

SIERRA LEONE CONTAINER

As those with email will have heard, we had the good news just before Christmas that our container, which had been stuck in the docks for more than a year, had been released to our partner organisation, The Council of Churches in Sierra Leone (CCSL).

The container had been held up for all sorts of bureaucratic reasons which took a lot of effort from many people in the UK and our partners in Sierra Leone to overcome. CCSL have emailed us several photos of the kits being unloaded and we were pleased that they looked in such good condition. It will be good to hear from the recipients once they start using the tools and sewing machines. After a period of more than a year in a sometimes humid atmosphere, it will be interesting to know how well the oiling has been at preventing rusting.



A point to notice from the above photo, which shows Glasgow TFSR's joinery kit being unloaded, is that the crates are lifted by hand. This brings home the message not to make up crates which are more than a two person lift. Under health and safety rules this should be no more than 25 kg per person.

RAG RUG MAKING IN THE GAMBIA

A couple of years ago we were asked by Kath Myall in Bristol if we had any examples of the tool shown here on the right to make rag rugs. It is used to cut fabric offcuts into strips and then to knot them onto a hessian backing, usually some sacking.



Kath had been on holiday in the Gambia and talked to people there who were doing this and found that they needed more of these tools. We were able to give Kath about 12 of these as we had been saving them for years and never quite knew who would use them.

Kath has been back several times taking the tools and showing new people how they work. She has been really impressed by the way new rug makers have developed their skills to produce quality rugs which they have been able to sell locally. Kath has now been able to buy rugs to bring back to the UK to sell. This simple tool has been an excellent way of generating an income particularly for women.

If you do have any of these tools then we would be pleased to pass them on to Kath.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Saturday 4th March:** TFSR birthday celebration at Netley Marsh
- **Weekend 6th and 7th May:** Pole Lathe Turners weekend at Kingston Lacy, Dorset
- **Saturday 17 June:** TFSR AGM at the Camphill Community, Wakefield. A day event with a barn dance in the evening
- **Saturday 24th June:** Sewing machine day, Manchester
- **Saturday 19th August:** TFSR Open Day at Netley Marsh

SHIPPING NEWS

This year has got off to a flying start with a shipment of over 130 kits to Uganda. The tools in these kits should be in the hands of artisans by the end of March.

Of course there is no time to sit back – it's onwards, ever onwards, as we work towards getting kits ready for our partners in Ghana. This will be another big shipment with well over 100 kits. If you are making a kit for this shipment please get it down to us as soon as possible.

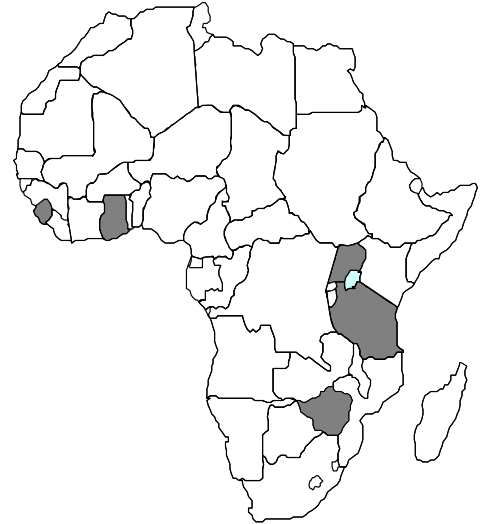
Meanwhile, for Uganda we need the following kits by the middle of February:

- Plumbing
- Furniture making, Small furniture making
- Metalwork
- Auto mechanics, Small auto mechanics
- Joinery, Small joinery
- Small construction

For Tanzania we need the following kits by the middle of March:

- Furniture making, Small furniture making
- Metalwork, Small metalwork
- Small joinery
- Small blacksmithing, Shoe repair
- Wood carving

For both shipments we need sewing machines of all types.



NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS

News from Uganda

We received good news from Godfrey Kasozi who coordinates the Network of Local Artisans (NOLA) in Uganda. He wrote to let us know that the container we sent at the end of 2005 has now arrived.

For this particular shipment the container we sent the kits in stayed in Kasese where it is now in the process of being turned into an office and store for the artisan network.

