



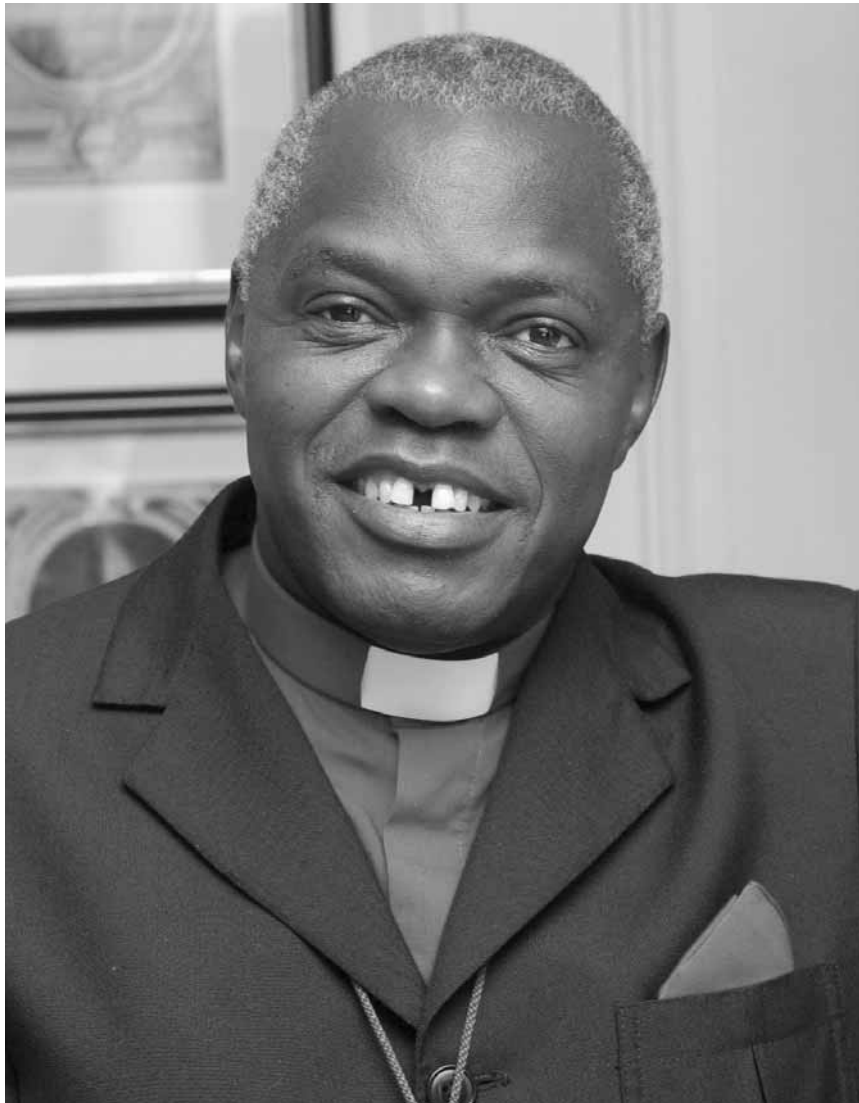
Archbishop of York becomes new patron

We are delighted to announce that Dr John Sentamu, the Archbishop of York, has agreed to become a patron of Tools for Self Reliance.

Ugandan born Dr Sentamu has been an enthusiastic supporter of a number of high-profile campaigns in recent years, as well as holding some important posts in public life.

Commenting on the appointment, Jan Kidd, Tools for Self Reliance chief executive, said "Everyone involved with Tools for Self Reliance is so pleased that Dr Sentamu has joined us as a patron, and his support can only further our aims of relieving poverty in Africa."

Dr Sentamu, who has been in post as the Archbishop of York for two years, was also adviser to the Stephen Lawrence Judicial Inquiry from 1997 to 1999 and chair of the Damilola Taylor Murder Review in 2002. He has supported and advised workers affected by the closure of the Rover car plant in Birmingham and campaigned against guns, knives, drugs and the activities of criminal gangs. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, a member of the House of Lords and a Privy Councillor. Between 2002 and 2004 he was chair of one of the New Deal for Communities programmes set up by the Government to help bridge the gap between rich and poor in the UK.



