

TOOLS FOR
SOLIDARITY

ANNUAL REPORT

2019 / 2020



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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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.

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.

The Aims of TFS

1. Promote self-reliance by furnishing overseas projects with high quality recycled hand tools and sewing machines.
2. 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.
3. Tools For Solidarity will have appropriate premises, personnel and funding to meet the agreed outputs and objectives of the organisation.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Solidarity in practice is the heart of TFS's work. You can contribute in a very practical way by donating hand tools or sewing machines, by making a donation towards essential shipping and running costs, by providing materials or by volunteering.

Find us on social media



@2ls4s



@tfs_belfast



Tools For Solidarity

Other ways to contact us



+44 (0) 28 9543 5972



tools.belfast@myphone.coop



toolsforsolidarity.com

CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS

It was a special year for TFS as we celebrated 35 years since our formation in 1984. An important visit also took place to assess the progress of our latest project in Tanzania. There were many new developments from: a new post to deal exclusively with our expanding partnership work; a new educational officer; increase in volunteer numbers and the progress towards easing the space problems in the main workshop.

In June TFS personnel visited our latest project in Ruvuma, Tanzania, and were impressed by the progress that has been achieved. After discussions with people in the area TFS are considering opening an additional centre in an adjoining region. While there a visit to the tailoring centre in Mwanza also took place and we are looking to help the staff there overcome difficulties they have been having. A full report and discussion of the findings from the field trip are presented within the partnership section.

The organisation has been greatly helped by another volunteer wishing to stay on and assist the organisation. Andrei has been working on those aspects of TFS work that we do not have the expertise and has enabled more sewing machines and machinery to be repaired for shipment to Tanzania. Along with Jessica TFS has had a stable core and enabled TFS to move ahead on partnership and organise materials for shipping. A new ESD officer was appointed and Roisin has been working hard to continue the schools programme established by Laura. Angeline, a former volunteer was appointed to be TFS's first partnership worker and while she had to leave for new beginning in France another volunteer stepped into the role, Manon from Belgium.

Financially the organisation is still in a good position thanks to Ken who heads the fundraising section and Stephen who has yet again been successful in securing more European volunteers to keep the organisation functioning as well as the financial support that goes with it. Their success over the years has presented TFS with the opportunity to try and secure more space to relieve the pressure for space as the main workshop becomes more acute. The organisation hopes to have this space by the time of the next annual report.

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & SUPPORT

Mwanza Sewing Training Centre - MSTC

MSTC located in the Lake Victoria Zone of Tanzania, has been running now for 13 years and is self-financing. The centre employs 3 full time people. During these 12 months MSTC delivered 150 sewing machines, 6 knitting machines and conducted 6 training sessions for skilled tailors. MSTC also received the visit of 3 volunteers from TFS, Angéline, Stephen and Ken for a week. During this visit, MSTC presented to TFS the workshop and how it is organised, the container (where the sewing machines are stored) and the place where the treadles are produced.

TFS staff also had the opportunity to visit and speak with tailors that received sewing machines and a training at MSTC centre and obtained some positive feedback:

"I bought 2 machines from SIDO-MSTC which brought me dramatic business changes. I later on decided to employ two more people since my business was growing"

- **Tailor in Runzewe-Bukombe.**



TFS also had several meetings covering topics such as finances, promotion, record keeping and other matters that needed to be discussed with MSTC and SIDO staff (Small Industries Development Organisation). TFS also noticed that the sales of sewing machines had decreased over the years and discussed the different reasons and factors (internal and external) that affected the project. These include: struggle to achieve the agreed targets, a change of regional manager, the economy was not in a good shape due to the poor harvest season in the region and a mismatch in the stock MSTC has and the machines the artisans are requesting.

However, strengths of the project have been identified during the field visit: the staff is highly skilled in term of sewing machines and have a very good understanding of their target group. The feedback of the artisans is good and they value their work.

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & SUPPORT

After the field trip - MSTC, TFS and SIDO discussed a new agreement with new targets to help MSTC project. At the beginning of 2020 a new MoU drawn up for a period of 18 months. It is planned that MSTC will allocate 525 sewing machines to artisans (plus 8 extra sewing machines to people with disabilities), 12 knitting machines and deliver 17 training sessions. Unfortunately due to the Coronavirus crisis the MSTC shipment has been delayed. TFS hope to send it during the summer time.



