



# THE TOOLS NEWS

2015-Issue 1

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 workshop 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.

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## Chairman Chatter April 2015

Welcome to another Tool's newsletter. Here we go again we start our year by planning events and raising funds. This year we are hoping to attend the following events within Northamptonshire- Rushden Cavalcade, Lamport, Hollowell Steam Rally and the Umbrella Fair. If any of you are hoping to attend any of these events please do come over to us and say hello we would love to see you there. If you have any ideas for raising funds please do pop in and let us know – we always need new and interesting

ideas.

The new workbenches are now complete and are already in use. They look really smart.

At last we have a new member of staff in the office... Mariana. She will be working on the account side of things and I am sure that I can rely on you all in making Mariana feel most welcome.

We now have a new DVD of Tool's workshop and volunteers, if you have not seen and would like to please see David. We are also looking to update our website. Our Thanks go to the Northampton Community Foundation for giving us the funds to update this.

Towcester volunteers have been coming over on Tuesdays via the South Northants Volunteer Centre, and I would like to welcome our new volunteer – Geoff from Towcester who has joined us recently.

Here at Northampton the Towcester volunteers all had a chance to meet some of our volunteers from Northampton, worked on different things, which they all enjoyed. Neil even managed to have a go at practising his golfing skills!!!

Sadly we have to say a fond farewell to one of our long – standing volunteers – Geoff Leader who will be leaving us in May for pastures new in sunny Devon. I am sure that you will all agree that we wish both Geoff and his wife a very happy retirement and Thanks for all his support for Tools. As you know that Tools often go out into the community promoting Tools and what we do. Well since Christmas we have carried out quite a few talks covering a wide range of different organisations. David and Mick are getting rather good at this. Thank you to you both for giving up your free time in the evenings. Thanks also go to other Trustee's who are also going along to talks to see how it works, so that they too can pop along organisations to do talks for us.

Well that is all for now so until the next issue, Thank you to all our loyal supporters for their continued support of Tools. *Marilyn*



We would like to say a Big Thank you to South Northants Volunteers Bureau for bringing the Towcester volunteers to Northampton workshop on Tuesdays.

## OUR RE-CYCLED BICYCLES

Joshua, David and Robert recently went on a two day Bike Repair Course at Northampton University so we can recondition the bikes to an even higher standard. Photo to an unusual one donated to us.

Our target for this year of 200 reconditioned bikes has been exceeded with 208 bikes. THANK YOU for your very kind donations.



## KIT NEWS

8<sup>TH</sup> January and 4 kits went to Tanzania via Decision Foundation Ltd. One of our trustees, Pam, handing one of the kits.



## March – Curry & Quiz night

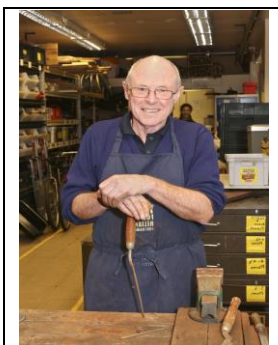
The Reachout Café in Irchester held a curry and quiz night for us thanks to Michael Yates, one of our volunteers, telling them all about us. Big thanks from all of us, we welcome any help with our fundraising.



## March – re-organisation of warehouse space

It took us only 4 days to spring clean our storage space and to organise and arrange all the tools for our events fundraising, which are coming soon.

Thank you very much for all the help from all the volunteers and trustees to get this done.

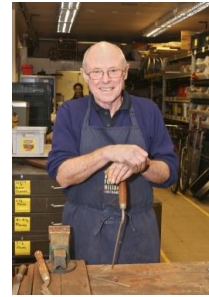


**Geoff L.** will be leaving us in May. We wish both, Geoff and his wife, a long and happy retirement. We will miss you. Farewell and keep in touch.

## Great Brington Gardening Club

Dave and Ken made a presentation about TFSR Northampton to the Great Brington Gardening Club on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April. There was a slide presentation followed by the TFSR Northampton video. A selection of tools demonstrating before and after refurbishments were shown. The garden club members said that it was really interesting and they were very impressed with the good works that TFSR do.

**OUR TOWCESTER VOLUNTEERS – ITS GREAT HAVING YOU OVER AT CLARE STREET AND BEING PART OF OUR NORTHAMPTON TEAM FOR A LITTLE WHILE – THANKS TO ALL OF YOU.**



**SOME OF OUR FANTASTIC CLARE STREET VOLUNTEERS – THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK.**



**March – Tim & Pam**

Strange things were afoot in the Clare Street workshop last month when Pam was spotted looking like this !!! Tim didn't seem too worried however and the Pam we all know and love soon returned!

## LIFE OUTSIDE TOOLS



### *A letter from Michael Yates*

Hi Everybody, my name is Michael Yates. I have been a volunteer for Tools for round 8 years. I sustained serious brain injuries and spent a month on life support in Oxford. When eventually came home I didn't think I would be able to do anything. Then my wife heard of Tools for Self Reliance Northampton.

I started coming twice a week with a Carer. Gladys has been coming with me over 5 years now. I loved it right from the very beginning but its just got better and better. I get a great feeling knowing that the work I do is helping someone else not as fortunate as me. It makes me feel really humble and it has also helped to bring my confidence up too.

I live in the village of Irchester with my wife Elaine, our 2 cats, 2 rabbits and our spotty dog Ringo. When I am not at Tools I love spending time in our village. We go to our local church café, The Reachout, on a Wednesday where we enjoy coffee, cakes and delicious scones with a chat. The people there are very kind. I took a 'Tools' DVD to show them the work we do and they were so impressed they decided to donate some money to Tools, they are also having a Curry and Quiz Night in March to raise some money for us.

I feel really proud and privileged to be part of Tools and will always be grateful to them for helping me to rebuilt my life.

Yours, *Michael*

## FUTURE EVENTS



2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> MAY – RUSHDEN



24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> MAY – LAMPORT



4<sup>TH</sup> – 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY – HOLOWELL



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



Thanks to all for this van load of tools. It was soon sorted and everything in its appropriate place.

## **GOT SOME FREE TIME AND WANT TO DO SOMETHING NEW FOR 2015?**

We are always busy in the workshop, whether it be taking in new donations or going out to pick them up, preparing for an event or just sorting things out!

Give us a call and we can chat through how you can help.

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*Until the next newsletter, keep up with us on Facebook...*