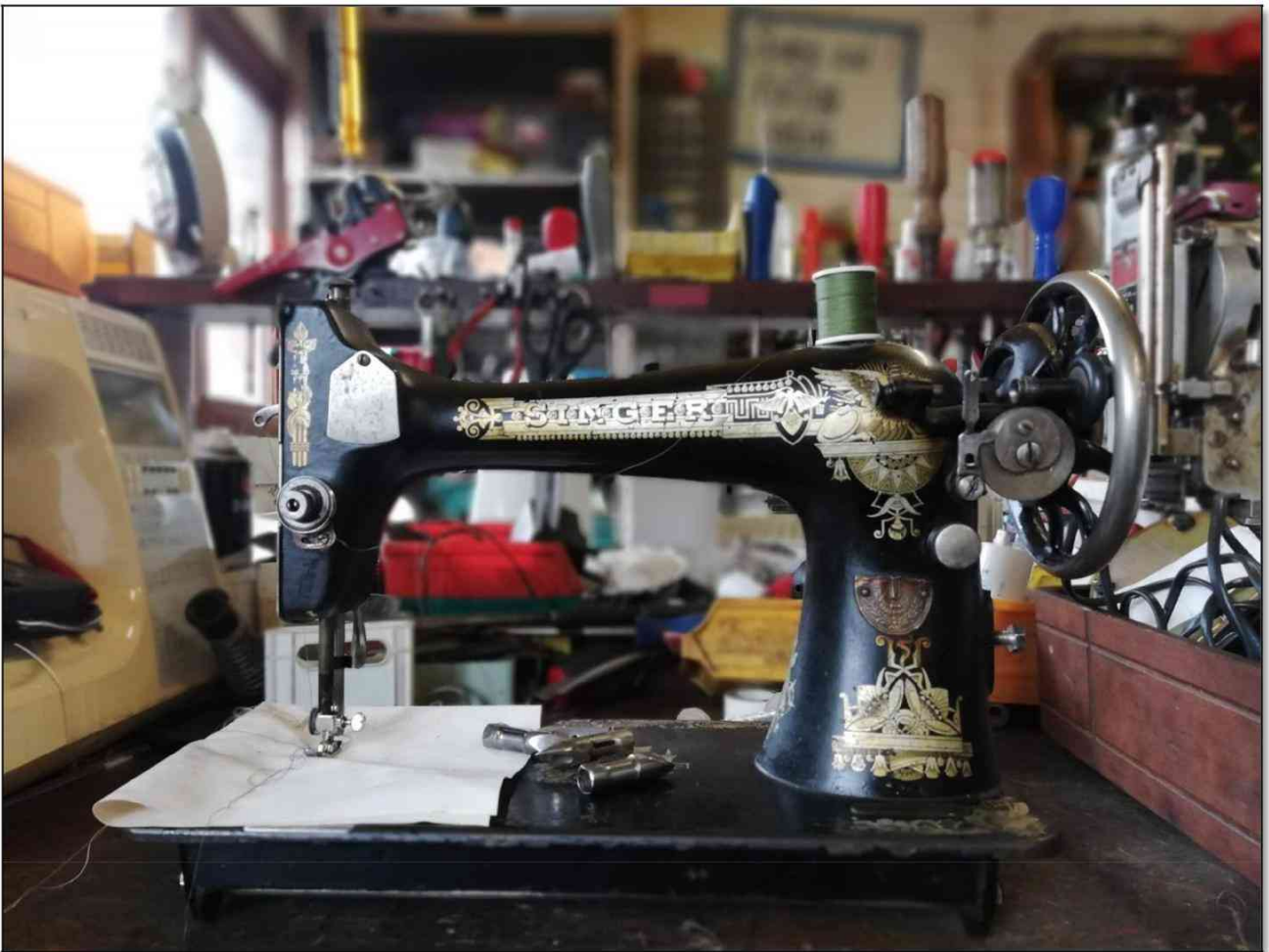




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Annual Report 2017-2018



Tools for Solidarity

NI Charity Commission Number: NIC100614

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**TOOLS FOR
SOLIDARITY**



Chairpersons Report 2018

It's been an eventful year for Tools. The last year has seen us expand our partnership program with the development of two new projects. One of the projects, which has been in development for some years, has finally been agreed with our partner in Tanzania; an artisan support and training centre in Ruvuma, Tanzania. This is an exciting new development for Tools following the success of the tailoring centre (MSTC) in the north of the country. Funding was obtained and a container was sent to Songea in the capital of the Ruvuma region. The container successfully arrived this year getting the project is off to a good start with lots of interest from the region. For full details see the partnership report.

