

◌ZIMBABWE◌

◌TANZANIA◌

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# TOOLS FOR SOLIDARITY

JANUARY NEWSLETTER



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Together We can Change The Future Of The World





# Climate heating

T H E P L A N E T I S G E T T I N G H O T T E R

Since the industrial revolution immense quantities of Carbon Dioxide (and many other compounds) have been pumped into the atmosphere through the burning of fossil fuels. In the process the lives of those of us living in industrial and post-industrial societies have been transformed – mass transport, electrification, industrialisation of agriculture are just some of the ways life has been changed. However the consequences of this transformation are now plainly visible to anyone who cares to see.

17 of the 18th warmest years have occurred this century. Arctic sea ice is disappearing at rate of 12.7% per decade and this rate is increasing. The last 5 years have seen the highest ever ocean temperatures. A study in Germany highlighted that 75% of flying insects have disappeared in 25 years. Extreme weather events are increasing in frequency and severity. The evidence of the impact of climate heating is screaming at us.

## *So how long have we got?*

On the 1 August 2008 the Guardian newspaper started a monthly blog – 100 months to save the planet with the tag line that time is running out to stop irreversible climate change. Ten years later the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report gave us an additional 12 years to prevent a Climate Catastrophe. The writers of the Arctic Blog – scientists studying the affects of climate change on the Arctic eco-system are much less positive – extinction within 10 years. The answer is that nobody knows but those with the most knowledge are very, very worried. What most scares them are positive feedback loops – as the temperature rises the affect is to create a dynamic that leads to further rises. Once such is the release of Methane from the sea floor, particularly in the Arctic – Methane is a much more dangerous green gas that co2. Another is the Albedo affect – loss of Arctic sea ice means more heat is absorbed into the Arctic Ocean that reflected back out to space.

Climate heating is not simply an environmental problem. It is a socio-economic political crisis stemming from the model of development governments and business have chosen to adopt – one based on economic growth and material consumption. Other models are available and necessary. We need to transform the key basis of our political and economic life and place sustainability and social justice at the centre of all policies and actions.

## Action

Many millions of people around the world are taking action. There are inspirational stories of school children going on strike in Sweden – Greta Thunberg and Australia. The 350 movement has persuaded over 1000 institutions worth more than \$8 trillion to disinvest in fossil fuels and there is the growing extinction rebellion that is mobilising people to take direct action and has spread to Germany, Italy, France, USA and Australia. It is still possible that we can avoid the very worst affects of climate heating but we need a systemic fundamental change in the World Order. We cannot wait for this to happen – it wont change itself. We need to organise!

"When the last tree has been cut down, the last fish caught, the last river poisoned, only then will we realise that you cannot eat money."

## Native American Saying

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### Useful websites:

Extinction Rebellion: <https://xrebellion.org/>

350: <https://350.org/>

Guardian – good mainstream source for articles on climate heating:  
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/climate-change>

Arctic News: <http://arctic-news.blogspot.com/> This site has a climate change plan which calls for sustainable economies at local levels leading to rapid reductions in CO2.

CO2 Now: <https://www.co2.earth/>  
Tract the rise of CO2

*Stephen*

# Ruvuma PROJECT

## SUCCESSFUL WORK

In April, Tools for Solidarity sent its first container to Songea {Ruvuma region - Southern Highlands of Tanzania}. It is the start of a new project to support artisans in the region with sewing machines and tools.

The project is in partnership with SIDO RUVUMA and will operate for 2 years. If successful we hope to develop it further with our partner. During this 2 years period the project - known as the RUVUMA ARTISAN SUPPORT AND TRAINING CENTRE (RASTC), will employ one local Tanzanian to implement the elements within the project.



Mr Matagolo was hired by SIDO and sent to Mwanza, where we have helped establishing a project training on sewing machine refurbishment and training to get able to run the project. After his three months of training he returned to SONGEA and established a workshop and took delivery of the container from TFS.

Within the first month we have supplied 8 treadle sewing machines, 3 industrial sewing machines, tools and machinery to a project working with people with disabilities. Since then he has organised delivery of sewing machines and training for 25 local tailors. Also within the last month the project has started to buy locally made treadles needed for the tailors.

The project is designed to operate on a self funding basis and for the project seems to be functioning very well. This year we plan to visit the project, review the progress and design with our partners future development.

