

# THE TOOLS NEWS

2015-Issue 2

Tools for Self Reliance Northampton provides volunteering opportunities for those who are unable to work due to a variety of disabilities, health issues or other disadvantages. At our workshops in Northampton and Towcester we refurbish old tools. Kits of tools are then donated to other charities for on-going projects in Africa, or here in Northamptonshire.

**Tel. 01604 604954**

**email: [tfsnorthampton@btconnect.com](mailto:tfsnorthampton@btconnect.com)**



## Chairman's Chatter June 2015

Hi everybody... so glad to see that you have some time to pick up and read our latest newsletter – Thank you.

This year seem to be whizzing by so quickly that it does not seem possible that we are half way through this year already!!

Things here in the workshop have been extremely busy; every day seems busier than the previous one. We have been busy preparing

tools for our events – our event at Rushden event was our best ever. Next we had Hollowell, not only had we to sort tools for our stall but also to put into Hollowell Auction – all in aid of raising much needed funds to keep the workshop running.

The bikes that have been donated have all been serviced and renovated and have been flying out of the yard – we just cannot seem to keep up with the demand.

David, Mick, Ken, Phillip and Dan have been doing their share of “Talks” for Tools in the evenings; the support that we have received from these talks has been pretty amazing and our diary is getting rather full with future talks, as the word seems to be spreading by word of mouth just how good a job that they are doing – well done guys!!! It's through talks that we have seen an increase in tools being donated to the workshop - plenty to keep the volunteers happy.

Our Towcester volunteers have been coming over via Towcester Volunteer Bureau minibus for the past few weeks (if you live over that way it's a good minibus service to hire – we can fully recommend it), which they are all thoroughly enjoying – Neil likes to tell all about his passion for golf, Jonathan has such a busy life always out and about, Trevor enjoys his coffee and chips, Geoff likes to get stuck into anything that's going – it can be hard to get them to stop in time to get ready for the minibus. We are glad that they are really enjoying themselves.

Tools cake-making ladies have been out in full assisting us with cake-making whenever it is required – so a big thank you goes to Janet Durrant, Elaine Yates, Gladys Winch - you are all stars!!

Mariana has been busy taking photographs of the daily goings on within the workshop, and the photos find their way onto facebook at the moment we are on 235 likes which is good going.

Our BBQ is booked for Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August, so that is something to look forward to.

So until the next newsletter... *Marilyn*



Mr Ade Law kindly donated a vintage trolley which has been sold at Rushden Calvacade Event to raise funds for our charity. Our sincere thanks to Mr. Ade Law.



Many thanks and gratitude goes to Jenkins Estate Agency who once again made a generous donation to Tools.



### Rushden Event

It was a great success, our best ever, even though it rained on Sunday. Our sincere thanks go to trustees, friends and volunteers who all willingly gave up their free time during the previous week at the event and the week after the event. Where would we be without people like this?

We made lots of new friends and contacts who are happy to help or volunteer in the future.

### Mr Brown “Tools Collector” St Albans of Hertfordshire

I just thought that you all might like to know about one of our “Tool Collectors”, Mr Brown.

Mr Brown has been collecting Tools for the past eleven years, he originally started collecting for Tools Milton Keynes but when they decided that they no longer could take tools, Mr Brown contacted Southampton, who kindly passed his details on to us.

Having made contact, Mr Brown has been a valuable member of our team. He always manages (don't know how he does it though) to collect a big vanload and sometimes enough to fill a trailer as well. Finding the correct address at first proved tricky, but David now has it down to a fine art and has no trouble finding it at all.

We aim to collect tools from St Albans every 3 – 4 months and when we have all finished loading up Mrs Brown is always so very generous in supplying us with a refreshing cup of tea and time for a chat.

Mr Brown has popped up to see us with his son in the workshop and meet some of our volunteers, have a cuppa and a chat and look around the workshop.

So we would really like to take this opportunity in saying to Mr Brown a very sincere Thank you for all the hard work you do for us all at TFSR(Northampton).





