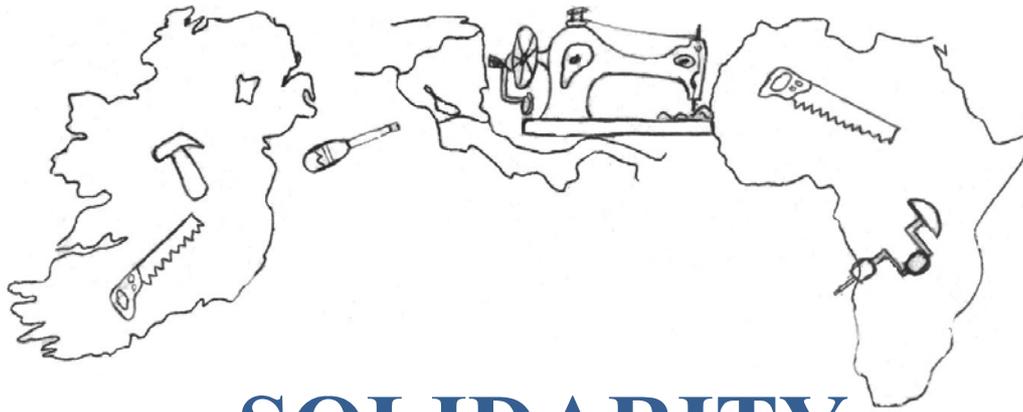




# NEWSLETTER

**of Tools For Solidarity**

Give a new life to your old tools!



June 2013 **SOLIDARITY** NO.31

THE NEWSLETTER OF TOOLS FOR SOLIDARITY

Please send any comments to: [toolsforsolidarity@gmail.com](mailto:toolsforsolidarity@gmail.com)

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## Editor's note

We finally bring you our newsletter again, SOLIDARITY. Since the last time you heard from us, Tools For Solidarity members have been very, very busy.

Besides business as usual that takes up a great part of our limited resources (supporting volunteers and partners, checking sewing machines, refurbishing tools and bicycles, doing shipments, reports and assessments, recruiting new volunteers, submitting funding applications, tidying up the workshops and so on), we have also:

- Received Jane Madete, the Mwanza Sewing and Training Centre Manager, in Belfast
- Moved a container full of sewing machine spare parts to our Belfast workshop
- Visited Uganda and Tanzania
- Done work camps, fundraising events, organized cultural activities for our members and joined campaigns

We had our largest number of committed volunteers ever. This and much more as happened in just 9 months, but we like what we do and we could not have done it without you!

Currently, Tools For Solidarity is focusing on the next shipment to Tanzania, our new projects such as the Tools Refurbishment and Training Centre, our Education for Sustainable Development programme and in finding new premises for our Belfast workshop. I will use this opportunity to say that all the support, contributions and [donations](#) you can give us are most definitely very welcome.

As you might have noticed our publicity as undergone major restructuring. The good news is that we finally got our website and our newsletter a bit more organized. Hopefully, more great news will be on their way to you soon.

Thank You!

# Mwanza comes to Belfast: Jane's first visit to the workshop

Last November Tools For Solidarity (TFS) had the honour of hosting the first ever visit of Jane Madete, manager of the Mwanza Sewing and Training Centre (MSTC). This was a great occasion for us, an important step in the development of the Training Centre and a fantastic opportunity for Jane to really get to know our organization, our volunteers and ethos.



Tools For Solidarity Belfast workshop decorated for the open day in November 2012

The trip was planned at a meeting held in Mwanza in 2011 between representatives of TFS (John and Stephen), the MSTC staff (Jane, Athuman and Christine) and Damian, regional manager of the [Small Industries Development Organization \(SIDO\)](#). The strategic development of the TFS/MSTC partnership was

plotted for the following 3 years. In the light of the fact that our stock of sewing machines is no longer sufficient to meet the demand for the discussed period and beyond, one key element came out: MSTC needed to develop links with other European tools organisations and other non-governmental development organizations.

