

## Networking in UK with TRAX Ghana



Vincent Subbey of TRAX Ghana and Sarah Ingleby and Bob White of Tools for Self Reliance with members of Jersey TFSR group

Vincent Subbey, programme coordinator of new partner TRAX Ghana, visited us in June. Tools for Self Reliance is working alongside TRAX to support blacksmithing in northern Ghana. Vincent came over to help us celebrate our 25th birthday and give a presentation at the AGM.

The visit provided the opportunity to exchange ideas and find out more about TRAX and its work with farming communities. We were able to hear first hand about the issues facing people living in the north and the improvements to the local economy that the sustainable livelihoods project is expected to bring. Possibilities for extending future collaboration, such as supporting additional income generating activities, were also discussed.

Vincent visited a number of refurbishing groups and found out for himself about the valuable contributions of Tools for Self Reliance's volunteers across the UK. He was very encouraging of groups' efforts. According to Ann Osmond of Jersey TFSR, "Vincent's enthusiasm has inspired us all to do more".

### AGM

Vincent Subbey was guest speaker at this year's AGM at Wakefield's Pennine Camphill Community. If you weren't there you missed a treat. Get the full story of this, the 25th birthday AGM, on page 6.



Supporter Ben Harvey has been travelling Welsh border country the hard way for Tools for Self Reliance. Find out why on page 8.



*"Happy birthday! 25 years of transforming and giving hope to lives in Africa ... You are doing a fantastic job and this is making a great impact in Ghana. Please, continue the good work."*

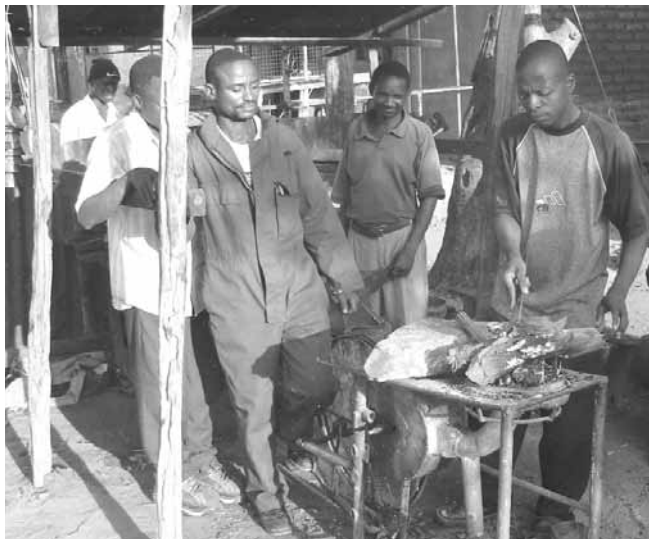
*Vincent Subbey, Assistant Country Director, TRAX Ghana*



## Project evaluation: Rukwa blacksmiths

Earlier this year Jon Dunkley and I visited Tanzania. Here is some feedback from our trip.

By Sarah Ingleby, Partnership Development Officer



Job Msimanje's workshop in Same, Kilimanjaro region, which produces high-quality tools and ornamental items (Job visited the UK in 2004).

When I became Partnership Development Officer at Tools for Self Reliance one of the first projects I helped to develop was the Blacksmith Artisan Network with the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) Rukwa. So, I was delighted to have the opportunity in March to travel to Tanzania to be part of the project evaluation. Of course I had been in frequent contact with Mr Changa, the Regional Manager at SIDO Rukwa, and he had ensured that we received regular updates on progress – but nothing beats seeing for yourself what is happening on the ground!

During our four-day visit to Rukwa region we were able to discuss the outcomes of the project with SIDO and see how the skills training and kits were being put to use by the blacksmiths.

