

# ForgingLinks

## Blacksmiths win sustainability award



*Rukwa blacksmith, Tanzania*

A group of blacksmiths supported by Tools for Self Reliance is doing its bit in tackling global food insecurity and global warming. The Kisangani Smith Group (KSG), part of Tools for Self Reliance's Tanzanian blacksmithing programme in the 1990s, has come up with two types of revolutionary new energy efficient stove.

The Swahili expression *rafiki wa mazingira* describes the stoves perfectly, as they are an extremely environmentally friendly solution to the growing problem of deforestation in Africa. It is estimated that one of the stoves uses 75% less wood fuel than other stoves. The other can be fuelled by sawdust, rice husks or other agricultural waste.

It's not just the environment that is benefiting. Both stoves save people valuable time and money, and allow quicker and cleaner cooking. So there are real social and economic benefits for the local community too.

KSG was originally set up to train blacksmiths – it has trained about 120 blacksmiths in the past 10 years. But now its innovation has attracted the attention of the international community. Earlier this year KSG was awarded a prestigious Ashden Award for sustainable energy for its stoves.

For more information visit [www.ashdenawards.org](http://www.ashdenawards.org)

## In this issue ...

Find out about our plans for returning to Sierra Leone, come with us to the top of Africa's highest mountain and meet some of the people who's lives are being turned around.

# Sierra Leone back on our map

Thanks to the recently re-established political stability Tools for Self Reliance is back in Sierra Leone. This follows a visit to the country to meet potential new partners last year and a visit to Netley Marsh by the High Commissioner in April.

His Excellency Melvin H Chalobah expressed enthusiasm about the resumption of activities:

“Sierra Leone cannot afford to buy new tools so all the refurbished tools sent out will be of great benefit. We also have many tools that are in need of refurbishment so I hope that Tools for Self Reliance will be able to send out a team of trainers to teach people their refurbishing skills so that they can be passed on to others in the future.”

*Tools for Self Reliance had to suspend its activities in Sierra Leone in 2005 due to communication and logistical difficulties. We hope to send out the first shipment of refurbished tools later this year.*



Visit by the Sierra Leone High Commissioner

## Teaming up with Youth in Action

The conflict and violence witnessed by Sierra Leone's youth has left more than the obvious physical scars. The long-running conflict has left a whole generation of young people without employable skills and few options for a sustainable livelihood – resulting in widespread youth poverty. As a means of survival, many young people resort to violence or prostitution. This project, which will benefit both young men and women, aims to address this problem by providing training in four key areas: vocational, business, 'life-skills' and physical.

The training will be delivered by our new partner Youth in Action in Sierra Leone (YASAL), whilst Tools for Self Reliance will equip the training centre with the high-quality tools and equipment needed for the courses.

Vocational training will be offered in tailoring, carpentry, metalworking, welding and blacksmithing. Students will also learn basic business skills, including pricing, marketing, record keeping, and profit and loss.

The students will learn about democracy and civil rights under Sierra Leone law, including gender and equality rights, and they will receive health education, including advice on HIV/AIDS.

They will also learn about peace building through sport, specifically football. The fundamental and technical skills of the game will be taught – not just for the obvious recreational and health benefits – but also for the intangible qualities that learning a team sport encourages, such as co-operation, discipline and mutual understanding.



## Zambia: Skills training for people with HIV/AIDS

Tools for Self Reliance's project in Kabwe to help people with HIV/AIDS learn skills in vital trades is now well underway, with the first shipment of tools having arrived and the trainees already putting their new skills into practice. Our partner, Kara Counselling, has seen the morale of the students and staff rise dramatically, which has helped to inspire the new intakes of budding tradesmen and women.



## Annual gathering and AGM

This year we were treated to excellent weather for the 2008 AGM at Netley Marsh. Thirty-nine people travelled from far and wide and enjoyed a day of activities and presentations and an evening BBQ. The travel record goes to group member Malcolm Wilson from Aberdeen Milltown who had a round trip of several hundred miles.

During the day we were treated to an excellent presentation on the project based approach now being followed by Tools for Self Reliance and some fascinating information about current projects by Luke Caley, Sarah Ingleby and Japhet Kilangi from our partner the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) in Tanzania.