The year was also marked by the visit of Stephen to Malawi, as part of the Global Concerns project. This is a project in which Tools for Solidarity are looking to support the work of Global Concerns with the help of the Scottish Tools Organisation, Tools for Self Reliance. The project in Malawi focuses on supporting people with disabilities by providing them with tools and training for the purpose of income generation.

The ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) program has developed a new pilot project and shows continued growth. The number of schools has increased this year in both the state and maintained sectors and has received very positive feedback from all participating schools. This is thanks to the funding from Roger Waters.

We continue to have the rotation of European volunteers each year. However this has proved more difficult with Tools not being able to hold onto a long term volunteer, as the volunteer we were hoping to stay has not been permitted to do so.

Our supported volunteer program has been reorganised. This has enabled the organisation to provide better support and structure to their work.

As part of the European Voluntary program Tools agreed to organise training courses for asylum seekers and refugees within Northern Ireland. Funding has been successfully acquired to allow the training programs to go ahead. This will happen early next year.

The Workshop has had a constant supply of sewing machines and tools coming in and we are happy to say that it is now at full capacity. We're looking to store more equipment in Downpatrick where we have rented another room. The organisation will have to keep on top of the amount of tools coming in and as such we are planning to build shelving in this storage space next year.

Earlier this year we were visited by a Hungarian documentary maker, Béla Mayer, who captured the life of Tools as well as some of our partner organisations, including Mourne Grange and Tools for Self Reliance in Scotland. As part of this, Béla joined Stephen and Emma on their trip to Malawi. The film is set to be released later this year.

Financially the organisation is secure and has been able to build up a reserve. This will help with planning as the organisation seeks to develop.

Boglarka Benke

Partnership Development and Support

The past year saw the establishment of a new partnership and the shipping of our first container to the 'Ruvuma Artisan Support and Training Centre' (RASTC) in the Ruvuma region of Tanzania. Situated in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania, in the South West of the country, the project will aim to support artisans with tools, sewing machines, and training; the project will be run in the regions of Ruvuma and Njombe, for a 2 year period.

The project has already generated a lot of interest and large requests for material support have been received. For this phase of the project one person has been employed and he will be trained at TFS's other project MSTC in Mwanza, Tanzania.

The project builds on the experience gained through MSTC and other projects and will target:

1. Women working in the tailoring sector
2. Young men finishing Vocational Training College (VTC) and needing tools to start their work as carpenters, mechanics or builders
3. Vocational Training Colleges
4. Existing artisans looking to access additional good quality tools.

The project also gives TFS the opportunity to support artisans and businesses looking to access larger pieces of machinery. Several large pieces were sent including wood turning lathes and band saws. A full detailed list is presented below.

During the year TFS supplied:

- 1 Treadle bases – 8 in total
2. A heavy duty leather working machinery
3. Several small cane furniture making and carpentry kits (most of the tools were refurbished at our sister organisation in Downpatrick).

This year also saw a visit by Stephen to Malawi as Global Concerns and TFS looked to develop their existing partnership. The project in Malawi which was established by Global Concerns 10 years ago with the support of the Scottish Tools groups and aims to improve the income of people with Disabilities within 3 districts – Salima, Ntcheu and Nkhotakota. Cohorts – small groups of people with disabilities receive training in carpentry, cane furniture making and tailoring at the end of which they receive the tools and sewing machines necessary to practice their trade.

The impact of this programme on the lives of the participants is transformation. They gain skills and confidence, their income generating capacity is greater and they are able to improve the standard of their and their familie's lives through the increased income they earn.

In January we shipped our first shipment of tools kits and treadles to Malawi.

It is hoped in the coming year that TFS will continue to work with Global Concerns along with the other Scottish Tools organisations.