New projects

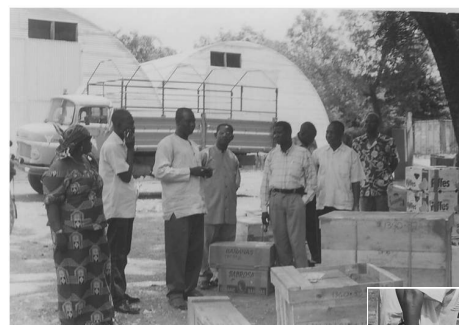
This year we have a number of new smaller projects to support, mainly in Ghana. We will be supporting TRAX with a blacksmithing / tinsmithing project in Bolgatanga. This project will provide training and support to invigorate this sector and to encourage local production of agricultural tools used by farmers.

We will also be working with Pro-Link, an HIV/AIDS organisation, to assist in the construction and equipping of a training centre just outside Accra.

Handing out ceremony in Wa, Ghana

Artisans in northern Ghana have received their toolkits at a presentation ceremony organised by the Centre for the Development of People (CEDEP), one of our partner organisations in Ghana. There were speeches as the tools were handed over. The local press and dignitaries were in attendance.

The artisans, understandably, were keen to inspect their tools. On the opened crate it is just possible to make out the logo showing that the crate is made from Volvo wood. This and the fact that it is painted white almost certainly means that this is a kit from Sutton TFSR!

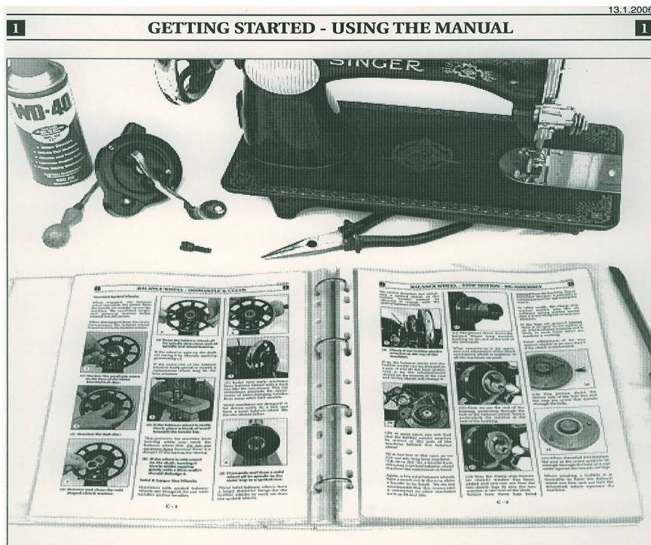


Left: Presentation of toolkits in Ghana



Right: A carpenter checking his kit to ensure his tools are all there!

SEWING MACHINE REFURBISHING MANUAL



The production of a really good manual is something which has been 'in progress' for many years. Several attempts have been made to produce the document but they were never finalised.

Terry Townsend of the Castle Cary TFSR group has taken on the task of producing a manual using a new digital camera and his skills as a graphic designer. Jack Llewellyn, our sewing machine expert at NM, is working with Terry on the text. We have seen the first sections and it really looks the best manual on this subject we have ever seen. We will be issuing the document in sections as they are ready, and the first one will be out in a few weeks.

Initially we will be sending this only to groups who are working on sewing machines. If you are not currently working on sewing machines but would like a copy then please let Bob know.

Obituary: DON HARDMAN

Don was a volunteer with the Leyland group for more than eight years and he also gave his time to several other charities. It was a pleasure to meet Don on our visits to the Leyland group and enjoy his Lancashire humour. The group will miss his him and his valuable contribution as a very practical member of its workshop.



POLE LATHE TURNERS WEEKEND

This is the annual get together of the group of green woodworkers who form the Pole Lathe Turners Association. This year it will be at the National Trust property at Kingston Lacy, in Dorset, on the weekend of the 5th, 6th and 7th May. Tools for Self Reliance has again been invited to run a stall mainly to sell tools which green woodworkers might use, and which we don't send to Africa.

