



TOOLS FOR SOLIDARITY DOWNPATRICK ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25



The Workshop

Tools for Solidarity Downpatrick

Principles / Ethics

Underlying all the activities of Tools for Solidarity Downpatrick 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.

Mission Statement

TFS Downpatrick 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.

TFS Downpatrick aims to:

Promote volunteering opportunities particularly for those with extra support needs

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.

Promote self-reliance by furnishing overseas projects with high quality recycled hand tools and sewing machines.

TFS Downpatrick will have appropriate premises, personnel and funding to meet the agreed outputs and objectives of the organisation



Mano at Work



Some of our volunteers



Work in progress

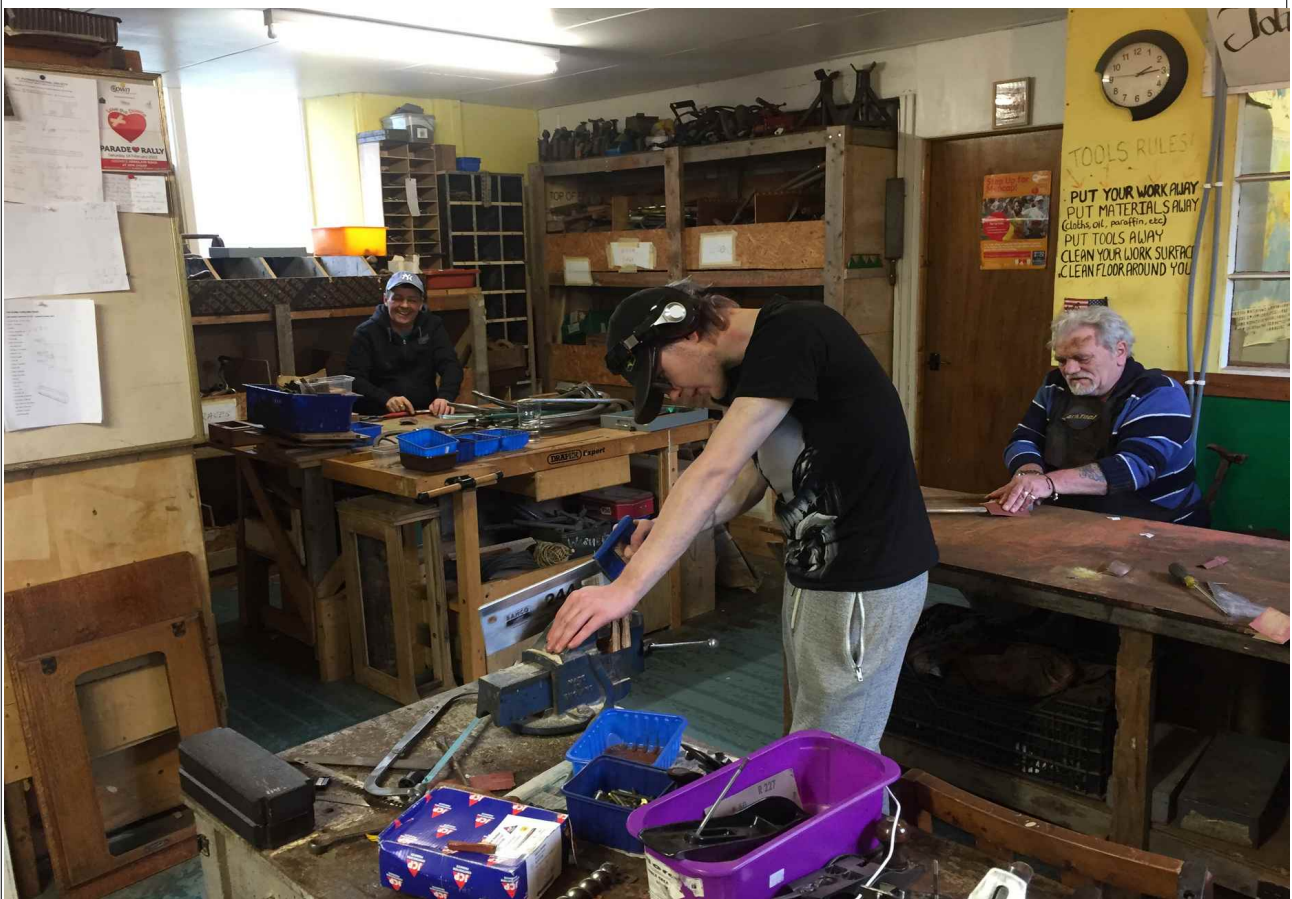
Chairpersons Address

Our workshop continues to provide a supported welcoming environment for more than 30 volunteers each week – the vast majority of whom have extra support needs.