Jane's visit was also about introducing her to other tools organisations, spreading the word of the real achievements that MSTC has made in developing a holistic and sustainable approach to supporting the tailoring sector of the Lake Zone Region in Tanzania. The contribution of Jane and the volunteers was celebrated!

Jane's visit was a whirlwind tour of meetings, presentations and travel taking in [Gered Gereedschap](#) in Amsterdam, [Tools for Self Reliance \(TFSR\)](#) in Netley Marsh, the [Tools groups at the Garvald Factory](#) in Edinburgh and the [Irish Countrywomen's Association](#) in Dublin. At each of these Jane gave a masterly presentation of the work and successes of the MSTC but also the challenges and difficulties that it faces, particularly in the production of treadles and the need for MSTC to secure another source of sewing machines. Jane's presentations can be downloaded [here](#).

The highlight of the visit was the open day at the



Jane gives a presentation of the work being developed in Tanzania

Belfast workshop; a fantastic day with many new and old visitors who came to hear Jane talk about the real impact our work has had on the tailoring community around the lake. The volunteers did a fantastic job creating a voyage of transportation for the visitors so that they could follow the journey that the sewing machines make from Belfast to Mwanza. Thanks to everyone for making it a very special occasion. Melissa and Aureliano made a [video](#) on the day.



Interview moment with Jane, Ricardo and Melissa

Jane also managed to pack in a trip to Downpatrick, a presentation to [Ardmore House Special School](#) and a visit to [Camphill Community Mournie Grange](#), where we had an evening singsong. We then rushed back to Belfast

for another presentation, this time for the [Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance](#) (NIPSA).

Jane had the chance to do some cultural activities including an adventure to the Giant's Causeway - Thanks Fercho! - The Titanic museum, the turning on of the

Christmas lights in Belfast and watching an evening film with the volunteers.

It was a real pleasure to have Jane stay with us, to have a chance to be able to get to know Jane outside work and for Jane to get to know what TFS is all about. In the end the Dutch tools

organisation agreed to supply the MSTC with sewing machines and TFSR offered to provide equipment for the local treadle production team. Thanks to everyone for all the hard work in making the visit a success! Thank you Jane for all you done for the MSTC!

## It is all about team work

During the last 3 months of 2012, Tools For Solidarity (TFS) had three challenging projects. Their strategic importance drove us to work harder, putting an extra effort for them to happen. The result: a job very well done!

So, how did we achieve this? What were the impacts?

Before we answer this two questions we hereby express our gratitude to all those involved!

### First Challenge - The Old Container

After 3 generations the owners of a family business in Leicester decided to close doors, resulting in a container full of sewing machine spare parts being left abandoned in the countryside. TFS carefully analysed this opportunity and after deciding in a general meeting, we purchased it, for

it would benefit our work and our projects.

The bought container had different types of sewing machines, electrical and mechanical parts, motors, springs, screws, pedals, filing cabinets and much more.

The old container had to be transported from England to our workshop in Belfast, but first things first - the container needed to be inspected and so it was! With the inspection we found out that the container had passed its expiration date, meaning it could not be transported any longer. All the contents had to be moved in two days from the old rusty to a regulatory compliant container.

sorts of stuff were moved, shelves and wooden structures were built, electrical rewiring was done and of course the never ending task of tidying up.

In fact one of our main concerns at that moment was the lack of space, so the team in Belfast had really to think like cheese-masters in order to make the most of every single space, predicting every single future movement of tools, sewing machines, material and so on.



Interior of the old container in Leicester



Spare Parts Room in TFS's workshop in Belfast

In the meantime, back in the Belfast workshop, another team of volunteers was preparing the room to store all the new parts arriving - all



Spare parts arriving to Belfast

At the end of this adventure we pulled it off with only some small scratches, a slightly damaged cabinet that could be repaired and a lot of dust in our clothes, but also with a lovely feeling of accomplishment.