Ruvuma Artisan Support Training Centre - RASTC

RASTC located in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania, started operations in June 2018 and employs 1 full time workshop mechanic.

Just like MSTC - Angéline, Stephen and Ken also visited the project in June 2019, just one year after the centre opened and TFS was able to conduct meetings with SIDO and RASTC to discuss the success and challenges that the project faced since the centre opened.

The first year of RASTC has been successful especially in the sewing machines aspect of the project. Almost 80% of the the total sewing machines target have been allocated and 63% of the total artisans trained target have been trained. However TFS noticed that tool aspect of the project has had a slow uptake and that there is some weakness in term of tools allocation: 48% of the total tools target for year 1 have been allocated.

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & SUPPORT

During the visit TFS also met with the different staff members from our partner SIDO and the workshop mechanic of RASTC to discuss about different aspects of the project (finances, record keeping, administration, etc). They visited the workshop and the container (used as a storage room), checked the state of the sewing machines and tools. They also had a chance to visit some tailors who had bought a sewing machine and received one free week of training at RASTC centre. Some feedback from artisans:

“In April 2019, I received a free hand driven Singer 15K (as a consequence of legs disability - this is part of RASTC programme to support some people with disabilities). After years of working on different activities to survive, I can now focus on tailoring full-time. Now I can work more quickly and the business that I share with a man also having a legs disability is going well”.

- **Theresa Kpinga, Mbinga**



TFS staff also visited Njombe, a neighbouring region. TFS managed to meet with the regional manager of SIDO Njombe and together they visited some artisans to identify their need in terms of tools.

After this field trip TFS, SIDO and RASTC had several discussion regarding the future of the project and the best option was chosen: open a new centre in Njombe focusing on tools as the demand there is higher. Currently, a MoU and a budget have been drawn up - one for each centre - as well as a job description for the future workshop mechanic at Njombe. We hope to find an agreement very soon and to ship within 6 months.

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & SUPPORT

New Partnership

Given the amount of tools collected over the years, TFS has long looked to set up a new project focusing mainly on tools. The objective is to set up a centre that can support Vocational Training Colleges and artisans and where the tools could be shipped and refurbished in-country. TFS has been actively looking for a suitable partner and this year we established contact with a Ghanaian organisation, the National Vocation Training Institute (NVTI). NVTI coordinates all aspects of vocational training in Ghana and has 34 public vocational schools throughout the country. In November 2019, the Executive Director of NVTI, Mrs Mawusi Nudekor Awity, came to Belfast in order to discuss the possibilities of partnership.



A field trip visit was supposed to happen in Ghana during the spring 2020 but was delayed until the health situation is better.

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & SUPPORT

Global Concerns Trust - Malawi

This is our 4th year of working in partnership with the Global Concerns Trust and the Scottish tools organisations to support their programme 'Tools and training for Livelihoods in Malawi'.

GCT works through 2 local partner organisations in Malawi - KODO, a local, grass roots vocational training project in Salima District and MACOHA - the national council for the Handicapped.

This programme has a real and deep impact on the lives of people with disabilities in rural Malawi. Participants in the programme receive skills training in carpentry, tailoring and/or cane furniture making as well as training in business skills, gender and HIV awareness and how to manufacture green manure. At the end of their training they each receive a solar panel and a kit of tools or a sewing machine and materials to help they start their own businesses.

Each year an evaluation is carried out that shows the programme transforms the lives of the trainees and of their families. 96% of graduates establish successful businesses, increase their income and improve the quality of their standard of living. The programme also helps transform the negative image some local people have of people with disabilities.

In January we shipped a consignment of tools kits and treadle bases to GCT partners in Malawi - 7 cane furniture making kits, 3 carpentry and 8 treadle bases.



This is Alice Miyawa, who lives in rural Malawi. Alice has a paralysed leg and previously had no means of supporting herself and her two children. Alice received 6 months of vocational training, learning how to make cane furniture. When Alice finished her training, she received the tools needed to start her own business, a solar panel and post-training support. Alice now has a cane furniture business and is making enough money to cover all day to day needs for herself and her children, who are able to live with their mum again.