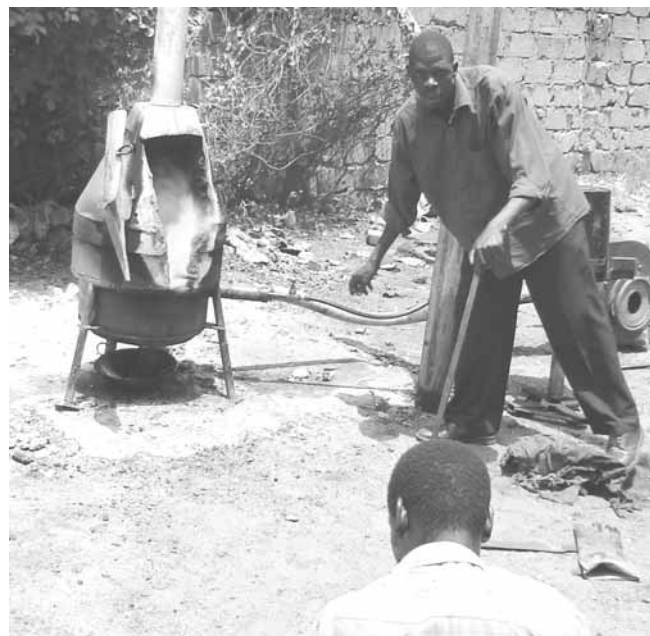
Time and again we were told how the training and input of additional tools has helped artisans to improve the quality of their products, which has helped to increase sales. Many are now able to pay school fees for their children and to make improvements to their homes and workplaces.

It was inspiring to see the new ideas sparking from this project. For example, SIDO Rukwa are hoping to be able to introduce a new type of oil-burning forge, which is both extremely efficient

and cheap to run. They also hope to open a showroom to display blacksmiths' products and are exploring opportunities to export products to neighbouring countries.

There is plenty still to do. We are now looking forward to working with SIDO Rukwa to develop the next phase of this project which will include offering training to other blacksmiths in the region and establishing a pool of master trainers.

*"I feel confident that we have established a very firm foundation on which to build the development of blacksmithing in the Rukwa region."*



Oil-burning forge, DSM Blacksmiths

### Achievements so far

- Technical and business skills training to around 100 blacksmiths
- Blacksmiths equipped with refurbished tools
- Formation of a blacksmiths' association
- Establishment of a scrap metal store for buying affordable raw materials
- Promotion of blacksmiths' products at regional trade shows.

**Rukwa Blacksmiths Association**

Under the SIDO Rukwa project a new organisation, the Rukwa Blacksmiths Association (RUBA), has been set up – with funding from Tools for Self Reliance – to promote the interests of the region’s blacksmiths. During our visit we were able to meet up with the RUBA’s chairperson, Mr Oristi Mtomwela.

Mr Mtomwela runs his own small blacksmith shop in the Nkasi district of Rukwa region. The eight



Members of RUBA and the motorbike which is being used to visit artisans in outlying villages

members of his group span three generations – his father and one of his sons! Indeed when asked if he had been able to pass on any of the new skills learnt during the training to his father, he told us he did not need to as his father had done the course as well! Since taking part in the training Mr Mtomwela has been able to increase his income and use some of this money to pay school fees. He has also been able to invest in his business by purchasing a forge blower.

When asked for his reaction about being elected chairperson he said that he felt proud. He explained that he wants RUBA to “reach for the sun” and hopes that RUBA “will achieve many things, not least to encourage local blacksmiths to lobby for greater recognition and better access to resources and tenders”.

**SIDO triumphant at Saba Saba**

“SIDO shines” was the news headline from the SIDO/TFSR Desk Officer in Tanzania. Isidori Kiyenze proudly reported that SIDO had emerged as overall winner at the 30th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair at Saba Saba. SIDO also came out winners in the engineering category. They received both trophies from the Tanzanian president, Mr Jakaya Kikwete. Exhibitors and organisations from 15 countries participated in the Trade Fair, which attracted more than a million visitors.

**Northern Zone Exhibition**

Rajabu Omari and 19 other blacksmiths were sponsored by TF SR to attend the Northern Zone Exhibition in Kilimanjaro region in May. The blacksmiths were able to display their products, exchange ideas and find out about new technology.

**Artisan groups look forward to bright future**

The 2005 Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair proved a significant moment for the Vijana Moto furniture makers and the Kazole Anto Fre metalwork group. Tools for Self Reliance sponsored both groups to attend last year’s trade fair and since then they have gone from strength to strength. Whilst visiting the Tabora region we were able to call in on the groups and were delighted to see the progress they have made.