MSTC has entered its 11th year of operation and the project is still delivering good quality sewing machines and training. This transforms women tailors and other people's lives by enabling them to make and sell more items. The Dutch organisation Tools 4 Change will be shipping to MSTC next year. We are also hoping next year to conduct an evaluation into MSTC. It has been 7 years since the last evaluation and TFS would look to assess the impact of the training programme and what the tailors want MSTC to provide for them in the future. We are also hoping to bring members of MSTC and our partner in SIDO to Belfast, next year, to visit our centre and help promote the work they do in Tanzania.

Footnote: The project in Uganda that had problems with the management has still not been settled. The legal system in Uganda is very slow but we are hopeful that next year the situation will be resolved

Shipping Contents

To: Songea (Ruvuma Region), Tanzania

	Sewing Machines	Quantity
1	Treadle sewing machines	30
2	Electric sewing machines	40
3	Sewing machines hand	4
4	Sewing machines head only	127
5	Industrial sewing machines	8
	Tools and Machinery	
1	Hand tools – hammers, saws, planes, spanners, screwdrivers, etc.	59 boxes of tools (1884 tools in total)
2	Wood turning lathe – one table mounted and one free standing	2
3	Band saws	3
4	Bench grinder	1
5	Mortising machine	1
6	Electric drill	1
7	Steam irons	2
8	Cloth cutter	1

	Other Materials	Quantity
1	Scrap Cloth Material for Training Purposes (small parchments of donated cloth)	14 boxes
2	Threads	2 boxes
3	Zips	1 boxes
4	Ribbons and Bias Tape	1 box
5	Ribbons and Bias Tape	1 box
6	Elastic	1 box

7	Sewing machine oil	3 (containers -15 l)
8	WD 40	2 (containers - 10 l)
9	Filing cabinet	1
10	Safety equipment (googles, dusk mask, gloves)	9
11	Office equipment (pens, paper, folders)	1 box
12	Sewing maintenance kits (oil cans, sewing machine needles, treadle belts, 2 small screwdrivers)	209
13	Cable extension	1
14	Sewing kit (hand needles and small tape measure)	50
	Total	575

Activities

The year has been very busy with several big events and a series of activities. These are mentioned below.

A new programme to support Refugee and Asylum seekers within N. Ireland. When the new EVS volunteers to TFS arrived at the beginning of the year a new sub group was established to devise a programme to help refugee and asylum seekers. Three short courses were developed:

Sewing machine maintenance – this would enable people to come learn how to repair basic sewing machines. They would fix 2 sewing machines and take one home so that they could do sewing at home.

Tool maintenance – how to repair and re-sharpen tools. The tools repaired would go to help young men in a project in Northern Uganda.

Skills course – where people would learn skills in basic DIY, plumbing or carpentry.

The sub group contacted organisations in Belfast, who work with refugees and asylum seekers, to assess needs, demand and the structure of the courses. The plan will be to hold these courses in the Autumn and Spring of next year. Funding for the programme has been secured.



Fundraising events to raise money for the visit by our partners in MSTC. It has not been possible to raise funds through the normal channels such as trusts funds. Instead the fund raising group set about organising a series of events to help fund the visit.

1. Terri Hooley put on a Reggae Disco in the Pavilion Bar – it was a great night with everyone up dancing and it raised close to £1000. Thanks to Terri and Stuart Ballie for all their work and support.
2. Pam and Tara – our fundraising stalwarts – again organised coffee morning and a Xmas fair which raised well over £500
3. Comedy evening by Tim Mc Garry at the Waterfront. Tim has been a long time supported of TFS and organised a comedy event to raise funds for the organisation. It was a fantastic night with a full house and it raised nearly £5,000 for the organisation. So, a big thank you to Tim and the other comedians on the night.
4. We gave a number of talks and presentations throughout the year to numerous church groups and the NI Embroidery Guild who kindly organised a collection on our behalf.