So once again please look out for these special tools which are much in demand:

- Side axes
- Froes
- Adzes
- Bill hooks and slashers (long handled)
- Any tools for basket work

We have a surplus of some tools, and so we will hope to sell some of these during the Pole Lathe Turners Weekend. These will include hatchets, axes, large gouges and wide carpenters chisels.

If you have any of these please send them down to NM, perhaps with your next kit.

The event is really interesting and can be thoroughly recommended for a visit.

If you are able to come and help man the stall for a couple of hours then this would also be most welcome.

DOE AWARD FOR NICK

Nick Churton one of our Wednesday evening group volunteers at NM has recently been presented with the Duke of Edinburgh Award by Trevor Macdonald at St James Palace.

Nick finished his required year as a volunteer with TFSR and then continued as a valuable member of the group providing us with youth and energy!



Note that Nick is also modelling one of our 25th Birthday Tee shirts!

GROUPS NEWS

Ilkley TFSR

Ilkley now has its workshop up and running, and has despatched its first kit and a box of refurbished tools.

Sutton TFSR

Alan Swanson reports another successful year with 10 volunteers now helping in the workshop, and a network of many individual collectors spreading out into the suburbs of London. Sutton has produced this year a commendable 16 kits of tools and an amazing 52 refurbished sewing machines. Through running stalls at several events and sales of unwanted items it has been able to raise £733 for the charity.

Wirral TFSR

Steven Pillow reports that the group has now been running for 17 years, during which time it has produced 133 kits of refurbished tools. This year it has been getting more offers of tools from the Chester area since the demise of the Chester group. It is fortunate that it can meet in the workshop of the Clatterbridge Hospital every two weeks.

10 KILOMETRE RUN

We are looking for five people to join our long-term volunteer, Carmen, to run in the British 10K London run on Sunday 2 July 2006. Each entrant must guarantee to raise a minimum of £35 through sponsorship for Tools for Self Reliance, (but we will help you to do this).

The race starts at 9.35 am and all runners must be able to finish the race within 2 hours. Runners have to be 15 years old or over.

The organisers tell us that there will be a party atmosphere and it should be lots of fun.

If you would like to help us out by taking part please get in touch with Polly and we will send you further details.

Email: info@tfsr.org

tel: 0238086 9697

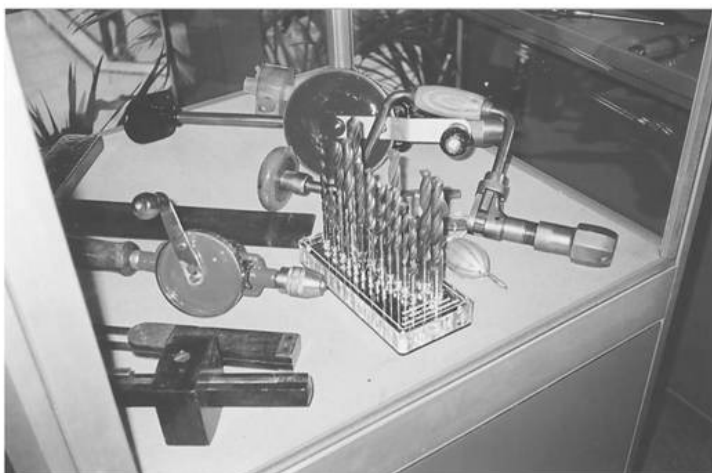
TFSR Organisational Strategy

Our new organisational strategy document will be published later in the year. If you would like a copy of the results of last summer's org strat questionnaire, please get in touch (info@tfsr.org)

TOOLS GO ON SHOW IN CARLISLE

The Carlisle TFSR group have recently put an exhibition of refurbished tools in the Carlisle library to publicise the group, and attract new volunteers and tool donations.

As you can see from the photographs below the standard of refurbishing is extremely high. The display includes a machined aluminium twist drill stand made by the local William Howard School.



WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

A reminder to let us know the names of any long-serving volunteers in your midst. We are particularly interested to hear from volunteers with more than 10 years service.

And to all of you who haven't yet received an email bulletin from us, a reminder to let us have a group contact email address. If you don't wish to receive any emails then please let Rob know at rob@tfsr.org