The group leader of the Vijana Moto group proudly took us to visit their new workshop and office – built using the money made from selling their products at the trade fair.



The Kazole Ante Fre group, who make a wide range of products including wheelchairs, tricycles, stretchers and security grilles, are now actively seeking new markets for their products. By lobbying local and national leaders the group hope to be offered tenders for the supply of wheelchairs to hospitals nationwide.



## Shipping news

Since March we have sent four shipments to our partners in Ghana, Tanzania and Uganda. These shipments are supporting a range of projects. The Ghana shipment included the first batch of kits for the new TRAX project. We also sent training kits to the Pro-Link project, where the tools will be used to train over 100 young people across a range of trades.

One of the shipments to Tanzania included kits from our UK partners, Tools for Solidarity and Tools for Self Reliance Cymru. These kits included unrefurbished tools which are due to be refurbished at the SIDO Mwanza workshop and distributed to artisan groups in neighbouring regions.

After Zimbabwe (see below) our next shipment is scheduled to be to Tanzania.

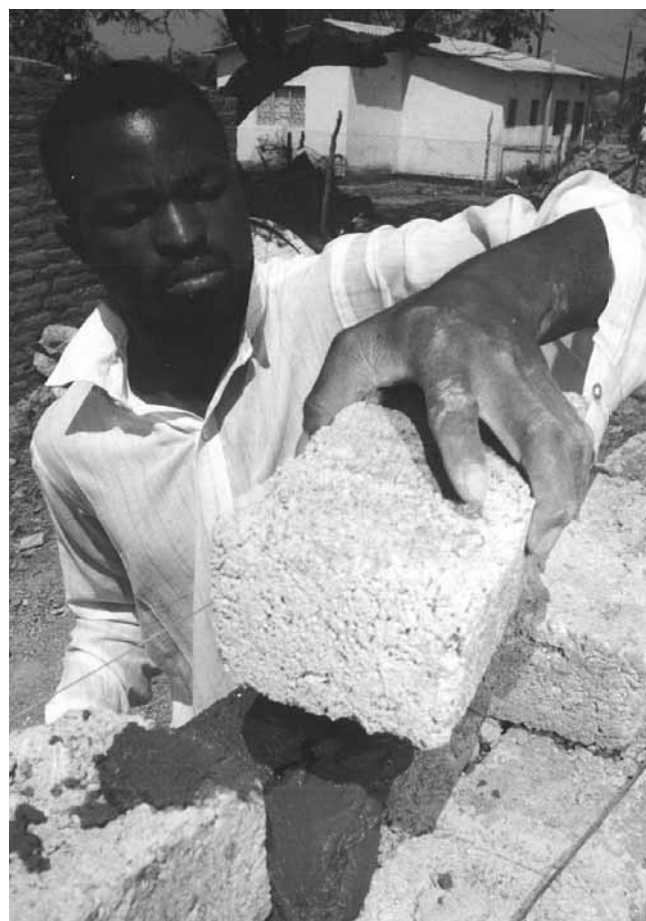


## Tooling up again in Zimbabwe

As our longer-standing supporters will know, our work in Zimbabwe has been on hold. However, over the past 12 months we have been working with the German Development Service (DED) to develop a project with OCCZIM, a Zimbabwean non-governmental organisation.

The Organisation of Collective Co-operatives in Zimbabwe (OCCZIM) in partnership with DED, is active in the promotion of informal sector associations (ISAs) in Masvingo province. ISAs work at grassroots level to offer tradespeople access to training, credit and tools. Training comes in the form of skills and business courses, but there is also an emphasis on encouraging participants to form their own associations and unions, and to understand their rights within the regulatory framework they are working in. This process also provides a valuable vehicle for HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention.

Tools for Self Reliance will be supporting the DED and OCCZIM programme in seven districts in Masvingo province through the supply of a range of kits. Each district will receive 24 kits, of



different types and sizes, and these will be made available to local tradespeople on a hire and purchase scheme. We are now busy working on the kits and look forward to being able to provide some feedback once the kits have arrived and are in use.

# 25 reasons to celebrate



Manchester Didsbury joined in the 'Celebrate 25' spirit in June when playing host to what turned out to be a landmark sewing machine day.