To finish with the words of Francesca, our Chairperson this year and volunteer of the sewing machine section "We

don't need to wait any more for a tiny specific part. Now we can repair our stock of sewing machines much faster. This is great!"

### Second Challenge - Jane's Visit

We expected the visit of our friend and project partner Jane Madete from Tanzania in November 2012. Jane is the general manager of the Mwanza Sewing and Training Centre (MSTC). The purpose of her travel was to establish new partnerships in Europe and to present the achievements, impact and future perspectives of the project in Tanzania.

Long before Jane's arrival, our volunteers devised a programme of activities for her visit, not only lobbying and key meetings but also festive and friendly events, like a pub quiz, gig and touristic visit around Belfast and along the Antrim coast.



We took Jane to the Giant's Causeway

However, one of the most demanding activities was the organization of the 2012

Special Open Day with Jane, due to the amount of preparation needed.

The event was organized in such way that it would provide to the visitor an interactive experience from Belfast to Tanzania; an overview of how our work helps to tackle poverty in some African countries. The underlying story invited to follow an old, rusty and abandoned tool or sewing machine to its final stage of full refurbishment and reuse.



Beginning of the visitor's experience, during the Open Day. Old tools that were collected are now on their way to be refurbished in Belfast

Individual sections, specially prepared in our Belfast workshop, represented each stage of the process. Our team of volunteers guided the visitors through the full process of collecting, checking, repairing/refurbishing and shipping the tools and machines. Even a small container representation was

built so that the visitor could be metaphorically transported to Tanzania where Jane gave a talk on MSTC.

Jane's presentation and this Special Open Day brought a massive audience to our Belfast workshop, surpassing all expectations. And despite Jane's shyness, she successfully captured the audience's attention with her lovely smile, her knowledge, facts and experience within the project.



Jane's lovely smile stands out in the audience

Jane gave us a good insight on how sustainable the project has been in the last years and how we can get more involved in helping.

The Open day closed with a fantastic table full of tasty, colourful and, for many of our guests, spicy Mexican food - prepared with love by our volunteer cooking team.

### Third Challenge - The Shipment

Have you ever asked yourself how do our tools and machines get to the MSTC in Tanzania?

Tools for Solidarity ships out a container and tracks the shipment around the globe! However, it is a long and uncertain journey from Belfast to Dar es Salaam and then to Mwanza. The container travels along the North

Atlantic, Mediterranean, Red Sea, and Indian Ocean and then by land.

We consider our containers very precious not only because of their content, but also because of the impact that they will have on the people and communities that will work with the tools, machines and materials sent out.

Additionally, each container sent has a significant emotional value for our volunteers. They have invested time, energy and passion in the process of collecting, checking and repairing/refurbishing, classifying and preparing for shipment, ensuring that every single item is of high quality.

The journey of our last massive shipment started on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December 2012 in our premises in Belfast. Preparation tasks were divided between our Northern Ireland volunteer groups (Belfast, Downpatrick and Mourne Grange). Some of us were responsible for logistics,



Tools For Solidarity volunteers and the container ready to be shipped.

wrapping and boxing items, transporting and packing the cargo into the container maximising the available space, while others painted the container with nice motives as part of our old tradition. The container was then transported to the port to sail to Tanzania, a journey that would last at least two months.

Even if our paperwork was perfectly done, we had to deal with customs because of

clearance issues. These are unfortunate situations that delay and make the process difficult and bring some anxiety and stress to our staff members, supporters and our project partners as well. In spite of that the container arrived safe and sound to Mwanza in January and we rejoiced at the news!

We now put all of our trust in the MSTC for the machines to be allocated to those who really need them!

