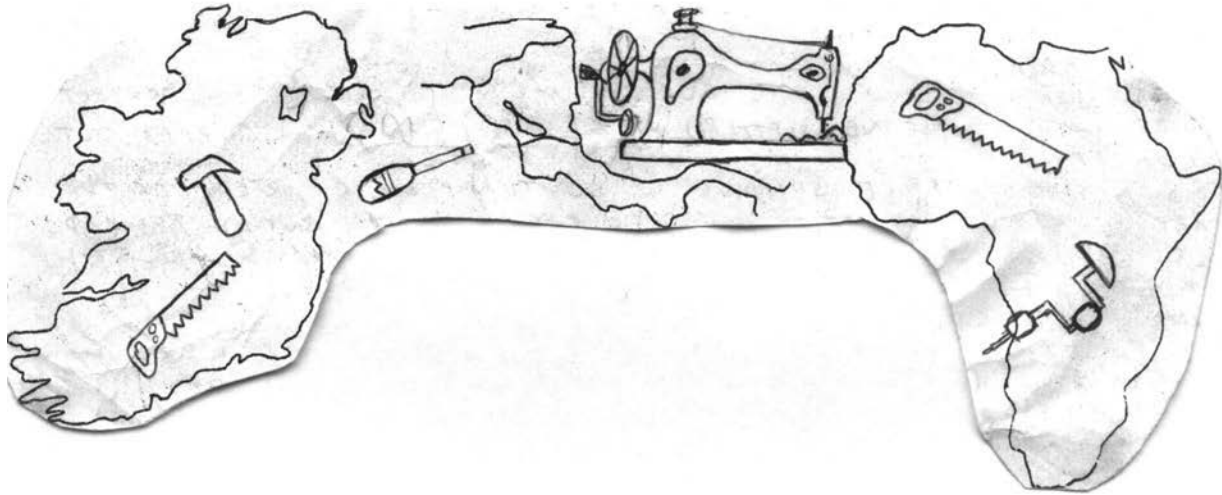




# NEWSLETTER

**of Tools For Solidarity**

Give a new life to your old tools!



January 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. Longterm volunteers Hamish and Alistar are leaving the project after over 20 and over 5 years to head for the Netherlands and Dublin in April. The “new rest” works out systems to cope with everyday live. Planned is a sewing machine refurbishment center 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 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 live. And as well we would like to thank: Gordon, Richard, Paul and Paul, Andrew for all the refurbishment, without yous we couldn't havedone so many kits! We also change the volunteer's work, in a way that every longplaced 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, our new volunteer, Flavia, will help out in Downpatrick and Henner will try to find a new home for our horticultural tools. 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!

### **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 and Alessandra 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. Next month we welcome Flavia from Italy to Belfast. 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! Hasta Luego! Alividercie! Salut! To all of yous who left!!! And a warm welcome! Willkommen! Bon Arrive bla bla! To all who come and 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)

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# TOOLS FOR SOLIDARITY

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Charitable Company Number: NI052306