## Darren Gough picks TFSR's lucky number



L to R: Darren, Carole and Stephen, © Kent and Sussex Courier

The number 38 proved the winning ticket for Tools for Self Reliance earlier this year when a novel fundraising idea from the owner of a jewellery shop in East Grinstead netted Tools for Self Reliance a tidy cash donation. Shop owner Stephen Rogers of Penny Farthing Jewellers donated £5 for each jewellery item sold in December and customers' names were subsequently entered into a charity draw. The winning number was picked out by England and Essex cricketer Darren Gough and the lucky owner of that ticket – Carole Lee-Haswell – donated her 'winnings' to Tools for Self Reliance.

A total of 25 sewing machines were refurbished in a single day to mark 25 years of Tools for Self Reliance, a great achievement and one which embodies what our volunteers are all about. Congratulations to everyone involved!

Aigburth Churches Toolsavers in Liverpool completed their 25th kit earlier in the year and Aberdeen Milltown Day Workshop celebrated their 10th birthday in May. Castle Cary are going strong after completing their 120th box of tools. There have been so many individual and group milestones passed this year there are too many to mention, but congratulations to you all.

## Email bulletin for groups

As part of our continuing efforts to improve communications with our volunteers we have introduced a new TFSR email bulletin. This is a regular (fortnightly) email designed to be read by volunteers. It contains the latest tools and shipping news, information about other groups, and provides another way of communicating feedback from our partners in Africa. Already it's proving quite popular so we would like to make sure that everyone knows about it and has an opportunity to subscribe. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, or removed from it, please email us at [rob@tfsr.org](mailto:rob@tfsr.org). You can subscribe or unsubscribe at any time. If your



email address has recently changed please could you let us know to ensure your email bulletin arrives at the right address!

## Wakefield 2006 (the AGM and all that)

*A personal view by Rob Westcott, Group Support Worker*

I can be a bit cynical sometimes. This was my first AGM and so my trepidation as I embarked on the journey up the M1 one sunny morning in mid June was, I decided, reasonable, despite promises of the good time to come. It was also my first visit to the Pennine Camphill Community in Wakefield and I was keen to put a face to the voice of TFSR group coordinator Bob Wood who until now was a distant voice on the other end of my telephone. As we pulled into the car park Bob, resplendent in bush hat and banging up some direction signs, gave a cheery hello and I knew then that it was all going to be okay.

*“We couldn’t have chosen a nicer venue”*

After the bonhomie of Bob and the other Camphill staff the next thing to strike me was the fact that we couldn’t possibly have chosen a nicer venue for an AGM. The Pennine Camphill Community, a short ride, or as I discovered later a brisk walk away, from the motorway, is as serene a setting as you’d wish for and it struck me how perfect it was for a relaxing break with like-minded souls.

Presumably several of those who stayed long into the evening thought so too. It was great to meet up with familiar and not so familiar faces from Didsbury to Doncaster, from Stansted to Southampton, and from Ghana to Belarus.

During the formal part of the proceedings the new Organisational Strategy was formerly



*L to R: Bob Wood, Bill Basford, Alex Baxter, Mavis Sargent, Simon Cockwell, Mike Dyer, Mark Henshaw and Peter Kierman share a light-hearted moment*

adopted for the next five years and we had informative presentations from Vincent Subbey – about the work of TRAX, the issues facing farmers in northern Ghana and the difference TFSR tools and training will make to them, and from Sarah – about current projects and developments in Ghana, Tanzania and Uganda.

As afternoon dissolved into evening and the sun settled behind the trees, we talked, danced gently on the lawn and reflected on how good the day had been.

Now of course I can’t wait until next year. Roll on Netley Marsh 2007!



*Vincent and trustee Ben Fawcett in discussion*



*Leonid Charchuk and Bob Wood*



*Sue Tyrrell, with her winning cake in the birthday cake competition*

# Cutting the strings of debt

The Jubilee Debt Campaign's *Cut the Strings* campaign is gathering momentum. It calls for an end to harmful conditions attached to debt cancellation. The government says it's listening but there is evidence to suggest that more could be done.