Comedians Mary Flanigan, Tim McGarry and Terry McHugh with John Wood



Volunteers at the Waterfront Comedy Night

Volunteering Report

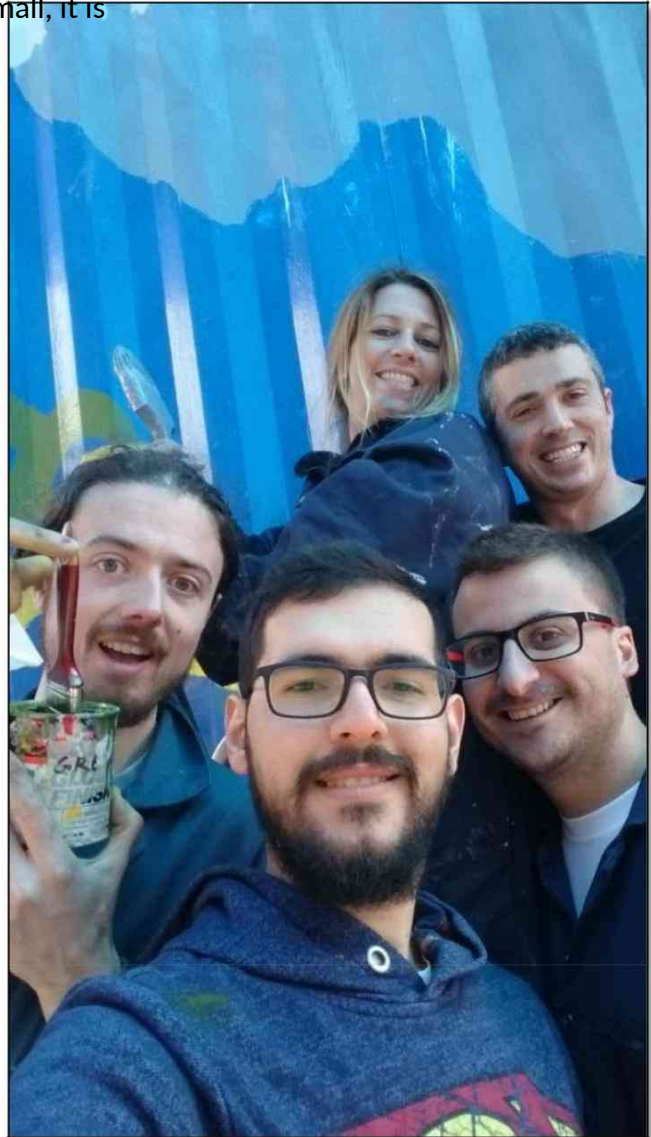
Volunteering is central to all that TFS is and does. For more than thirty years people have come to Tools from around the world and across the street; all ages, backgrounds and abilities. They bring their energy, passion, interest, curiosity, humanity and humour. They come to learn, to share, to build a better world and it works because we have the same values: empathy and a desire to create sustainable development.

This year, as for many years now, the backbone of the organisation has been the core volunteers. The volunteers have given and continue to give a long term commitment to manage and develop our work. Although our group is small, it is

now growing. This year a few more people joined and have taken responsibility for key areas of the work. This is an extremely healthy development, broadening the level of experience and the ability to maintain our work.

The year also marked twenty years of partnership with Eirene – a German International Peace organisation. They have provided us with the highest motivated and enthusiastic volunteers and they continue to do so.

We also continue to host international volunteers through the Erasmus Plus European Voluntary Service (EVS). Volunteers come to us for twelve months from across Europe and beyond. This year we hosted six volunteers. Without them we would be unable to deliver many of our programmes.



Fundraising

The Fundraising Group had a successful year in 2017-18, gathering funds from a number of grant-giving bodies and holding some well-supported events. The group met regularly to review TFS needs, and to attempt to ensure that money was always available for new and continuing projects. Breaking the requirements into separate categories allowed us to focus on specific funders for particular areas, and this approach resulted in a number of successful applications.

During the financial year, we received funding from the following organisations:

Organisation	Funding For:
Hilden Charitable Trust	RASTC Ruvuma project, Tanzania
Just Trust	RASTC Ruvuma project, Tanzania
NIPSA	Shipping costs
Unicorn Coop	MSTC Mwanza, Tanzania
Halifax Foundation	Training Coordinator
Prince of Wales Trust	Supported Volunteer Programme
Department for Communities	General running costs
Anonymous donor	Education for Sustainable Development programme
Rank Foundation	Extraction system
The Irish Society	Extraction system

Three further applications were still outstanding at the end of the financial year.