Annual gathering deemed big success

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's annual get together and AGM one of the best ever! See page 7 for the story of all the day's events.

Ghana projects update

By Ash Abili, Programme Development Officer

In February, Partnership Development Officer Sarah Ingleby and I visited Ghana to see how our projects there are progressing. First stop was Accra, where Tools for Self Reliance is working with local partner Pro-Link to support the Danfa Vocational Institute. The institute caters for over fifty students who do everything from dressmaking to electrical installation. Overall, we were very impressed with the professional way the project is being managed and the positive progress being made. Everyone we spoke to said that they were grateful for the opportunity presented to them to escape a life of poverty.

From Accra, we drove twelve hours north to Tamale where we visited local partner, Girls Growth and Development (GIGDEV). Again, we were impressed by the progress being made both in terms of the student population and the infrastructure. Operating from three different sites the organisation trains young women in tailoring, hairdressing and textile works using equipment supplied by Tools for Self Reliance.

Then north again, this time to visit projects being run by our partners TRAX Ghana and the Centre for the Development of People (CEDEP). Artisans testified to the fact that the tools and training they had received from CEDEP had literally changed



Project evaluation, GIGDEV

their lives. One woman commented that she received a refurbished sewing machine in 1996 which she has used every day since, and she has never yet encountered a problem!

Our project with TRAX to provide tools and training to four blacksmiths is proving a win-win situation for all concerned. The blacksmiths now have the skills and training to make agricultural tools needed by the farmers and there is a high demand for their products. The local community which relies heavily on subsistence farming is now able to buy better locally made tools for less money. These they are using for building the stone bunds that help conserve the land.

Training the trainer in sewing machine repair

In future it won't only be clothes that the women of Rahama Mohammed's dressmaking class will be learning to repair. Trainer and seamstress Rahama, who works for Girls Growth and Development (GIGDEV), has recently returned to Ghana after having completed a month's training course in sewing machine refurbishment at Netley Marsh.



Rahama and volunteer sewing machine refurbishers

According to Rahama, "This training has been a great benefit. Now I can teach the students to repair their own machines we will have more working machines to go round, and there will be less money spent on machine repairs and more money available for buying the things we need, like material."

Tools for Self Reliance has been helping to support GIGDEV for some years now and, as well as supporting training, has sent some 60 sewing machines.

The classroom where Rahama teaches is in the village of Tolon, some 90 km from the main GIGDEV centre in Tamale, northern Ghana. It opened a year ago and Rahama, who wants the very best for the students under her care, would like to see it expanded to include other trades (batik tie and dye, hairdressing and catering) as well as provide a nursery to enable young mothers to train there.

Youth of Accra looking forward to a brighter future

In an innovative new project students in Accra are right now learning the practical and life skills they need to take them off the streets. Tools for Self Reliance volunteers up and down the UK have helped to make this happen.

There is a strong practical element to the training at the Danfa Vocational Institute. Whilst the students are being trained they are also using their new found skills to contribute to the future success of the project. Building and construction students, for example, have helped construct a new toilet block, and trainee electricians have installed the electrical wiring for the school's fledgling electricity supply.

There are plans to extend the project, including the construction of a student hostel, the establishment of a micro-credit facility and the provision of tools to support students after they finish their studies to help them set up in work on their own.



"We could not have come this far without the technical and financial support from Tools for Self Reliance."

Gertrude (Trudi) Nunoo, Deputy Executive Director, Pro-Link

HIV/AIDS awareness and other health issues are an important part of the timetable. This involves bringing together parents and the wider community. Students are now freely discussing HIV/AIDS issues which until recently would have been a taboo subject.

Zambia pilot project

Following a visit by CEO Jan Kidd and Sarah Ingleby to Zambia last year, 2007 promises to be a landmark year for Tools for Self Reliance, as it sees our first ever shipment to Zambia.