The annual gathering is a good opportunity to recognise the dedication and commitment of Tools for Self Reliance volunteers and this year was no exception. Among those to receive certificates for 25 years service to Tools for Self Reliance were Pedro Connor (Sheffield group), John Phillippo (Reading group) and Keith Smith from Cambridgeshire.

Grant Williams was voted onto the Board of Trustees.

## Team building at NM

Three new members of staff have joined us in recent months. Jo Bush is our new volunteers coordinator, Ian Limbrick our second group support officer and Luke Caley our second partnership development officer.

Jo is responsible for our volunteer recruitment, induction and training. This is for the whole of the UK, not just Netley Marsh. She was formerly an employment officer with Southampton City Council.

Ian's role involves maintaining regular contact with volunteer groups, helping groups to refurbish quality tools for artisans overseas and encouraging fundraising efforts. He was formerly the manager of the Southampton City Council's Down to Earth Environmental Education Centre.

Luke has joined the Africa programme team and will be taking the lead on projects in Ghana, Malawi and Uganda. His job is to develop new and existing partnerships with appropriate organisations, develop and evaluate projects and help manage the tool



sending process. He has just returned from two years in West Africa where he was Education Programme Coordinator with the Ghana Health and Education Initiative.

Tools for Self Reliance Chief Executive Jan Kidd said:

"I am very pleased that we have got our team back up to full strength and I am sure that Jo, Ian and Luke will do a great job in helping the rest of the team and our volunteers to continue aiding the people of some of the poorest countries in Africa."

## Tanzanian partner visits UK

Japhet Kilangi, desk officer with Tanzania's Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) paid a flying visit in May to find out about our UK operation and how it all links with the work he does in Tanzania.

Japhet is responsible for co-ordinating all of SIDO's projects in 15 regions of the country. The knowledge he has taken back should result in even better projects in the future.



*Japhet with members of the Bristol group*

## Oiling the wheels in Tanzania

The most important things bicycle mechanic Leonadi learnt from the training he received from Tools for Self Reliance partner the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) is the need to pay more attention to the quality of his work and the needs of his customers.

The training lasted six days and included technical and business skills for representatives from 40 different workshops in Nkasi and Sumbawanga districts of Rukwa, Tanzania. SIDO Rukwa Regional Manager Martin Changa'a was very pleased with the outcome, adding that "Previously, due to little competition and poor tools the quality of services offered did not appeal to customers."

Now it is a different story. The training and the subsequent arrival of a bicycle repair kit

(comprising 60 tools including bicycle spanners and tyre levers) have had a really positive impact on the Mkuyuni bicycle workshop. Now, retaining customers and attracting new ones are given top priority.

Leonadi has recently talked enthusiastically about plans to expand the workshop so that he can accommodate a store for spare bicycle parts. The workshop is located in Namanyere, a three hour bus ride along a dirt track from the nearest town, so getting hold of spares is not easy. Once he has a spares shop permanently on site Leonadi will be able to respond more quickly to customers' needs which will help him fill up his new order book!



*Evaluating the project*



*Participants receiving their toolkits*

## Malawi update

Last December saw the first shipment of tools to Malawi. In a project set up by Global Concerns Trust, a Scottish development organisation, Tools for Self Reliance's tool refurbishing groups in Scotland have been supplying toolkits to the Malawi Council for the Handicapped (MCHA). A further shipment of tools is planned for later this year.

Partnership Development Officer Luke Caley and Emma Duncan of Global Concerns have recently been to Malawi to follow up progress on the MCHA project. They have been on a fact finding visit to meet accredited vocational training organisations, community based organisations and other potential partners with a view to expanding our work there.

# Focus on tool quality

Many of the project beneficiaries in Africa make a financial contribution for the tools they receive by purchasing a kit at the end of their training or by leasing tools from the project. Replacements for broken or faulty tools are generally not available or may be available in the form of poor quality imports. Because of this the tools we send have to be of the highest quality and be refurbished to the highest standards.