# John



# RUVUMA PHOTOS



TFS meeting SIDO staff at SONGEA



Mr Matagolo being trained by Christina



Sewing machine training at Ruvuma



# NEW

## MARIA WEY



Maria is 19 years old, and she is from Germany. She helps to supported volunteers and work with them repairing tools and cleaning them.

If you have any trouble to find something in the workshop ask her because she will surely knows!

## YAPRAK OZDEMIR



Coming from Turkey. He is working on tools at the moment and is doing a nice work! Very committed and funny, he will always make your day happier.



Turkish girl working on sewing machines. She is the last person who arrived and has adapted very well to the organisation.

## MANON OGER

### WORKING IN TOOLS AND SEWING MACHINES

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She arrived a few months ago from Belgium. She has been working repairing tools but is also helping to the sewing machine section. Working very hard and being sympathetic are her two best qualities.



## FRANCISCO PEREZ

### REPAIRING TOOLS

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From Spain, he is working on tools since he arrived. Also is taking part in publicity tasks and has been editing the newsletter. Always focus on his work.

## ANDREY RYBAKOV

### SEWING MACHINES

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Coming from Russia he is doing a nice job not only repairing sewing machines, also helping in workshop maintenance like plumber issues.





# Supported volunteers

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In August 2018 I joined John and Angéline to work with our Supported Volunteers (SVs). This part of our work is for people with extra support needs – people with learning difficulties/disabilities, brain injuries, physical disabilities and mental health issues.

Every Tuesday and Thursday we are working together on sanding and varnishing hammers, spokeshaves, gouges, squares and saws.

Moreover we dismantle sewing machines and especially their motors, build shelves and paint G-Cramps, vices and stilsons. Some of these need to be cleaned beforehand on the wire wheel in the grinder room. Apart from the tools tasks, Manon started working with SVs on treadle bases for the Singer sewing machines

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In 2018 a treadle base was designed by Iuliia, an EVS volunteer who was with us last year and produced in our workshop in the optimized way with spare metal parts. We sent it to our new project in Ruvuma, in the South of Tanzania where a local production of similar treadles will be started, contributing to develop the local economic activity within the country.

There is a huge variety of tasks and one needs to be careful working with the tools and machinery. All in all we finish work that needs to be done for the shipments to our projects in Africa.

During the last months some new supported volunteers joined our team (we work now with a total of 9 people) and we had a wee Xmas dinner all together – many thanks to the vegetarian society for funding this 4 course feast!

I appreciate a lot our high quality team work with conversations in English, French, Arabic, Spanish and German about the craic of tools, music, journeys and tea.

Best wishes for the following year with new creative tasks and enthusiastic preparation for the shipments.

*Maria*



- supported volunteers and christmas dinner -





# Education for Sustainable Development

We just said farewell to 2018 and welcome to 2019 and suddenly a new year is here again! Often times January is a month of self-reflection, when we try to become a better self and when we look forward to the year ahead with hope and new resolutions.

Some of these “New Year, New Me” resolutions are the same year after year: lose weight, go to the gym, stop smoking, have more family time... But I know that for most of our sustainable readers some of these resolutions would sound more like “this year I will become vegetarian” or “this year I will use less plastic” or “this year I will eat more organic” or even “this year I will make my own cleaning products” – I’ll tell you a secret, that last one is mine!

We all know that the world could be a better place, the good news is that we all can contribute to change it for the better with small and simple steps. During the session 3 on the ESD programme we talk about natural resources and reflect on tips to help the planet.

*Laura*





# Tips to help the planet

## Second hand-charity shops



We can buy anything from fashion old-new clothes to toys, books, furniture or house-hold appliances. In this way we are REusing products and avoiding digging the earth to extract more natural resources.

And not only we are saving earth resources, we are also avoiding all the manufacturing processes: energy, water, plastic, transport and harmful chemicals.

## Products without plastic



Plastic is really harmful to the environment and despite common belief most of it is NOT recyclable. It just gets downcycled into thinner plastic until it becomes immensely small and is not longer visible to the naked eye.

Then it disappears into the water we drink and is ingested by the fish, animals and plants we eat! Remember this every time you go shopping and try to find alternatives to plastic such as buying products in bulk or wrapped in paper instead. We can also join campaigners who ask for a plastic-free-aisle in supermarkets!