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & SUPPORT

In March this year we sent a pallet of sewing machines and accessories to a vocational training college for young people in Northern Malawi. The shipment comprised of 7 sewing machines, tools, 2 treadles and materials. Many thanks to Deborah Taubman for raising the funds to make this shipment possible.

Katakwi Conserve Uganda Unemployed Youth Project

TFS was approached in 2018 by War on Want NI - now Self Help Africa NI - for technical and material support for a pilot project they had been running in Uganda - the Katakwi Conserve Unemployed Youth Project. This project was set up to provide orphans - many of whom came from the conflict in the north of the country - with vocational training in carpentry and tailoring, with tools and sewing machines and with support to self themselves up in businesses.

The project faced a number of major challenges - funding, organisational and administrative - but we finally got the go ahead and in March 2020 shipped 15 sewing machines including 10 treadles and 25 small individual carpentry kits - a total of 686 refurbished high quality tools. The project finally received the tools in July this year.

VOLUNTEERS 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 share values**: empathy, compassion and a desire to create sustainable development.

This year, as for many years now, the backbone of the organisation has been the core volunteers. These volunteers have given and continue to give a long term commitment to manage and develop our work. We had former volunteers who left us during the year leaving positions for new people. That happened with a partnership worker and an educational officer. It was a hard time for all of us to say goodbye to both of them. However, we wish them the best luck on their new positions.

One of our international volunteers has agreed to stay with us for another year to help with training new volunteers and repairing sewing machines and tools in the workshop. Another international volunteer was happy to accept our offer and take over a part-time position as a partnership worker. In December we were happy to welcome our new educational officer who works with us part time as well. We believe that all these changes in our team will help to transform our work and ease pressure on other volunteers.



VOLUNTEERS REPORT

Apart from that we continue to host international volunteers through the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) Programme. 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. Due to Brexit it is hard to say what is going to happen with the programme in the future. However, we hope that political issues will not affect our work. We were able to welcome a new volunteer from Germany - Finn - through our partnership with Eirene and host for a few months an intern from a university in Normandy - Lea.

More and more local people are becoming interested in our work and the number of locals now part of our regular team is growing - this is a healthy sign for the organisation but also reflects a growing concern for the environment and how we can create a more sustainable future.

Many thanks to all our volunteers - local, core, international and supported for their dedication and hard work.

SUPPORTED VOLUNTEERS PROGRAMME

Our programme gives an opportunity to people in Northern Ireland who may require extra help in terms of individual and social needs to participate in worthwhile and valuable work within our workshop. We adapt the tasks to what works best for the people who are with us. The work varies from refurbishing tools or machinery for our overseas projects by dismantling, sanding wood or metal pieces, oiling, varnishing or painting, to sorting out some tools and sewing machines parts. Here, people who often suffer from marginalisation are involved in contributing to make a difference in other people's lives across the world.

We work with a range of organisations to provide supported placement to people who have disabilities, mental health issues, learning difficulties and head injuries. We seek to create a warm and caring atmosphere where everyone can feel the work they do is important. We know that when people engage in helping others, learning new skills and knowledge and interacting socially with others their mental well being is greatly improved. The volunteers seem to enjoy it too.

FUNDRAISING REPORT

The Fundraising Group continue to meet regularly to review the plans for Tools for Solidarity and to ensure that funds are always available for new and continuing projects. The focus during 2019-20 has been on raising funds for our projects in the south-west of Tanzania, and in particular for the new Tools Centre in Njombe City. Setting up a new workshop requires a considerable sum, and we have contacted a wide variety of funders, some new and some long term supporters. Despite a number of rejections, understandable in the current economic environment, we were able to gather almost all the support required, and further applications are outstanding for the next financial year.

The Halifax Foundation continues to be a major donor to Tools for Solidarity, and we acknowledge once again their vital support. Several supporters held individual events, and a team of volunteers were sponsored to participate in the Belfast Marathon.