## Uganda and Tanzanian field trip

In the middle of February Stephen and Germain headed off to Uganda for a 3 week tour round lake Victoria. The aims of the trip were:

1. To evaluate our programmes in Uganda - the small scale tailoring project with the [Women's Rights Initiative](#) (WORI) in Jinja and our vocational training programme with John Alibankoha
2. To visit the Mwanza Sewing and Training

- Centre (MSTC), monitor and evaluate their programme and discuss with the staff and with the [Small Industries Development Organization](#) (SIDO) the completion of our 3 year strategic plan for the centre
3. To investigate the options for opening up a tools training centre, either in Uganda or Tanzania

It turned out to be a very demanding and challenging

experience. But, as always, it was a real joy to be once again in Africa, to meet and listen to the people. We are committed to learn how to make our work as sustainable and effective as possible.

### WORI

Last summer we sent our first container with tools and sewing machines to Uganda.

We identified WORI as a potential partner and we planned a pilot project with



First container that TFS has sent to WORI during summer 2012

them based on the MSTC model - they were sent a small number of refurbished sewing machines (31). WORI developed an application form and worked with local district officials to identify a range of groups, mostly Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and women's groups that could benefit from a machine.

They organised training for the tailors that had been selected to participate in the programme. This training consisted of 5 days advanced tailoring skills training, sewing machine maintenance and operational training and business skills. WORI organised accommodation for the trainees in Jinja.



Some of the WORI trainees in Jinja

Although the programme was incomplete at the time of the visit, 23 of the 31 machines had been sold to artisans, WORI had been able to organise the training and the tailors that we visited were

very pleased both with the quality of the machines they had received and with the overall programme. Managing such a complex and technical programme has been very challenging for WORI and mistakes have been made by both parties but many valuable lessons have been learnt, particularly the importance of having a good technical basis. Tools For Solidarity (TFS) and WORI will discuss what will follow once the initial pilot is complete at the end of May.

### Vocational Training Colleges (VTC)

As well as sewing machines for WORI the container we sent also included 10 kits for VTCs in western and central Uganda. As with all TFS programmes in current years, TFS agreed to supply kits on the understanding that the recipient groups would pay for and receive maintenance and operational training - we see this as a vital ingredient in making our programmes more sustainable.

Unfortunately, this programme has run into a number of unforeseen difficulties - the main one being the injury suffered by John Alibankoha, whose leg was hurt following a motorbike accident. John has been unable to devote as much time as he would like to our programme and this has led to delays in delivery. Thankfully John is back on his feet. We now hope that the VTCs will have already received their kits and training.



Some of the skilled people we support

### MSTC

Our travels took us to Bukoba on the western shores of Lake Victoria. We were able to meet the local MSTC trained fundi - sewing machine mechanic and a number of local tailors. From there we took the boat to Mwanza.

The MSTC is doing very well - there is a group of young mechanics operating out of one of our containers producing treadles, the number of machines supplied to the tailoring sector is now more than 350 and increasing each year and finally training



MSTC Staff with the local treadle producers



Local treadle production in Mwanza, Tanzania

is being delivered to all the tailors participating in the programme - thanks to MSTC renting accommodation.

During our stay in Mwanza we made a trip to the Mara region - south of the Kenyan border. This is the latest region of the Lake Zone to be targeted by MSTC. It was again great to meet the local tailors and visit some of the VTCs, especially those

working with people with disabilities.



MSTC training featuring Germain

### Tools Centre

TFS has been working for a number of years now to prepare our stock so that we can open a tools refurbishment and training centre, where the tools in the workshop could be sent out and refurbished within the country and a training programme could be established at the same time. However, we have been struggling to identify a suitable partner to bring this project to life. A key element of this trip was to visit potential partner

organisations so that the next step in opening a centre can be taken.

In Uganda we visited a number of secondary schools with vocational training programmes that are interested in establishing a centre with us. There is also a youth programme in Kampala - a VTC that would like to do the same.