The benefits to our volunteers is incalculable; improved mental well being, increased sense of worth and value through learning new skills, being active and helping others and being in a welcoming social environment.

Unfortunately we were unable to continue with our partnership with Global Concerns Trust and their wonderful programme to support people with disabilities become artisans in Malawi due to the loss of funding from the Scottish government. However we continue to provide high quality refurbished tools and sewing machines for TFS centres in Tanzania.

Finally, I would like to thank the many, many people who throughout the years have supported our work through volunteering, donating money or tools or kind words and to the Southwell Trust for giving us such a great home.



Volunteers in the workshop

Volunteer Report

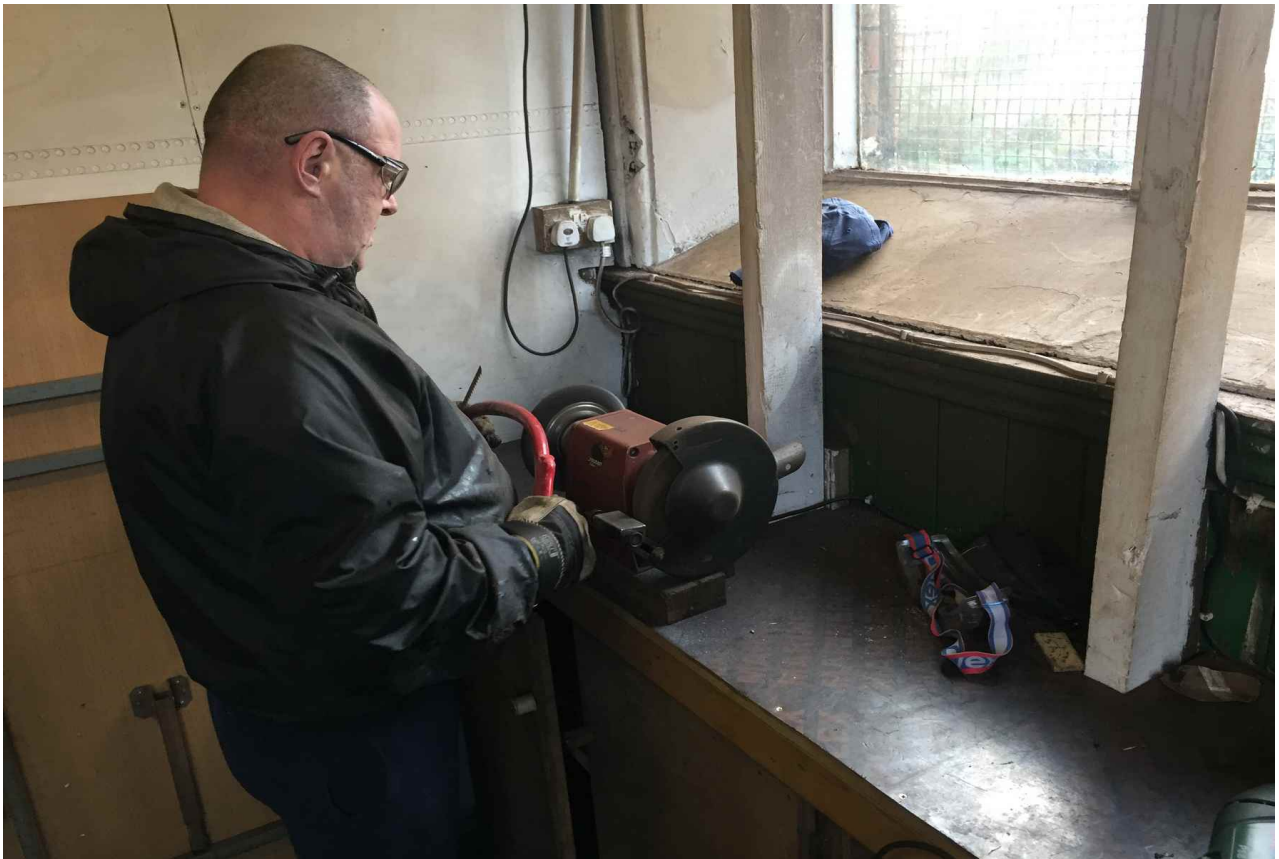
Being a volunteer is an essential element of being involved in TFS Downpatrick. All of us are volunteers and this generates a sense of sharing and support we are proud of.