We held our very first Poetry Competition, with entries being received from across the world. The gala Awards Night was held at the Crescent Arts Centre in June 2017, as part of the Book Festival. Thanks to all the poets who sent contributions. We would particularly like to thank our judges Deidre Cartmill and Maria McManus, and our Master of Ceremonies Mr Tim McGarry for giving their time and talents, and to acknowledge the support of the Crescent Arts Centre.

The wonderful Tim McGarry was again to the fore for a Night of Solidarity, a comedy night held in the Waterfront Studio, Belfast in October 2017. Again, thanks are due to Tim and his friends Mary Flannigan and Terry McHugh for a very enjoyable evening which raised substantial sums for Tools.

Petesy Burns organised a great gig for Tools in December, bringing a bunch of his musical friends to the American Bar in Dock Street for a night of fun and fundraising.

The Fundraising committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all the organisations listed above, and the many individuals and donors who have so generously supported the work of Tools for Solidarity during 2017-18. We couldn't do the work without you!

Ken Orr

Financial Report

Company Number: NI52306 (Northern Ireland) Registered Charity Number: NIC100614

The Financial Year 2017-18 benefited from a number of improved income streams, notably Fund Raising. There were a number of successful events but the most significant was the Tim McGarry Comedy event at the Waterfront Hall in Belfast.

EVS Grants remain central to our income, totalling £45,137 in the year. This will continue in 2018-19 but there is doubt about what will happen long term. Changes due Brexit and EU governance have still not been set in place so funding for organisations like ourselves is not guaranteed. Roger Waters remains our sole income with respect to the ESD program.

Expenditure is considerably less in 2017-18 than the previous year. This is primarily due to the mortgage being paid off in 16-17 and the expenditure on solar panels in 16-17. This has resulted in an increase in our Financial Assets from £50,360 to £87,819.

However going into 18-19 there are some significant additional Expenditure requirements, on the horizon. There will be high costs related to Projects in Tanzania; specifically the uncontrolled increase in Shipping costs. In addition, an identified need to recruit Core volunteers will result in further increased expenditure.

The good news is that the growth in Financial Assets in 17-18 will allow us to absorb these additional costs, at least for 18-19.

Geoff Noble

Building Society	40,360	73,825
Bank Account	8,235	12,490
Petty Cash	45	358
PayPal	1,572	1,146
Ammado	148	0
Net Financial Assets	50,360	87,819



Building Society/Bank Interest	£465
Donations	£15,850
Grants (EVS)	£45,137
Grants Other	£12,250
Other Income	£185
Other Sales	£1,340
Rent Income	£12,516
Scrap Metal Sales	£727
VAT Refunds	£1,978
Sewing Machine/Tools sales	£5,971
Gift Aid	£0
Fund Raising	£7,935
Total Income	£104,354
EXPENDITURE	2017-18
<i>Direct Expenses</i>	
Purchase, Parts, Materials	£7,940
Fixed Assets	£151
Repairs	£180
<u>Total Direct Expenses</u>	<u>£8,271</u>
<i>Overheads</i>	
Financial Fees	£324
Field Trip Costs	£944
Insurance	£432
Fund Raising Expenses	£599
Legal & Professional Costs	£2,964
Light & Heat	£4,039
Overseas Payments	£3,654
Rent, Rates & Water Charges	£1,146
Salary	£8,000
Shipping	£0
Stationary & Postage	£300
Sundry	£770
Telephone	£998
Travel & Subsistence	£6,091
Vehicle Fuel/Motor Expenses	£2,826
Volunteer Expenses	£25,032
<u>Total Overhead Expenses</u>	<u>£58,119</u>
<u>Mortgage Payments</u>	<u>£0</u>
Total Expenditure	£66,390
Profit/Loss	£37,964

Education for Sustainable Development

The ESD programme has been raising awareness about sustainable development issues in Northern Ireland for the last five years. The past year was particularly good in terms of pushing forward new projects. We designed a new follow up project for primary schools groups who had previously participated on the 4 week workshops. This enables us to work with participants on a deeper level of understanding about relative and extreme poverty and run new activities; this follows requests from previous year's feedback.