In Tanzania we had meetings with SIDO in Mwanza and Dar es Salaam to talk about what options are available to us. SIDO would welcome the establishment of another tools centre and have suggested some suitable regions. We now need to sit down and work out if all of this fits together - we are planning a strategic meeting in June to thrash out the details. Please stay tuned!

Eventually evaluation reports will be written on each aspect of the trip - if you are interested in receiving a copy of these please [let us know](#).

## Imagine a City of '='s

Back in 2009, artist Christoff Gillen exhibited his work on the Northwest face of the Black Mountain, Belfast. Christoff explored how public art plays a role in dealing with the legacy of the troubles.

"The intention is to communicate and contextualise the land based art installation as symbolic of a possible future for Northern Ireland, as it moves through a

period of both political and social transition towards a potentially shared future of mutual respect." - he says.

The latest phase of this projected happened last winter when an area of approximately 125 m<sup>2</sup> of land was planted in the Northwest face of Black Mountain. White clover seeds were used because of their traditional symbolism in Ireland. The beds for seeding have

been designed in the form of an equal sign and a downward pointing arrow. [Ecoseeds](#), Tools For Solidarity and friends have



What this project will look like

helped to prepare the beds and to sow the seeds.

Hopefully, we will see some results this summer

and bring you some updates.

We wish Christoff all the best with this project and

that he manages to bring change to Northern Ireland and to other parts of the world.

## Life as a volunteer in Belfast: A foreign perspective

Northern Ireland's largest city, Belfast, regularly serves as stage for violent clashes between pro-Unionists and pro-Nationalist or Protestant and Catholic. Who knows really? Amidst all, Tools For Solidarity volunteers are caught in crossfire.

Although we do not share, nor understand completely the sectarianism that spreads virally across Northern Ireland, we cannot avoid experiencing it. We live in a neighbourhood that is to a large extent Catholic and, on the other hand, our workshop is situated in a Protestant area. Routinely, we have to go across different communities. Real life in a divided city packed with interfaces, the so-called "peace walls".

We bear witness to numerous events. In December there was a riot outside our workshop. Needless to say we had nothing to do with it, but still we had to traverse it. With the fall of night a group of masked young men wearing hoodies and sweatpants blocked the road and stood before us holding flags shouting and chanting. The police, heavily armed, had formed a line to keep the protesting crowd from blocking other streets. In the background we could hear the rotor of a helicopter. It

really resembled a war zone. A scenario that took us by surprise and left us petrified after a long day of work.

Later we learned that this was all due to a regulation that limited the flying of a flag at Belfast City Hall. Some argue that the flag was the last straw, but it all sounds nonsense really.

Similar blockades



A rioter throws a stone in a demonstration

happened elsewhere and it escalated to stones and Molotov cocktail throwing, arson and other types of violence and vandalism. It led to people being injured and to several detentions, making international headlines.

Those images would be imprinted in our minds and effectively produce fear and anxiety. There was a feeling that any small thing could trigger a negative reaction within the over-sensitive communities; sooner or later the threat could re-emerge and it eventually did after a period of apparent tranquillity.

Violence here is like the weather, unpredictable, volatile... can one ever get used to that?

It is a never-ending spiral of intolerance, racism, discrimination and other forms of anti-social behaviour. Probably no one knows who or why it as started anymore. The fact is that someone as to break this vicious cycle at

some point. Nevertheless, it is said that violence has subsided, but the mind-set is still present, you feel it if you stay long enough.

The same old colours intoxicate Belfast; flags, banners and painted curbstones mark the territory. Some people have seen little more beyond their local area and segregated

community. The innocent youth seem prone to take on this culture very quickly. Performing acts of vandalism, hooliganism, attacking cyclists, hurling insults and so forth.

"Not so long ago it was fashionable to steal and smash cars against walls [joyriding]" - said a friend that met some of these unbelievably young kids engaging in such acts! "Some died, some were arrested and others are still out there." - he added.

No wonder there are so many rehabilitation and

detention centres here. This is the living example of what a conflict does to a place and to its people, a war-torn society.

