellow volunteer in Downpatrick, Mourne Grange, the Isle of Man and Garvald, with whom we always share joy and wonderful moments while we are refurbishing tools or sewing machines!

Last but not least, thanks to all those who come to the workshop to work, laugh and share all these special moments with us!

We are very sad to announce the death of Don Oxtoby.

He worked at Port St Mary Civic Amenity site, and here made sure the tools collection point was made possible. He, his famous banter and jokes are much loved and missed.



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