All refurbished tools and kits passing through our Netley Marsh warehouse are quality checked before they are sealed and shipped to Africa. The quality of refurbished tools does vary and over the coming months we will be addressing specific issues about tool selection, refurbishment and testing with the groups and our volunteers at Netley Marsh, offering them information, support and training where necessary. By working together we can raise our standards for the benefit of the artisans and workshops who receive our tools.

## Capturing the early years

Celebrations to mark our 25th birthday have had interesting consequences. Personal recollections from those closely involved with Tools for Self Reliance in the 1980s and 90s have led founder Glyn Roberts and former leading light Mark Smith to write a book about it! This unique and valuable record of the early years from many of the people who made it happen promises to be an inspirational read.

The book is being published later in the year with support from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and all proceeds from sales go to Tools for Self Reliance. Watch this space for further details.



## Volunteer recruitment

We are continually aiming to increase volunteer numbers and the range of tasks that our volunteers do. We're tackling this on a number of fronts including offering advice to groups when needed about how to attract new volunteers. Jo Bush, our new Volunteers' Coordinator will be coordinating efforts in this direction.



We have a number of new resources available. These include a publicity pack with detailed information about how to give effective talks and how to spread the word in other ways such as using the local media. To assist with this we have available a new volunteering leaflet with a matching A4 or A2 poster and a new 10 minute Tools for Self Reliance DVD which gives an overview of the charity and features some of our projects. You should have received a copy of the DVD with the latest *Annual Review*. If you would like extra copies please let us know.

# Netley Marsh Open Day 2008



The 2008 Open Day at Netley Marsh on 28 June was a total contrast to the soggy 2007 event. Opened by Roger Finn the BBC *South Today* newsreader who is a regular supporter, hundreds of visitors enjoyed the warm sunshine and a range of stalls offering the chance to buy amongst other things, Tools for Self Reliance merchandise, books and bric-a-brac or to try their luck on a variety of fundraising stalls. Visitors were also fascinated by wood turners and bodgers demonstrating their crafts.

Many people took advantage of the workshop tours throughout the day and were surprised to learn of the scale of the operation in the UK and the number and range of projects we support in Africa.

The relaxed atmosphere, helped along by a live jazz trio and drumming group, raised over £900 and a few potential volunteers. Who could have asked for more?



## New craftshops at Netley Marsh

Building work has started on two new craftshops at Netley Marsh which will replace the temporary buildings at the bottom end of the site. The intention is to rent out the additional space created to local artisans. This will raise more funds with which to keep the tools moving to Africa, and is in line with our aim of promoting small businesses! To ensure costs are kept to a minimum however, we are doing some of the work ourselves. A willing band of our regular volunteers will be fabricating and erecting the wall panels.

## Thanks to the listeners!

Archbishop Desmond Tutu delivered a passionate appeal for Tools for Self Reliance in January on BBC Radio 4. Thanks to him and to the hundreds of people who responded, the Appeal achieved remarkable results. Listeners gave nearly £40,000 to help Tools for Self Reliance help artisans in Africa.

Larry Boyd, Tools for Self Reliance Communications Officer said, "We are a small charity and we don't do mass mailings in the post, so this was a great opportunity to gain new supporters."

"We want to welcome the Radio 4 listeners and treat them as new friends who might want to know more about us. We will keep them up to date with our work and ask them nicely to continue supporting us."

In 1999, the Archbishop made his first Radio 4 Appeal for Tools for Self Reliance. Many of those supporters are still part of Tools for Self Reliance.

So if you have just joined us – welcome aboard.

## Welcome back Victor



Victor Turyamureba of our partners the Uganda Rural Training Development centre (URDT) is back at Netley Marsh. Victor's last visit was in 2006 when he and Everest Kabaru came to the UK to learn how to set up URDT's tool refurbishing workshop. This time Victor has joined us for six months as a long-term volunteer and will be working alongside the other volunteers in the workshop and in the warehouse.