The way that communities embrace a provoking cultural affirmation keeps adding fuel to the fire. In a barbaric-like way bonfires are lit at the

peak of “celebrations”. We get particularly apprehensive when approaching these critical days and curfew or travel is sometimes the best option.

It certainly is difficult to move away from violence when that has been the rule for

years, but this should no longer serve as an excuse. Let us aim higher and for more important purposes in life, like uniting and cooperating for a sustainable common future.

## Climate change: Is it wise to kick the can?

Weather variability is occurring at a global scale and observed changes have established records of intensity and frequency in recent years. This brings us to the daunting question: Is climate change “en route” to exacerbate vulnerabilities and deepen socio-economic imbalances? Hence, what are the challenges down the line for civil society organizations like Tools For Solidarity?

We should not refrain from analysing this issue, no matter how catastrophic it may sound. Acknowledging climate change as inevitable and recognising the need to act requires audacity. The nature and extent of the risks remain uncertain, but the core message is that the benefits of taking action outweigh the costs. In a nutshell, the most serious risks identified are the direct physical impacts of adverse and unpredictable weather on human life and on the natural and built environments. Indirectly we could have also to deal with biodiversity loss,

scarcity or limited access to resources, health, safety and wellbeing complications, as well as the disruption of services and supply chains, increasing insecurity and difficulty to plan ahead. On the other hand there are



Happiest man on the Earth after having saved his sewing machine from the flood

regulatory risks, associated with policies that could be demanding and/or limiting to organizations; the economic and financial risks, associated with price fluctuation, funding availability, costs of mitigation, adaptation and damage/loss; and finally, the reputation risk, associated with inaction or debate avoidance.

The impacts of climate change are not evenly distributed across the

world. Poorer countries and vulnerable groups are particularly disadvantaged and more likely to suffer consequences the earliest and the most because of their limited capacity to act. Organizations that work internationally in long-term projects with limited resources are prone to increasing vulnerability due to the characteristics of weather events.

There is a new climate reality and we should be willing to invest, at least time, not only in the reduction of our environmental footprint, but also to be better equipped to deal with potential unfolding consequences. We should aim at increasing our knowledge in order to design better strategies and plans of action and to better serve the community (volunteers, partners and society in general) and our purpose as an organization. Reducing the risk of adverse impacts of climate change is therefore desirable and should be made feasible. There should be also a sense of responsibility to raise

awareness, promote the debate and remove any barrier to behavioural change. And even though Tools For Solidarity (TFS) is on a crucial path of sustainable development, there is still much that can be done.

With regards to a particular topic of immediate importance, since TFS is seeking new premises for its Belfast workshop, present infrastructure decisions

require foresight with the objective of increasing our own resilience and reducing long-term costs.

An effective response to climate change will also depend on our ability to create the right conditions for cooperation in this context, for innovation and for the transfer of knowledge.

Finally, we want to highlight the idea that adaptation in developing countries must be

supported and implemented without any further ado or we could undermine the progress made in respect to development.

The question now remains: will TFS, or any other similar organizations, be able to source the necessary skills and draw on the required leadership and capacity to take on this challenge?

Let's hope for the best and prepare for the worst!

## A personal view on the G8

Northern Ireland has been blessed – not only have we had heads of states from some of the most powerful countries in the world (and Italy) visit our wee land, but the world media has taken pictures of our beautiful scenery so that we can attract beautiful tourists to come here and see our beautiful peace process and spend their beautiful money.

Cos that is what it is all about – selling. Selling our people, our land, and our souls.

We have been 'honoured' to have the Nobel Peace Prize winner and international terrorist B. Obama lecture us on how to make peace better – pity he did not explain to all those young people how he

orders the execution of thousands of innocent civilians through drone strikes and the fear of such attacks can have on daily life.

