



Tools For Solidarity Tel: +44 (0)28 9543 5972
55A Sunnyside Street
Belfast BT7 3EX
E-mail: tools.belfast@myphone.coop

Annual Report 2016-2017



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Chairpersons Report

If last year was busy, this year was even busier. We not only improved our workshop by finishing all the shelving and tool storage, but we also added new solar panels onto the roof. This is a big plus for an organisation who believe so strongly in sustainability.

The other big achievement is that we were able to persuade Elena to stay on for another year to help with the sewing machines. She has been an invaluable help and it has enabled us to look at developing new project possibilities in Tanzania; this has still to be decided on in the near future.

The other important event of the year was the partnership development with Global Concerns Trust, a Scottish organisation so that we can send tools to Malawi via their project called 'Tools and Training for Livelihoods in Malawi', supporting people with disabilities to develop income generating activities. This is a big move for TFS linking with other organisations including the partnership with BWW, a Dutch organisation. Working in this way can benefit us and can help us continue with our existing capacity.

In terms of personnel, we managed to get help from Ken Orr who has been coming in and helping with fundraising which has been fantastic. Geoff continues to manage our accounts. The organisation has been able to move away from its total dependency on international volunteers, although we are still very happy to be dependent on them. The fact that we are getting local involvement can only benefit TFS in the long term.

The success of our ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) Programme has been continued this year with 60% more participants than last year. Moreover, we managed to attract a larger number of controlled schools that we had struggled to involve in the past.

It has been a really memorable year for us because we paid off the mortgage for the new building. Our finances are in a relatively healthy state.

Last but not least, in the next one or two years, we are going to try to secure our long-term partner-projects in Tanzania and Malawi and hopefully we will also be able to secure involvement with the International Volunteer Programme.

Boglarka Benke

Partnership Development and Support

This year has been very challenging and difficult but there have also been some positive developments. A field trip was undertaken to visit projects in Uganda and Tanzania. It was a three week trip in which several thousand kilometers were travelled. All of this on several long twelve hours bus journeys.

1. MSTC (Mwanza Sewing and Training Centre)

A visit is planned, at the end of April, so we can meet the new regional manager and visit some groups at the Mwanza Training Centre. We plan to discuss project improvements.

Mwanza has been running for ten years and is our flagship project. It is a unique project in that it is the only one of its kind in the world. It is the main focus of our work, is completely self- financing and supports the local production of sewing machine treadles.

There were some problems regarding the clearance and transport of the container to the project in Mwanza from Dar Es Salaam, which we brought to the attention of our partner SIDO HQ (Small Industries Development Organisation). However in December TFS sent a container to MSTC after the break last year when BWW were responsible for the shipment.

Materials sent:

1. 360 sewing machines
2. 10 Knitting machines
3. Artisan tool kits for sewing machine maintenance training course
4. Spare parts for machines with broken cogs, gears or motors
5. Threads and accessories.



Loading the container for Mwanza



2. SIDO Head Quarters

There is a serious issue over the costs of clearing and shipping containers sent by not just TFS but other tools organisations. This is an area that we will discuss with our partner and sister tools organisations to work out a viable solution. One option we are exploring is direct shipment to the projects.

3. New Projects

In the previous year we started to enquire about the possibility of establishing 2 small projects in other parts of Tanzania along with our Dutch partner BWW. The trip this year was to try and push this process further and to get committed timetables for this to happen. Given the shipping issues and the decline in SIDO HQ communication it was felt that any new project should be limited to one container, making it easier to ship and fundraise.

After discussion with our Dutch partner it was decided that TFS would go ahead with the development of a project in Songea (Ruvuma region in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania). The project will be a small artisan centre that would supply 100 sewing machines and around 700 tools and some machinery. All the materials are ready in the workshop and we have managed to secure a third of the funding so far.

4. Malawi

During the year we met with Emma from 'Global concerns in Scotland'. They have 2 projects in Malawi targeting people with disabilities (PWD), with a package of support to help them with training for tools and sewing machines in order to establish small enterprises. At the moment they have material support from tools refurbishment groups in Scotland, one of which TFS already work with, providing technical support. However they have requested tools and materials from TFS for a shipment in the summer of 2017, which we have agreed to undertake. There is also an agreement from TFS to continue the support for the Malawi projects. TFS Downpatrick and Mournie Grange have agreed to help with this future development.

5. Uganda

There has been a long and eventful process in our efforts to recover assets from a project established in Uganda, with our former partner WORI (Women's Rights Initiative). The person managing WORI stole money and materials from the project that left TFS with no alternative but to take legal action against her. This has been carried out by a contact within Uganda who has worked through the legal system to get the police to seize a container and materials belonging to the project. A final court hearing will be held in October 2017 when we hope to then be able to close the file on this and move on.