In May 2019, we were approached by Lush, the cosmetics chain, offering us a fund-raising opportunity in their Belfast shop. We were able to set up an information stand in the shop, and received all the proceeds of the sale of their Charity Pot product over the weekend, as well as donations from customers. It was a great opportunity to reach out to a different audience, and we are grateful to Lush for providing it.

During 2019-20, we received funding from the following organisations:

NIPSA

Njombe ASTC

CHRYSALIS TRUST

Njombe ASTC

HALIFAX FOUNDATION

Training Coordinator, running costs

DEPT FOR COMMUNITIES SMALL + CAPITAL GRANTS

Training Coordinator, running costs

UNICORN COOP

Mwanza STC

ANONYMOUS DONOR

Education for Sustainable Development

ARCHER TRUST

Supported Volunteer Programme

Supported Volunteer Programme

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 TFS during the year. We rely entirely on your support to be able to continue our life changing work.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Company Number: NI52306 (Northern Ireland)

Registered Charity Number: NIC100614

The Financial Year 2019-20 showed a healthy profit. This was in large part due to some EVS payments occurring during the financial year which normally would have occurred in other years. The recorded profit was £36,178.

The salary costs continue to rise as we build up our core staff. This was both planned and is being managed. The decision was taken to buy further storage space. Therefore, £82,000 has been put aside to acquire a property in North Belfast. This leaves us with a reserve of £31,016 going into 2020-21.

Whilst this is a comparatively healthy balance there are several events which mean that 2020-21 is a very uncertain year financially, and we will need to be careful about taking on additional unnecessary expense.

A shipment and a visit to Tanzania are crucial in order to maintain Mwanza and to move Njombe and Ruvuma forward. This will result in Shipping and Project Costs in 2020-21 that were absent in 2019-20.

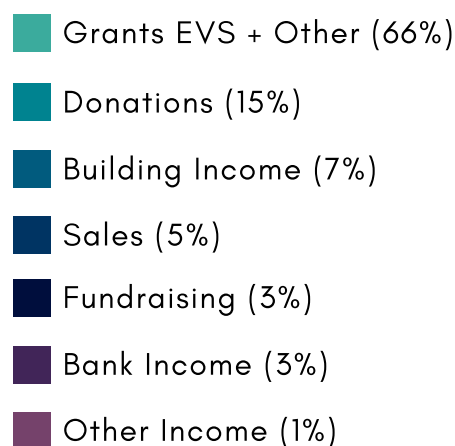
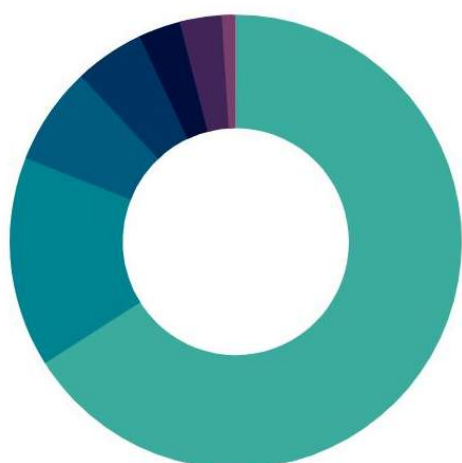
In addition, we are faced with massive uncertainties around Covid and Brexit, which we need to manage and anticipate as best we can. On top of all that the EVS program is coming to an end with unknown consequences.

In summary our financial position at the end of the year was a reasonably healthy one but numerous future uncertainties lie ahead.

Current Account	£13,059
Building Society	£113,016
Petty Cash	£234
PayPal	£1,165
Net Financial Assets	£127,474

FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME	2019-20
Building Society/Bank Interest	£1,015
Donations	£18,663
Grants (EVS)	£65,388
Grants Other	£14,690
Other Income	£110
Other Sales	£893
Rent Income	£6,435
Scrap Metal Sales	£733
VAT Refunds	£2,500
Sewing Machine/Tools sales	£4,430
Foreign Payments	£532
Fund Raising	£3,297
Energy Savings	£2,225
TOTAL INCOME	£120,911