There are lots of ways we can all get involved, for example by printing off and signing a petition to Gordon Brown. Visit the *Cut the Strings* website at [www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/strings](http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/strings)



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## TFSR hits it big on eBay

Raising money, buying anvils and making new friends – that's what Tools for Self Reliance is doing on eBay, the internet auction site. For years, TFSR has sold tools and donated items that our partners in Africa don't need. Until a couple of years ago, this meant car boot sales, steam rallies and antique dealers. Now we have joined the internet marketplace and long-time volunteer Cliff Lewis has raised nearly £5000 in eBay sales.

"What surprised me is that we made new friends through eBay", said TFSR fundraiser Larry Boyd who trawls eBay to buy blacksmiths' anvils during his lunch break.

"I once put in a bid for an anvil and received an email from the seller saying she had looked up Tools for Self Reliance on the internet and had decided to give the anvil to us."

There's a big demand for anvils from African blacksmiths, so however they come, donated or purchased, the anvils don't linger long in the warehouse.

Best selling items for us are old tools with a prestigious car maker's name – especially Jaguar



and Rolls Royce. Singer Featherweight sewing machines are popular with quilters and not really suitable for Africa. Badges, insignia and odd collectables will often reach remarkable prices – £75 for a corkscrew anyone?

Other eBayers have donated tools or signed up to volunteer. Quite a few buyers round up the purchase price when they find out who we are. If you want to join Cliff and Larry in helping Tools for Self Reliance by eBaying your unneeded items and donating the proceeds, get in touch with Larry at 023 8086 9697 or email [communications@tfsr.org](mailto:communications@tfsr.org)

**To see what we are selling right now, go to [http://members.ebay.co.uk/aboutme/tools\\_for\\_self\\_reliance](http://members.ebay.co.uk/aboutme/tools_for_self_reliance)**

### Stop press: new kit lists

We will be issuing revised kit lists from September. This comes after a lengthy period of consultation with groups, partners and other stakeholders. The changes will remove the current anomalies from the kit lists, and will ensure that the tools we send are more finely tuned to the needs of the artisans who have requested them. Details are available on our website at [www.tfsr.org](http://www.tfsr.org) or from Netley Marsh, tel: 023 8086 9697.



**Gain with pain in 2006**

Our supporters continue to help swell our fundraising coffers through a wide range of activities from garden tool sales to acts of derring-do. The following suffered the heat and the pain to help raise money

for us this year. Dedj (first ever London Marathon); Carmen, Joanna, Hannah, Michael and Paul (British 10K in July); and Ben, who single-handedly ran (yes, ran!) the length of Offa's Dyke (that's 290 km in a gruelling 7 days). Between them they raised a magnificent £3000. And they raised much of it via Justgiving online sponsorship pages! This is a really great way of getting sponsors for an event you may be planning. Visit [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com) to see how.

**Mel Wainwright on the Pilgrims Trail**



In September Mel Wainwright (73 years young) will be walking the 80 mile long Camino de Santiago Pilgrims Trail, which starts in Portugal and ends in Spain. Mel will be raising funds for

Tools for Self Reliance in memory of her late husband, David, one of our expert sewing machine refurbishers. If you would like to support Mel in her efforts please visit her online fundraising page at [www.justgiving.com/mel-walking](http://www.justgiving.com/mel-walking), or ask us for a sponsorship form.

**Great Wall of China and Kili revisited**

Trailblazers, the company that organised our Kilimanjaro fundraising trip in 2005, is looking for participants for two new challenges: the *Great Wall of China Challenge*, 24 September to 2 October 2006 and *Kilimanjaro* in February 2007.

If you are interested in raising funds for Tools for Self Reliance in this way contact Stu Champion on 01384 454812 or email him at [StuartC@saltmine.org](mailto:StuartC@saltmine.org)

**Grand presents**

Forget polka dots and stripes this summer, why not splash out on a Celebrate 25 T-shirt for the beach. We still have plenty of sizes in stock



including one for your favourite grandchild!

T-shirts can be ordered by phone, via our gifts catalogue or online at [www.tfsr.org](http://www.tfsr.org)

**FORGING LINKS**

**The newsletter of Tools for Self Reliance**

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- Please tell me more about TFSR and volunteering.
- I would like to make a contribution.

Enclosed is £.....

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