John Wood

Volunteer 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. Those 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.

We are very thankful for the number of international volunteers who remain committed to the organisation after they have finished their EVS. They share their experience and skills with new volunteers and have a vital role in guiding the organisation.

Our Supported Volunteer Programme has continued to grow, with more people coming to us from a wide network of placement organisations. This is a key part of our work, breaking down social exclusion and the stigma attached to mental health issues. It is hugely rewarding to work alongside our supported volunteers and they gain a real sense of achievement, knowing that their work is changing people's lives.

Since our move to Sunnyside Street more local people have called into our workshop and we now have regular local volunteers joining our team. They help create a warm, positive and supportive atmosphere. Thanks to everyone who has given their time and energy this year and for the organisations and programmes that have made this possible.

Stephen Wood



The Volunteers



Activity Report

This year has been extremely eventful with changes in the workshop and the development of new partnerships. There has been the usual change of volunteers which is always a challenging time. The retention of Elena, a former EVS recruit, has been a great asset as she has taken on the role of sewing co-coordinator for the shipments and has been directing the development of a potential new project in Tanzania.

It has been an ongoing challenge to sort out and clear the backlog of tools and materials from the move three years ago. At the same time we have had the council sites collecting for us and a constant supply of sewing machines and tools from the public. We have made good progress this year to clear a lot of the backlog of tools, which has been helped by the addition of a new storage facility in Downpatrick. We hope next year to have gone through all of the unsorted tools and materials. Apart from the constant sorting we now have new tools boards and an efficient and well organised storage system for the tools and sewing machines (thanks to our volunteers Suzanne, Sophia and Aminata).

Solar panels have been added to the roof of the workshop which will generate the power that we use within TFS.

We have had the usual events such as workshops at Methodist College, presentations to local community and church groups and coffee mornings organised by Pam and Tara.

It has been a year in which we saw much more local support which the organisation badly needs. Ken, a retired teacher has joined TFS helping with the fund raising while Geoff does the accounts and Jim is working on electrical tools and sewing machine motors.

As well as continuing our links with BWW (Tools for Change) in Holland, we linked in with Global concerns in Scotland to supplying tools and materials to Malawi.

John Wood



Fundraising

In an uncertain economic and political climate, it is more important than ever that the work of Tools for Solidarity is underpinned by a steady flow of finance. To this end, the fundraising group was reinvigorated from October this year, holding regular minuted meetings and working hard to supply the funding needed across the different sectors of TFS. The requirement for finance has been broken down into five areas, and work undertaken across all of these:

- The proposed new Tanzanian projects
- Supported Volunteer Programme
- Grinder Room development
- Education for Sustainable Development
- General running costs

Within the financial year, successful applications were made to the Scott Bader Commonwealth Fund for costs towards the Tanzanian Pilot projects, and to Ulster Garden Villages for a major contribution to the development of a Grinder Room in the Belfast Workshop, with a dust collection and extraction system. This is an ongoing improvement to the workshop, still to be completed. Applications were also submitted to a further four funders which were still outstanding at the end of the financial year.

In this time, the basis has been laid down for a systematic approach to fundraising which will generate an increased number of applications to funders in the coming year, and an exploration of other avenues such as events, crowd funding and requests to private donors.

The Fundraising committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all those organisations and individuals who have so generously supported the work of Tools for Solidarity during 2016-17.

Ken Orr

Financial Report

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

The Financial Year 2016-17 benefited from a number of key events: these will significantly impact on the long term future of the organization.

Firstly the mortgage was paid off, resulting in a significant drop in the monthly expenditure.

Secondly solar panels were installed which will result in year on year savings to our electricity bills and generate a regular income stream.

Whilst the above are very healthy developments, in other respects financial security remains problematic due to the dependency upon grants.

Given the current political uncertainty the EVS funding could be affected in the future. Grants were £52,234 in total of which £39,668 came from EVS. The loss of this funding would have a major impact on our work.

Income has been augmented by a healthy income from donations of £17,220, but of this over 55% came from one source (Roger Waters).

In addition income has further increased due to the selling of Sewing Machines and Tools which has brought in £6,416. Notably a marathon run by Nancy's sister, Lucy, brought in £2,546 in fundraising.

These revenue streams are already in place for 2016-17 with an expectation of greater income next year.

Expenditure is kept to a minimum due to the work carried out by volunteers and the majority of tools, sewing machines and materials coming from donations.