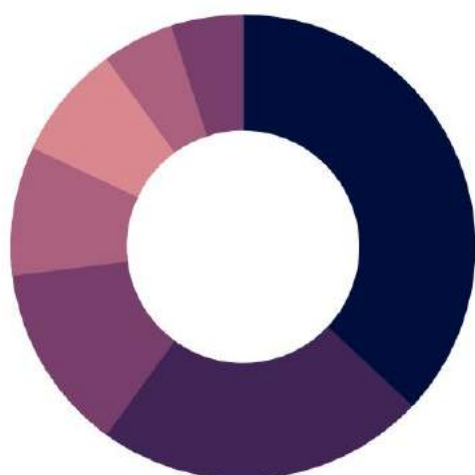
FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENDITURE	2019-20
<i>Overheads</i>	
Financial Fees	£31
Field Trip Costs	£2,369
Insurance	£2,498
Fund Raising Expenses	£487
Legal & Professional Costs	£2,619
Light & Heat	£4,429
Overseas Payments	£1,441
Rent, Rates & Water Charges	£1,305
Salary	£19,680
Stationary & Postage	£120
Sundry	£360
Telephone	£1,026
Travel & Subsistence	£6,462
Vehicle Fuel/Motor Expenses	£2,836
Volunteer Expenses	£31,521
<i>Total Overhead Expenses</i>	<i>£77,184</i>

Direct Expenses 

FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENDITURE	2019-20
<i>Direct Expenses</i>	
Purchase, Parts, Material	£6,739
Fixed Assets	£713
Repairs	£97
<i>Total Direct Expenses</i>	<i>£7,549</i>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£84,733
Profit	£36,178

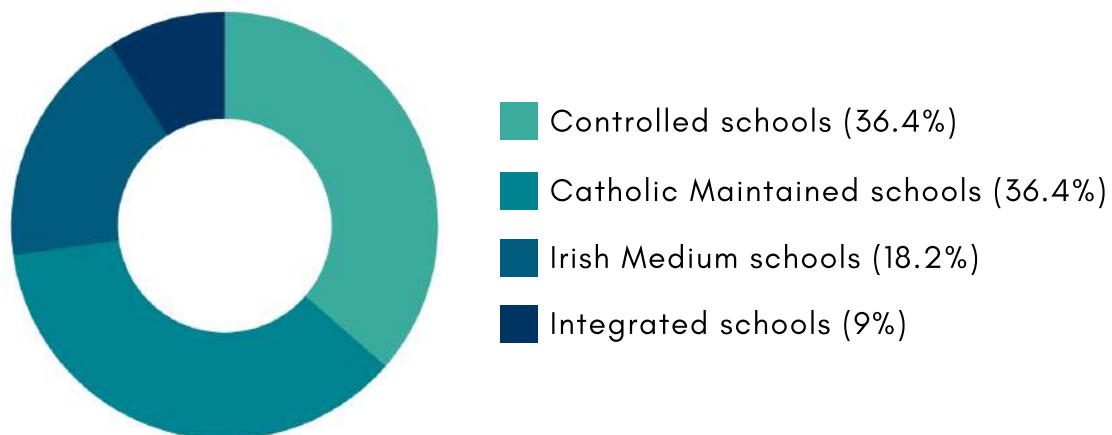


- Volunteer Expenses (37%)
- Salary (23%)
- Travel and Insurance (13%)
- Direct Expenses (9%)
- Building Expenses (8%)
- Professional Costs (5%)
- Other Expenses (5%)

ESD REPORT

My name is Roisin Sloan and I began the Education Officer post at Tools For Solidarity in December 2019, following in the footsteps of Laura R o Fernandez. I am really enjoying delivering the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) programme. I am convinced of the vital need to engage, challenge and inspire people with regard to creating a fairer, more sustainable world.

In the academic year 2019-20 we worked with 11 schools and one youth group, reaching a total of 557 recipients. We delivered sessions about inequality, poverty, natural resources and their exploitation and fairtrade. Participants developed their critical thinking skills. Crucially, they also became aware of the links between the local and the global and the impact of their actions. The breakdown of the types of school we worked with is as follows:



The programme enjoyed great feedback from participants and teachers/co-ordinators alike. Teachers/Co-ordinators made the following assessments of the programme:

- ✓ What I liked the most is that it was real life learning.
- ✓ The topics discussed were pitched very well towards the learners and there were great discussions and thoughtful responses from the children.
- ✓ Very interactive and [the] pupils loved it.