In addition we have made progress on the post-primary school programme. We have designed a survey to approach post-primary teachers from both grammar and secondary schools and the collected data will help us to add to the programme, ensuring that it remains relevant and challenging.

In terms of participants during this year the volume of Primary Schools, where we worked, has increased considerably, leaving us with very little time to approach other groups. I believe this is due the fact that the programme has become well known among local schools. The breakdown of participants that took part on the programme is as follow: We have worked with a total of 815 participants, of which 783 were from primary level and 32 were from youth groups. Among the participants from primary school, 54 took part in the new pilot programme. Furthermore, we have worked with an international youth group, Friends Forever International with whom we explored international trade and global wealth inequality. The experience was very interesting and good fun. Something important to mention is that we were inclusive of all the communities in Belfast, working with Maintained schools (39%), Controlled schools (22%), Irish Medium Language Schools (22%) and integrated schools (17%).

It was also important to acknowledge the contribution from the volunteers who helped during the year. Angeline, Francesca, Jessica and Iulia were a great support and without their help it wouldn't be possible to push forward the new projects.

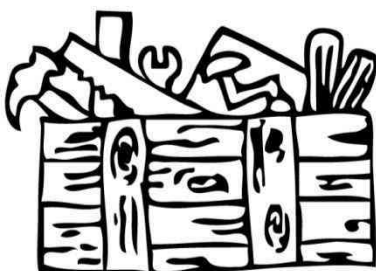
The feedback from the participants was very positive and the performance of the educators was rated at 4.4 out of 5.

Among what the pupils identify as the most interesting thing they have learnt are:

- *How people work hard for our food and we don't realize it.*
- *There are more poor than rich in the world.*
- *We can change the world by using fewer natural resources.*
- *Just because you are not powerful doesn't mean you can't change the world, anyone can.*

We hope in future years to continue to raise awareness and expand the programme to include different group ages and backgrounds.

Laura Rio Fernandez



Mission Statement

TFS supports self-reliance by providing high quality refurbished tools to working people overseas, promoting international solidarity, and challenging global inequalities through critical examination of development issues, environmental sustainability and ethical working practices.

Principles

Underlying all the activities of Tools for Solidarity are the principles and values of self help and empowerment, individual and global equality, environmental awareness, inclusiveness, voluntarism, and the right to challenge/oppose activities/actions that contradict these values.

The Aims of TFS

Promote self-reliance by furnishing overseas projects with high quality recycle hand tools and sewing machines.

Involve individuals, organisations and the public in development and environmental issues.

Utilise working methods that develop and support a sense of international solidarity and promote volunteering and ethical working practices.

Tools For Solidarity will have appropriate premises, personnel and funding to meet the agreed outputs and objectives of the organisation.

Special Thanks -

Action Mental Health	All Schools and Colleges in the ESD Programme	Phillip Allen	John Foster and Methodist College
Terry Hooley	Suki Tea	Unicorn Food Co-Op	Global Concerns Trust
North Down Recycling Centres	Autism Initiatives	NIPSA	Holy Family Parish
Pam and Tara Patchwork Goose	Belfast City Council Recycling Centres	Tim McGarry	The Irish Society
North Belfast Quakers	South Belfast Quakers	Cedar Foundation	Ralf Zeigler and Eirene
SIDO	Just Trust	St Malachy's Old Boys Association	Department for Social Development
Mwanza Sewing and Training Centre	Julian Sanders	The Orchardville Society	Friends of Mourne Grange
Ulster Garden Villages	Geoff and Tina Claxton	Tony and Brid Weeks	Jenny Groves
Erasmus Plus Team British Council Ecorys	Volunteer Now	Tools for Self Reliance Garvald	Rank Foundation
Mr R. Waters	Halifax Foundation for NI	Grace Canham	Hilden Charity Trust
Crawford McKibbin	Scott Bader Foundation	Cliff Duff and Ashfield Boys School	PJH Wills Charitable Trust
NI Embroidery Guild	Mary McCullins		