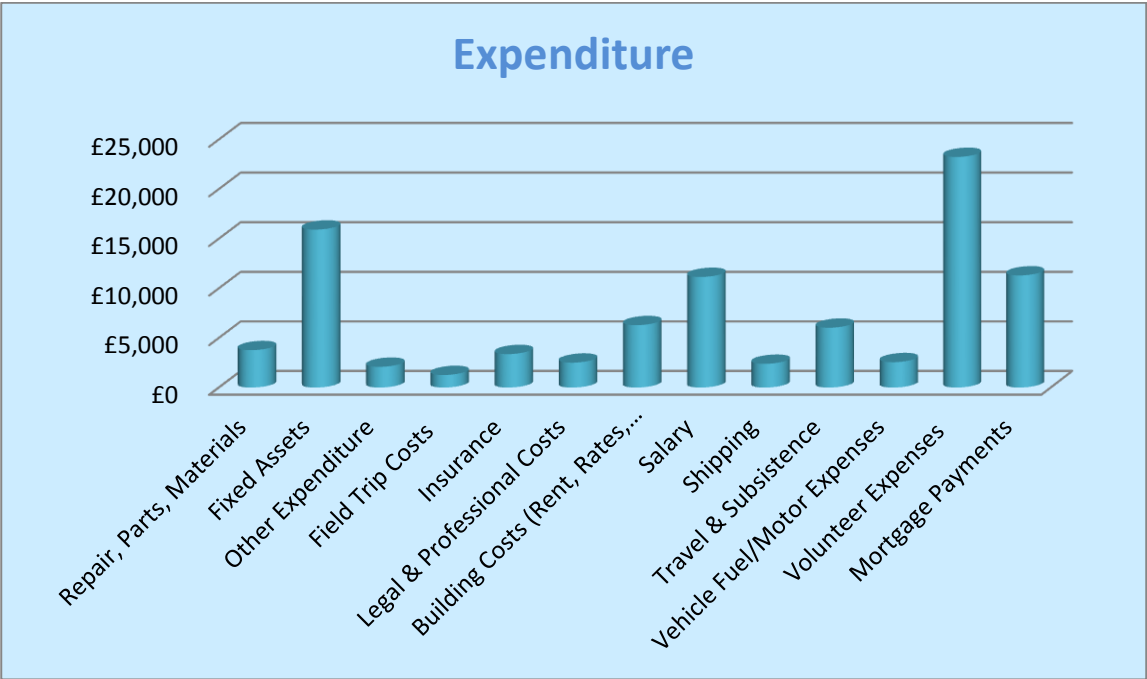
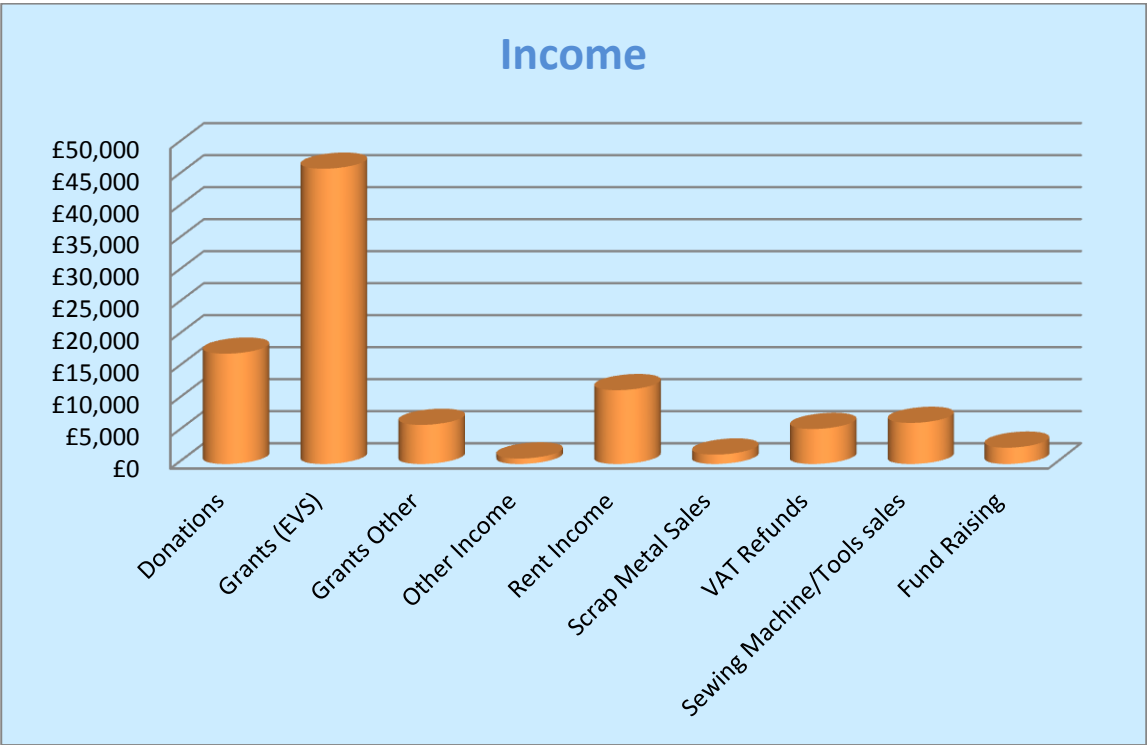
Financial Assets of the organisation have increased from £34,000 to £50,360 over the year.