Most of our volunteers (more than 80%) are people who have extra support needs due to mental health issues and/or learning difficulties/disabilities. We host volunteers from a range of organisations including Mindwise, Action Mental Health/New Horizons, Autism Initiative and Mencap.

The mix of volunteers ranges from teenagers to the over 60s and they come from all backgrounds. What makes this so special is that we all offer encouragement and support one another. Sharing skills and experience about the work but also about life issues is what helps create a therapeutic environment for all.

We also host young international volunteers from our sister organisation in Belfast. These volunteers really enjoy the experience of meeting and working with local people from so many different backgrounds. For the locals they have the opportunity, often for the first time, to talk to someone from another culture and country about life there.

This year our volunteers refurbished and shipped over 400 tools and 20 sewing machines to our existing projects in Tanzania.



Edward cleaning a tool using a bench grinder.

TFS Downpatrick Annual Accounts April 23 –March 24

Expenditure

Volunteer Travel	126
Materials	202.31
Volunteer Lunches	2253.61
Telephone	439.33
Electricity	965.45
Water	296.46
Heating Oil	289
Rent	1800
Fridge	229
Misc	23.08
TOTAL	£6624.24

Income

Donations	1366
Grants	3800
Sale of Goods	1117.11

TOTAL **£6283.11**

Balance Sheet

Income	£6283.11
Expenditure	£6624.24
Balance	-£341.13

Opening Bal	1st April 2024	£3857.55
Petty Cash	1st April 2024	£114.64
Paypal Bal	1st April 2024	£363.67

Closing Bal	31st March 2025	£3397.14
Petty Cash	31st March 2025	£251.52
Paypal Bal	31st March 2025	£363.67

Total **-£341.13**

TFS Downpatrick has no assests or liabilities

Financial Report

This year has a small loss.

We have been able to make some reductions in expenditure but there has been a significant fall in our grant donations, despite the best efforts of our fundraiser Ken. It is good to see that our donations and sale of goods has increased and we hope that this will continue in the coming year.

Our reserves remain over half our annual expenditure which is reassuring.

In the coming year we will continue to seek support for our work from charitable foundations and trusts and ideally secure more stable funding streams to cover our core costs.

We are looking for funding that is not just on a one-off or annual basis – this is a challenge for us and for all small NGOs.

Many thanks to all the organisations and individuals who have supported us financially over the year.

Special thanks

Mourne Grange Camphill Community
Mindwise
Action Mental Health
Autism Initiative
South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust
Volunteer Now
Mencap
TFS Belfast
Southwell Trust
Black Santa
Allen Lane Foundation
Microcommunity Fund
Geordie and Eleanor
and all our Volunteers