The participants learnt the following (in their own words):

- ✓ We learnt fairtrade is better because they give farmers money for their produce.
- ✓ Everybody has the power to change the world.
- ✓ Tools here are better than in Africa.

ESD REPORT

The delivery of the programme was made possible and greatly enhanced by the dedicated volunteer team of Antoine, Jennifer, Daria and Manon.



Regrettably, the Covid-19 pandemic meant that we could not deliver education sessions in the latter part of the year. Despite this, the ESD team worked hard to design new resources with the view to providing a dedicated ESD programme for adults. The team have developed 4 sessions focusing on the topics of fast fashion, food and hunger, cultural diversity and the climate crisis which we hope to pilot very soon.

The ESD team has continued to empower people to act for a fairer, greener planet for all.

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS TRAINING PROGRAMME (RASP)

In 2018 TFS developed a programme to support refugees and asylum seekers. The aim is to develop transferable skills for people adjusting to completely new circumstances as they build a life in Belfast and to lessen the social exclusion many people from this community face.

This year we ran two training courses: Sewing machine maintenance in June and tools maintenance in October.

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS TRAINING PROGRAMME (RASP)

Each course ran for 4 days for 5 participants. Participants came from a number of different countries. For the first time members of the Traveller community in Belfast enrolled on a course.

The sewing machine training course enabled participants to learn to diagnose common problems and dismantle and repair a sewing machine. The machines they were working on were for the projects of TFS in East Africa.

At the end of the course participants took part in a one day sewing class to learn basic sewing techniques using a sewing machine which they received as a gift from TFS.



The second course was tools maintenance - the trainees learnt to clean, repair sharpen and paint/varnish hand tools like hammers planes, chisels, brace or hand drills. These tools were later sent to Malawi to be given to graduate carpenters in our programme with the Global Concerns Trust. At the end of the course a set of tools was given to the each participant.

All the participants were provided with lunch and their travel costs were met.

The feedback from participants was very positive: they enjoyed the opportunity to be in a new place with people from other cultures and backgrounds, learnt new skills and spoke English in a supported friendly environment. They were particularly happy to be able to improve other people's lives in Africa through the tools and machines they fixed. They greatly appreciated the tools and sewing machines they each received.

SPECIAL THANKS

This year Tools For Solidarity would like to thank all our supporters and followers that helped us to achieve everything we have today!

Action Mental Health	Lush	Phillip Allen
Belfast City Council Recycling Centres	Gilnahurk Presbyterian Women	Newtownbreda Presbyterian Church
Unicorn Food Co-Op	Petesy Burns	The Dockers Club
Gerard & Noelle Duddy	Terry Hooley	Holy Family Parish
Tim McGarry	Global Concerns Trust	St Columbs Park Rec. Trust
South Belfast Quakers	NIPSA	Ms U Andrews
Pam & Tara Patchwork Goose	All Schools & Colleges in the ESD programme	St Malachy's Old Boys Association
SIDO	Deborah Taubman	Julian Sanders
Erasmus Plus Team	The Irish Society	North Belfast Quakers
Ecorys	Cedar Foundation	Ralf Zeigler and Eirene
Department for Social Development	Just Trust	Ulster Garden Villages
The Orchardville Society	Mwanza Sewing & Training Centre	Jenny Groves
Geoff & Tina Claxton	Friends of Mourne Grange	TFSR Garvald
Mr R. Waters	Tony & Brid Weeks	Rank Foundation
Hilden Charity Trust	British Council	Grace Canham
Belfast Repair Cafe	Volunteer Now	Scott Bader Foundation
Prince of Wales Charitable Foundation	Halifax Foundation for NI	Michael Gribbon
Belfast Tool Library	Attracta Walsh	Souter Charitable Trust
Anne Ryan	PJH Wills Charitable Trust	Ulster Garden Villages
Mr & Mrs Finney	Jaap Prins	Strand Pensioners Club
P Rooney	Funk Tank	Dept for communities
R & M Corrigan	Archer Trust	John Ling
	Chrysalis Trust	Michael Hanna
	Mr C Gallagher	Mr & Mrs McCarthy
		N & S Thompson