### **New Benches**

We are so happy to let all of you know that our workshop has new benches which Bob still does not tidy up, but he is forgiven because he wrote the letter for Lottery grants in the first place.

Our old benches are gone to a new hostel with the rest of the woodworm.



### **KIT NEWS**

We are in the process of doing 11 kits: these are for Livelihood project for “Artisan Groups” in Tanzania.

These are due to be completed by September.

We have also just donated some tools to the “Ironstone Railway” in Northampton.



### **Old to New**

One of our volunteers from Towcester is enjoying repairing and painting a Go cart for the Hollowell event. They love the diversity of the jobs from our workshop and they have a great satisfaction in bringing to life the donated items and give them another lease of life. We could have sold this numerous times. This shows “give it to us rather than bin it” to give it a new lease of life.

### **Michael’s Box**

Michael is refurbishing this old box with love and care and attention to detail. This has given something different to Michael to do rather than tools. As always Michael has made a first class job of this with Gladys (his carer) watching on.



### **Hollowell Event 2015**

He was given the name Norman, as we have not any volunteer called Norman in Tools. More about Norman in the next Newsletter.

We had a succesful event at the Rally. It was lovely to see our usual customers and to make new contacts with people.

Our thanks go to all those that helped, including Alan Eaten and Hollowell Steam for given us such lovely space to sell our items on and promote our charity.

Thanks also go to John Tonks for his horse box, Steven from Secondhand John for transporting items over and also Steven and Kim Culverhouse from the Old Bake House Antique for lending his van again when our van broke down and last but not least to all our volunteers and friends.



### **Skills and Aptitudes are discovered**

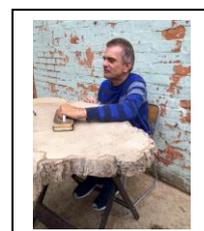
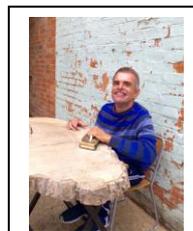


Neil from Brackley is not refurbishing tools at the moment, he is practising his golf swing. Then he decided to show Trevor and Jonathan how to do it.

Hello, my name is Ian Stoneham.

I have been coming to Tools from Hampton House, where I have lived for several years. At Tools I have my own bench, which I like to take outside in good weather. I do a bit of work even when I am enjoying the sunshine! I watch what is going on and David tells me “I should be selling more bikes!”

I really enjoy coming to Tools and having a laugh with everyone. So if you are passing the workshop in Clare Street – you will probably see me, so do toot your horn to wake me up!



## Life outside Tools

*A letter from Timothy Harrison*

Hello, my name is Timothy Harrison. I have cerebral palsy and I use a powered wheelchair. I came to Hampton House in Northampton when I left school at 16. My Mum lives in Hertfordshire, my sister lives in Devon and my brother lives in America.

I started coming to Tools over 17 years ago when it was at Wheatfield Road. Now it is in Clare Street and has been greatly improved with a new kitchen and new toilets. We also have new benches, so I can now work at the bench rather than on my "tea trolley".

It doesn't matter what tool I am given to clean, I enjoy cleaning them all. I like it when I can paint them and polish the handles so they look new. I really enjoy coming to see all my friends to chat and laugh with. I like to take the mickey out of Mick and viceversa. Best of all is the summer BBQ and Christams Party.

I will be moving soon because Hampton House is closing. I will be looking at a new bungalow when I come back from my holiday. I don't know if I will still be coming to Tools. If not, I will miss it because of the fun we all have there.



## FUTURE EVENTS

All friends and volunteers are welcome to:



**BBQ – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August  
Bangladeshi' Centre  
Mill Road Northampton**



December date to be confirmed near at the time  
(what I am doing talking about Christmas?)

Have you got **free time** or any **ideas**  
how we can improve Tools than contact  
us at

**01604 604954**

Or on our **Facebook** page and press the  
Like button



Newsletter printed  
*with our thanks*  
by Alf at **Imprint Graphics**, Birmingham

**Until next Newsletter,  
keep up with us on Facebook...**