# Sitting pretty on top of the world

*On Sunday 17 February Paul, Tanya and Ray Quayle, and Jason Wesley and Pieter Booysen began a six-day climb up Africa's highest peak, successfully reaching the summit at 6.30 am on Thursday the 21st. In the process the team raised an awful lot of money for Tools for Self Reliance and literally put our name on top of the tallest 'free standing' mountain in the world. Here is Paul's account of their big adventure.*

We walked slowly and steadily (or *pole pole* as they say in Swahili) for 7 hours a day for the first 4 days before attempting the summit at midnight of the 4th day. Although the first few days had been challenging in places we had been treated brilliantly by our team of guides and porters (whom none of us could praise highly enough – they were just incredible) and were in high spirits going into the final ascent.

However, nothing prepared us for the difficulties that we faced on that last day. It wasn't just the lack of sleep, the steepness of the climb or the challenging terrain, but more so the gale force winds blowing off the surrounding glaciers and temperatures reaching as low as  $-15^{\circ}\text{C}$  that caused us the most problems and tested our resolve.

Despite our water supplies freezing and the sight of people retching and crying in front of us we pushed on and after a brief pause for

ginger tea and Red Bull at Stella Point (the lip of the volcanic crater and the first official 'summit') we finally reached Uhuru Peak (or Freedom Peak), our ultimate goal, just as the morning sun began to appear. The views of the glaciers and surrounding landscape were stunning, but after a few hastily taken photos it was time to return to camp for a well deserved brew – and the chance to defrost! – before moving on again to our penultimate campsite. Finally, just before midday on Friday the 22nd, we emerged from the rainforest near the base of the mountain and were whisked away for a celebratory meal in the nearby town of Moshi and a much needed shower.

All in all it was an amazing experience, the people of Tanzania were absolutely fantastic towards us and it was something that none of us will ever forget. Hopefully we helped to spread the word about Tools for Self Reliance too and our fundraising is still going strong. Those bright yellow T-shirts certainly brought us some attention!

*Paul and the team raised £1,900 for their efforts. But they weren't the only ones to scale Africa's highest peak this year. Siddharth Singh also raised several hundred pounds for Tools for Self Reliance. If you feel inspired and think you could raise money for us then why don't you seize the moment! Setting up your own fundraising page online at [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com) couldn't be easier.*



## Travelling fellowships

Would you like the experience of a lifetime to travel overseas and benefit others within your community at the same time? The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust offers people from all walks of life the chance to do just that! There are a number of different categories and these change each year. For 2009 the categories include Writers and Young People. The deadline for next year's applications is 14 October 2008. You can apply online at [www.wcmt.org.uk](http://www.wcmt.org.uk) or call 020 7584 9315 for further details.

## Christmas cards



Christmas will soon be here again. Why not be ready early this year and order your 2008 cards from Tools for Self Reliance?

This year we have some brand new designs to add to our collection. See enclosed order form for details.

## New T-shirts for sale



The new Tools for Self Reliance T-shirts and polo shirts have arrived. The T-shirts are made from 100% cotton and there are unisex and ladies fit shirts available. The polo shirts are a cotton mix and have a breast pocket. All shirts have the new logo on them. There is a range of colours and sizes available. Details on our website at [www.tfsr.org](http://www.tfsr.org)

## You can make a difference!

### Yes, I want to help ...

Please tell me more about Tools for Self Reliance and volunteering.

I would like to make a contribution.

Enclosed is a cheque for £ .....  
(Please make cheques payable to Tools for Self Reliance)

Type of card: VISA

MasterCard

Maestro/Switch

Other.....

Card Number .....

Security Code.....

Maestro/Switch Issue No .....

Valid From ...../...../.....

Expires ...../...../.....

Signature .....

Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms .....

Address .....

.....

Email .....

Telephone .....

I am a UK tax payer - please claim Gift Aid on my donations

Return to: Polly Read,  
TFSR Freepost (SCE6012)  
Southampton SO40 7GY



## London 10K run

Congratulations to Team Tools for Self Reliance in this year's Asics British 10K London Run. Paul Jenks, Alan Cadman, Timothé Giraud, Luke Caley, Peter Joslin and Emma Spundle were among the tens of thousands who crossed the finishing line on Whitehall on Sunday 6 July to support practical people in Africa.

Timothé said, "It's great, I'd recommend it to



Luke and Tim at the finish

anyone. There was lots of encouragement and clapping from the people watching, and we raised money for a great cause at the same time."

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### The newsletter of Tools for Self Reliance

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