## Switch to reusable stuff

Nowadays everything could be disposable: plastic bottles, coffee cups, cutlery, napkins... If our great-grandparents were told that we produce things to use only once they wouldn't believe it!

Thankfully there is a solution, and even though it seems a new market idea, these tips are borrowed from our ancestors: refill a glass or steel bottle every day, bring your own coffee mug to your favourite café (most of them will give you a 10% off if you bring your own reusable mug) use linen table cloths and handkerchiefs, use reusable food containers to take away and/or bring your own canvas-reusable bag to the supermarket.



## Local or "nearer" products

Transport is another issue to have into consideration when we shop. Check the food label to understand where the food you eat comes from and buy local products. In this way we are saving CO2 emissions and supporting the local economy.



When the product we buy can't be locally produced we can look out for the nearest alternative, for example oranges from Spain require less transport than oranges from Australia.

**To those of you who are ahead of us, I invite you to send us your sustainable tips and ideas. Don't be shy, anything that would help us become more sustainable is welcome!**



# Training refugees and asylum seekers

## *New pilot programme!*

In TFS we work with people from different origins, backgrounds and with fewer opportunities. In the past TFS has worked with a small number of refugees and asylum seekers on a one by one basis. At the beginning of 2018 we started thinking about developing a small programme to support this vulnerable group.

To this end we met with some organisations providing support to this public, both on-arrival and as they settle into life in Belfast. They confirmed the need for basic skills training to help them to adapt to life here, and allow them to improve their living environment despite having little or no money. We drew up a programme of 3 training courses, with the aim of transferring skills for life to people adjusting to completely new circumstances as they build a life in Belfast.

In July, the Souter Charitable Trust made a generous donation which allowed us to cover the costs of transport, lunches, materials and training support. Flyers for each course were produced by our international volunteers and circulated to local refugees support groups. The first cycle of this programme took place during Autumn 2018. Demand was high, so we had no difficulty in filling the 5 places available for each of the 4 full day training.

The Sewing Machine Maintenance course took place in September. The participants learnt to diagnose common problems and dismantle and repair a machine. They carried out maintenance on sewing machines which will be sent to our projects in East Africa, and at the end of the course each person was given a machine to take home for their own use. They also have been trained in tailoring skills – many thanks to Tara from the Patchwork Goose for this.

*Angeline*





# Tools and skills training



This was followed by a Tools Maintenance course in November, covering the cleaning, repair, sharpening and painting/varnishing of hand tools (hammers, planes, chisels, brace or hand drills, etc). Participants worked on tools which will be sent to artisan disabled carpenters in Malawi. They all received a basic set of tools to keep at the end of the course.

The third course was on Skills Training in December. Content included practical skills in carpentry, plumbing and simple electrical checks. The trainees constructed shelves, replaced a sink and fitted a new washing machine. They also got a basic set of tools to bring home with them.



*Angeline*







# GLOBAL RESULTS

## REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS TRAINING

The feedback from participants has been very positive.

They really appreciated the opportunity of learning some manual skills that could help them in their daily life in their actual or future houses. The human aspect has also been very important. Been out of the house, moving in the city to find the workshop, meeting with some local and international volunteers, practising their English, all this contributing to improve other people lives in Africa through the tools and machines they fixed, was very positive for new arrivals who often face difficulties to be part of the community, and/or are not allowed to work during the claim for asylum.



For the participants and for TFS volunteers this pilot has been very useful, human and empowering. The participants wanted to come back, share more and learn more, so they passed the word in their communities and we have already received requests for next trainings! We will keep capitalising on this rich experience and consider our capacity of renewing it in 2019.



We worked mostly with men, but there were a number of women participants. We worked with people from 23-years-old to 49. We worked with people who have obtained their refugee status and with the ones still in the process of seeking asylum. We worked with people from Syria, we worked with people from Sudan, and we also worked with people from Somalia, Egypt, Iran and Albania. We worked with people with manual skills, or without. We didn't only work with 15 people, but with an immense and rich diversity of individuals, all together.

It was great, complex, human, stressful, nice, questioning, positive, tiring, amazing, It was I-have-not-enough-English-to-describe-it, it was with laughs and smiles, and it felt good.

Angeline



**TFS**

*When you are committed into an aim,  
you are unstoppable.*