It has been sickening to see how the media, political classes and social commentators have been fawning over these blood stained masters of the universe. Any concept of critical analysis, of a deeper awareness of how the present power structures, as typified by the G8, play an important role in perpetuating global social inequality, injustice and an unsustainable future has been missing from the mainstream.

On the streets in Belfast on Saturday with thousands from the trades unions, socialist,

civic and environmental organisations you got a sense that at least here people could see the shit for what it really is. I didn't march to ask the G8 for anything or to demand change – why ask this shower when by doing so you just reinforce their value of self-importance. I marched to be with people who feel passionately about creating a different world – a world of compassion, co-operation and justice.

I went to Enniskillen to march and sing and laugh – to break the isolation that creates apathy and despair. Not many people could make it but their spirits were there and they too cry out – not in our name!

# They want to F\$£ck Ireland!

Even though industry has begun to bombard us with their propaganda, hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking, has started in Ireland to stir apprehension and agitation amongst the people.

So what is fracking anyway? Hydraulic fracturing is the process of drilling and fracturing rock by injecting a pressurized fracturing fluid into the ground, so that underground-trapped natural gas is released and migrates.

In a time where negative impacts are pushing to the limit the ability of different ecosystems to cope, it is an atrocity to allow the pursuit of unsustainable energy sources to continue! A window of opportunity might be closing down on us; therefore, shouldn't we be channelling all our efforts towards realizing an efficient renewable energy future? One that will effectively reduce negative impacts while at the same time will fulfil our needs and the needs of generations to come. Something that fracking cannot do! In fact fracking will only aggravate the problem.

The industry promises cheap gas, more jobs, less dependence and less atmospheric pollution. Those are their arguments, so let us analyse these claims.

## Cheap Gas

The complications associated with fracking, the resources needed, the uncertainty of quantity and

quality of the gas recovered, the speculation around it, the substantial costs of addressing problems and the compensation that will have to take place, in addition to the fact that the gas will be traded in a global market contrasted by it being a finite resource, will render it virtually impossible to hold on to the title of low-cost. The tendency is for it to be increasingly expensive, particularly if one considers the negative impacts on the economy of affected areas.

## Jobs

Let us be realistic, how many jobs will this industry create apart from in the areas where drilling might take place and for how long? How many green jobs could an investment in sustainable energy and energy efficiency create instead?

## Dependence

Again let us be realistic, is there any intention to change our complete fleet of vehicles so that they can use natural gas any time soon? No. It is therefore predictable that we will continue to depend on conventional fossil fuels to a great extent, unfortunately.

## Atmospheric Pollution

Fracking is more polluting than wind, water, or solar technologies and than investing in energy efficiency and behaviour change.

The claim that natural gas produces much less

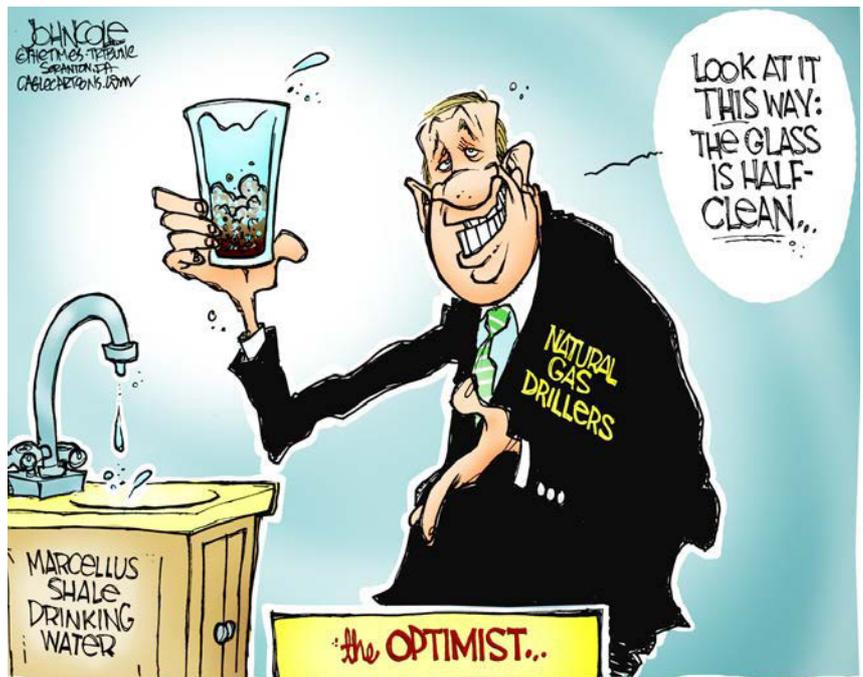
transboundary air pollution and greenhouse gases might be somehow correct, but only when comparing to other fossil fuels and specially if not taking into account its full life cycle. Moreover, there is the problem of unintended or irregular release of methane to the atmosphere, a greenhouse gas 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