Balance Summary (£)		
	1st April 2016 (£)	31st March 2017 (£)
Building Society	30,769	40,360
Bank Account	13,393	8235
Petty Cash	135	45
PayPal	322	1572
Ammado	0	148
Net Cash Assets	44,619	50,360
Mortgage	10,619	0
Net Financial Assets	34,000	50,360



INCOME (£)	2016-17
Building Society/Bank Interest	409
Donations	17,220
Grants (EVS)	46,129
Grants Other	6106
Other Income	71
Other Sales	0
Rent Income	11,525
Scrap Metal Sales	1,469
VAT Refunds	5,470
Sewing Machine/Tools sales	6,416
Gift Aid	377
Fund Raising	2,546
Total Income	97,737
EXPENDITURE	2016-17
<i>Direct Expenses</i>	
Purchase, Parts, Materials	3,090
Fixed Assets	15,920
Repairs	678
<u>Total Direct Expenses</u>	19,688
<i>Overheads</i>	
Mortgage Interest/Bank Fees	707
Field Trip Costs	1,261
Insurance	3,371
Legal & Professional Costs	2,506
Light & Heat	3,764
Overseas Payments	909
Rent, Rates & Water Charges	2,521
Salary	11,144
Shipping	2,390
Stationary & Postage	349
Sundry	0
Telephone	1,032
Travel & Subsistence	6,030
Vehicle Fuel/Motor Expenses	2,555
Volunteer Expenses	22,336
<u>Total Overhead Expenses</u>	60,875
<u>Mortgage Payments</u>	11,300
Total Expenditure	91,863
Profit/Loss	5,874

Profit and Loss Report



Education for Sustainable Development

The ESD programme has been raising awareness about sustainable development throughout Northern Ireland for the last four years. The last year (2016-2017) saw more schools involved. In terms of participants, not only we have increased involvement by over 60% but we have also achieved a better balance of schools from both communities.

The breakdown of participants that took part on the programme is as follow: we visited 21 institutions, of which 15 were primary schools, 3 were youth groups and 2 were vocational centres. This amounts to a total of 820 students, of which 760 were from primary level, 26 were from vocational centres and 34 were from youth groups.

With regard to improvements the support of the volunteers, who helped during the year, was crucial. Sophia and Ruska took a very active role on the programme, we improved the feedback questionnaire and designed new activities for both primary and post primary learners.

We continue working with and building relationships within the community, such as the Global Learning Programme (GLP), Coalition of Aid and Development Agencies or Methodist College Belfast (MCB) and we have made two new connections this year, the Bahai and the Quaker youth communities. Furthermore, we had the opportunity to share our work in Sweden as part of an Erasmus Plus programme called 'Ignite the spark, What is the future of civic/political education'?

The feedback from the participants including teachers and social workers was very positive. Among the things that the teachers liked the most were the different teaching approaches and balance of the activities; the critical thinking tasks, learning about new topics and interactive pupil activities and challenges.

What the pupils identify as the most interesting thing they learned:

'We depend on the world to get food like chocolate', 'We create a lot of trash every day', 'Farmers in poor countries do not get fairly paid', 'Where all the different foods come from', 'The world is an extremely unfair place', 'Everything in your shopping trolley has a story' and 'How people in poverty can be helped'.

Taking these comments into consideration we believe that we are moving towards a more empowered society with citizens who recognise their own responsibility in creating a better world. Although there is still a long way to go, we hope we will continue to open minds, building for a better future.

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	NICVA	Clifford Duff and Ashfield Boys' School
Pam and Tara Patchwork Goose	Belfast City Council Recycling Centres	Tim McGarry	Sewell Charitable Trust
North Belfast Quakers	South Belfast Quakers	Cedar Foundation	Ralf Zeigler and Eirene
SIDO	Damian Ch'anga SIDO Regional Manager Mwanza	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	
Mr R. Waters	Halifax Foundation for NI		