Working with the Kara Hope Counselling Trust, Tools for Self Reliance will be providing tools for the Kabwe Vocational Training and Counselling Centre. This pilot project caters for people who have been infected, or affected, by HIV/AIDS and offers them the opportunity to learn vocational skills. In addition, the centre will provide access to retroviral medication, counselling services and basic education to help people overcome the physical, mental and emotional wounds inflicted on them by the epidemic.

Tool hire scheme in Zimbabwe

Tools for Self Reliance is supporting a tool hire scheme in Zimbabwe which is being run by the Organisation of Collective Cooperatives (OCCZIM) with additional support from the German aid agency DED. Ulrike Neundorf of OCCZIM describes the day the tools arrived in Gutu:

"It must have been a very moving day. Besides the beneficiaries all the local authorities (the Municipality, Ministry of Youth and Employment Creation, District Administrator, Member of Parliament) were there. People were surprised about the great variety of tools in the kits and started immediately to think about how to expand their range of products and the whole business."

Shipping news

In Swahili there is a saying hakuna kulala, meaning literally 'no time to rest'. If the six shipments we have sent so far this year to Tanzania, Uganda and Ghana are anything to go by this is certainly proving the case. On top of that we are already doing our planning for 2008!

One of two shipments to Ghana included unrefurbished sewing machines which will be refurbished by participants of a sewing machine training project in Wa. Twenty participants will be shown how to repair and maintain sewing machines. At the end of the training they will be able to return to their workshops with their own machines together with the knowledge and skills to be able to keep them in good running order.

In March we sent 80 kits to the Uganda Rural Development Training and the Network of Local Artisans in Uganda. The tools are designed to supplement needs assessments and training workshops which have already taken place.

Our focus now is to work on projects, as distinct from simply sending refurbished tools as we have done in the past. By supporting projects we can fund business and vocational training so artisans can improve the quality of their goods and produce more of them. It also means there are resources available for monitoring and evaluation,

so our partners can measure the impact of the tools and training. It is still early days, but so far many artisans are reporting significant improvements to their business and an increase in income from the tools and training they have received.

"All in all it has been a challenging start to 2007, but we have been pleased with the results of projects being implemented by our existing and new partners and are confident that the holistic approach which now underpins our work will do a great deal to ensure greater impact and sustainable improvements to the livelihoods of thousands of artisans."



Jan Kidd, CEO

Feedback on business training in Tanzania



Business skills training is very important to Tanzania artisans who are struggling to make a living. This was one of the key findings of a Tools for Self Reliance working visit to Tanzania in May.

The project participants all found that the training received allowed them to make improvements to their businesses and their production.

Gabriel Mrema runs a small carpentry workshop in Moshi town, and is just one of the artisans to have

benefited from the training. He says: "We have since decided to move into new premises and open a showroom to display the furniture we have made."

According to Gabriel all aspects of the training were useful. He only wishes that it could have been longer!

"Overall this was a positive visit that provided the TFSR evaluation team with a constructive opportunity to see at first hand the impact of the change from the tool sending programme to the project based approach."

Sarah Ingleby, Partnership Development Officer

Lifting the lid on bad loans



Every hour the poorest countries in the world pay over 4 million dollars to the rich world according to the Jubilee Debt Campaign.

The JDC is calling on the UK and other rich country governments to investigate past lending in order to uncover and cancel all unjust debts, and

put in place responsible lending and export policies that will prevent build-ups of unjust debt in the future.

White Band Day 2007 takes place on 17 October as part of the Global Week of Action on Debt.

For further information on the *Lift the lid on bad loans* campaign, visit www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk

Half way there, but is it job half done?

It is now 7½ years since the launch of the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals, exactly half way to the target date of 2015. It's also 2½ years since the G8's Gleneagles promises in 2005 on aid, debt and HIV/AIDS. So what progress has been made?

As the UN itself admits at the present rate of progress sub-Saharan Africa will meet none of the MDG goals by 2015. The UN pledged to reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day. But the reality is that in sub-Saharan Africa extreme poverty decreased by less than 1% between 1999 and 2004. In order to meet the target the current rate would need to be doubled.