But this is just the tip of the iceberg; we should speak about other potential impacts: water contamination, soil contamination and occupation, desertification, radioactive contamination, noise pollution, consequent effects on humans, plants and animals, biodiversity loss, increased risk of explosion because of gas accumulation and transport and handling of hazardous materials, indoor air quality degradation, increased risk of earthquakes, consequent damage to infrastructure and natural heritage, evacuation and displacement.

We should also bear in mind that we are still only beginning to understand the risks of hydraulic fracturing since it is a relatively new technology with little research done. Nevertheless, it is already taking place in different countries even though it is considered high risk for its environmental damages and hazards to human health.

From existing examples one can already derive that the complications associated with fracking come mainly from the fact that permanent fractures develop in unpredictable directions and dimensions, constituting potential pathways for contamination through underground migration of unrecoverable injected fluids or fluids previously trapped underground; well leakage, which has no technical solution, due to different stresses associated with the production process; then there is the problem of hazardous waste management; subsurface blowouts; and, the fact that we will have to deal with an industry that has a bad reputation because of its track record of consecutive failures, lack of adequate studies, rigour and transparency, negligent and illegal behaviour, recklessness and deliberate disregard for safety and environmental concerns.

In Ireland the plan is to



This cartoon says it all

place wells very close to each other, organized in pads between 2 and 4 km apart, all over the [licenced areas](#). A single company estimates that it can drill up to 9,000 wells and that each well will be fracked several times, requiring large quantities of fracking fluid compromising the integrity of the wellbore. Furthermore, licenses issued might be in conflict of interest,

protected areas, natural heritage, important underground and surface water resources and economic activities.

We still can avoid this! May the misleading publicity and bribes not deter us from taking action!

Find out more about fracking [here](#) and in particular about Ireland's case [here](#).

**See You Next Time!**

**Tools For Solidarity** is a voluntary charitable organization based in Northern Ireland, United Kingdom, which supports artisans and communities in some of the poorest countries in the world by providing high quality refurbished hand tools and sewing machines since 1984.

We welcome anyone interested in seeing our work to come along and visit us in Belfast. We have our Open Day on the first Sunday of every month.

### **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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### **Say hello, wave goodbye!**

Since our last publication of “Solidarity” we have had 16 new chirpy volunteers, Gergana from Bulgaria, Fercho from Columbia, Timothée, Agnès and Camille from France, Franziska, Martin, Felix and Marius from Germany, Mirko and Francesca from Italy, Ricardo and Sofia from Portugal and Laura, Alba and Rúben from Spain.

We said farewell to Omar, Claudia, Michael and Jasmin, who did brilliant work!

Goodbye! Auf Wiedersehn! Hasta Luego! Arrivederci! Au Revoir! Adeus! to all who left!!! And a warm Welcome! Willkommen! Bienvenue! Bem vindo/a! to all who arrived and that will arrive!!!



# TOOLS FOR SOLIDARITY

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