At Gleneagles, the G8 pledged \$25 billion more aid to Africa, to cancel the debts of up to 42 countries and provide universal access to affordable treatment for people with HIV/AIDS by

2010. Whilst it's true that debt cancellation has increased, there has been virtually no increase in aid since 2004 and there were watered down commitments on aid, debt and HIV/AIDS at the G8 in Heiligendamm, Germany in June this year.

There have been some success stories. Ghana has implemented a national school feeding programme using locally produced food, and Tanzania and Uganda among others have abolished primary school fees. Last year, Zambia cancelled fees for basic rural health care. Despite evidence to the contrary, the UN remains upbeat that the MDG can still be achieved. Yet most people would agree, the UN included, that time is running out.

The full text of the report, *Africa and the Millennium Development Goals 2007 Update*, can be downloaded at www.un.org/millenniumgoals.

Poverty – a modern day form of slavery?

By Mary Smith

For the last session of my Lent study course 'Set All Free. Act to End Slavery' we were asked to share with our group a piece of artwork or creative writing that expressed what we had learnt or felt during the course.



One of the members of my group commented earlier that many people today are *enslaved* by poverty. This really made me think.

For my piece of artwork I collected some scrap tools and broken sewing machine parts from Tools for Self Reliance and made them into a map of Africa. I feel strongly that by supplying toolkits and sewing machines and accessories to Africa we enable many African communities to provide for themselves and their families, thus taking them out of the slavery of poverty and dependence on foreign aid.

It is much easier than many people imagine to make a real difference to struggling communities in many areas of the world. All it takes is a little time and caring enough.

Mary helps service sewing machines at TFSR. Her picture was framed by volunteer John Beadell using reclaimed wood.

Tanzanians visit UK

In July we welcomed the arrival of two Tanzanian visitors to the UK for four weeks. Renatus Chasuka is a working rural blacksmith and Martin Chang'a is a SIDO Regional Manager. The aim of their visit is for us to learn about their life and work in Tanzania and for them to demonstrate some of their practical skills at the various events they will be attending.

In return they will meet some of the volunteers and get to know how our organisation works. They will also be meeting working UK blacksmiths and getting some ideas for their own work back home.



Raising our profile

It is all go on raising Tools for Self Reliance's profile! You may have noticed some changes

to the look of this year's *Annual Review* – the main one being the new logo. We plan to introduce the new logo on all our publications in the coming months. This will of course include *Forging Links*. We plan to produce new leaflets, posters and other publicity material in this style.

Coupled to this we are very fortunate to have a John Lewis employee, Grant Williams, on secondment with us for the next six months. Among other things Grant will be systemising how

we deal with our public speakers to ensure that they get the very latest DVDs, leaflets, and updates of our activities, plus any training needed to ensure they are well supported.

Another new volunteer at Netley Marsh is reporter Patrick Brookes. Patrick worked on the *Daily Echo* for more than 20 years and since he came on board we have had articles appearing on a monthly basis in our local papers.

We think we are such a good idea that we would like to spread the word throughout the UK, but we need help. We recently received an Awards for All grant to help us recruit publicity volunteers and produce materials. If you would like to help in any way whatsoever (or already do) please get in touch. We need you!



Glyn Roberts greeting Archbishop Desmond Tutu at Lancing College

TFSR patrons in the spotlight

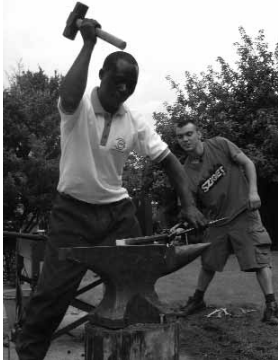
A stained glass window in a college chapel in Sussex has been dedicated to Trevor Huddlestone, Tools for Self Reliance founding patron and anti-apartheid activist.

The dedication was attended by current patron Archbishop Desmond Tutu and also by Tools for Self Reliance founder Glyn Roberts.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu will be making an appeal on behalf of Tools for Self Reliance on BBC Radio 4 on 20 January 2008.

Annual get together and AGM

“Inspiring”, “informative” and “thoroughly enjoyable” were just three of the reactions to the 2007 annual get together and AGM. This year we were back in Netley Marsh and enjoyed one of the best turn outs in recent years. A captive audience heard about recent staff visits to Ghana, Tanzania and Uganda, and current projects. We heard from our Tanzanian visitors Martin Chang’a of SIDO and artisan Renatus Chasuka about our blacksmith project in Rukwa. Renatus also treated us to a blacksmithing demonstration.



This year’s AGM was doubly significant as it marked the first AGM of the new five-year plan, and saw the appointment of a new chair, Tony Tyrrell, to the board of trustees. We welcome two new members to the board, Bram Miller and Alan Jenkins. Gifford & Partners Ltd kindly provided the venue for the meeting.

NM Open Day

Inclement weather failed to dampen spirits at the Netley Marsh Open Day. Some excellent live music from Roar Sextet and Jazzmatazz, country craft displays (hurdling, pole lathe turning) and craft stalls and bric-a-brac were just some of the treats on offer outside, while teas and cakes kept people entertained under cover.

While primarily a family fun day, the Open Day also tries to inform, and this year was no exception. The workshop tours and displays provided visitors with the opportunity to learn more about Tools for Self Reliance and the projects we support.



Trustee and volunteer Tony Tyrrell conducting a workshop tour

Refurbishing tools and preserving our heritage

There aren’t many tool refurbishing groups boasting an 18th century folly in their back garden. But the members of Bristol TFSS group have but a short walk down the lane to admire such eccentricities of one-time local industrialist William Champion. Maurice Weekes, Rodney Stone and the other “tool men and women” of Bristol occupy the first floor of an old brass-making factory complete with windmill tower. The copper and zinc crushing has long gone and the building is now home to Kingswood Heritage Museum.

There are benefits to be gained from running a tool collection and refurbishing workshop in a heritage museum. For example, “Tower Lane”, on which this unique local landmark stands, has become a well-known dropping off point for tools in Bristol. Being on the outskirts of the city means there is plenty of parking and access is good, unusual perhaps for a building of this nature. There is even a museum display area for Tools for Self Reliance leaflets on the ground floor for the steady trickle of passing museum trade.

In return, the tool refurbishers can offer to lend tools and horsepower of a different kind to the museum. On one occasion, they were asked to provide the muscle to offload a new exhibit – a Douglas Motorcycles cast iron lamp-post which arrived on the back of a milk float!

So in its own way Bristol TFSS is doing its bit to safeguard an important piece of our national heritage at the same time as making a valuable contribution to Tools for Self Reliance’s work in Africa.

Our promise to our donors

Tools for Self Reliance will be sporting a new logo on future publications.

The Fundraising Standards Board 'tick' shows our commitment to abide by a strict set of fundraising standards and to treat the public with respect, fairness, honesty and clarity in all our money raising activities.



British 10K

Ash Abili, Tools for Self Reliance's Project Development Officer, led a team of six runners in this year's British 10K London Run. Ash clocked a time of 55 minutes.



You can still sponsor Ash and the team by clicking on the Just giving webpage at www.justgiving.com/toolsforselfreliance

Ducks invade capital



An invasion of rubber ducks will briefly make an appearance on the River Thames in September in a bid to raise £500,000 for charity.

By sponsoring a duck for Tools for Self Reliance for £2 and making a further charitable donation of £3 you will give yourself the

chance of winning £10,000 in prize money. If you want to witness the ducks in action, the Great British Duck Race starts at noon on Sunday 2 September 2007 on the River Thames near Hampton Court Palace, London.

Go to www.thegreatbritishduckrace.co.uk for further information.

Christmas cards

That time of year will soon be upon us again. Make sure you send Tools for Self Reliance Christmas cards and help us support people trying to make a life for themselves in Africa. For an order form please contact us.

FORGING LINKS

The newsletter of Tools for Self Reliance

Netley Marsh, Southampton S040 7GY
Tel: 023 8086 9697 Email: info@tfsr.org
Fax: 023 8086 8544 Website: www.tfsr.org

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