



TWAM Local Impact

TWAM
Tools with a Mission

Welcome to the first edition of TWAM's Local Impact Newsletter

We have decided to start a quarterly newsletter documenting our UK impact and the fantastic work of all of our volunteers. Our work is primarily focused on Africa, but we have a fantastic team of extremely dedicated volunteers who go above and beyond to make our work possible.

We aim to introduce you to the wonderful people who volunteer with us, tell you their stories, what led them to TWAM, and what TWAM means to them. We'll also show you some of our work behind the scenes, including overviews of every section of our warehouse and the work that goes on there.

We also want to take this chance to ask for your input. If you are a TWAM volunteer, or you have run a fundraiser or undertaken any activities to help TWAM, please tell us about it! We'd love to include it in the newsletter, as well as write about it on our blog and social media pages. If you have any stories and pictures that you'd like to contribute, please send them to our Fundraising Apprentice James at jamesn@twam.uk.

1st Edition
April 2022

In this edition:

- **Behind the scenes** - an introduction to the Tools In section of our warehouse, where tools are initially sorted
- **Who we've worked with** - Jacobs Engineering Group recently made a large donation of tools to TWAM
- **Volunteer milestone** - Charlie, who volunteers in the Ipswich centre, recently refurbished his 2000th vice

Volunter Milestones: Charlie's 2000th Vice

Charlie Clarke, a long-time volunteer here at Tools with a Mission, has now refurbished over 2000 vices for us! What an impressive milestone to reach, and it is amazing to think of all the carpenters who are now using vices refurbished by Charlie.

He has been volunteering for us since he retired in 2014. We were in need of someone to deal with the large amount of vices that we receive, and Charlie stepped in to help.

He says that he can refurbish around 10 vices every week, and keeps track of every single one in his diary.

In 2018, he finished his 1000th vice, which he painted gold. His 2000th vice got a red, white, and blue paintjob to mark the occasion. Thank you Charlie!



Tool Donation From Jacobs

Jacobs Engineering Group recently contacted us to let us know that they had a large amount of old tools that they would like to donate to us.

The tools were picked up from Cumbria by our Northern Van Team, and they will be hugely helpful to the organisations that receive them.

We are so grateful to Jacobs for their support and hope to work with them again in the future!



Behind The Scenes: Tools In

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE 'TOOLS IN' AREA?

This is the section of our Ipswich centre where tools come in. Vans and other vehicles pull up outside the Refurbishment Centre, and our staff and volunteers work together to empty the vehicles and stack the tools inside by our tools-in bench.

The vans are often completely full of items, so it takes a long time and a lot of help to empty them, especially when we have a heavy foot-powered treadle sewing machine on the van. That's a two-person job!

Once the tools have been transferred from vehicle to Refurbishment Centre and have been neatly and safely stacked, our team needs to sort through them.

The first thing that volunteers working on the bench look out for is tools that are in really bad condition. Tools that are very rusty or have a lot of broken parts are obviously unsuitable for us to send to Africa and will need to be sent to a recycling centre to be turned into raw material.

Next, tools need to be sorted into categories so that they can go to the correct section of the Refurbishment Centre for refurbishing and packing.

This requires deep knowledge of tools, and volunteers quickly learn what all the tools are used for and what kits they belong to.

We sometimes also get weird and wonderful tools donated to us. The team all try to guess what the tools are used for, but Sheldon, our Refurbishment Centre Apprentice, is usually the one to figure it out (or so he claims!).

Sheldon tells us that the most challenging part of working in this section is making sure that the tools are sorted and moved out of the way in time for the next load.

We usually have at least one van to unload every day, and this is all thanks to our generous supporters who keep **sending their tools to us instead of throwing them away!**



Please send us your stories

The result of our work is in Africa, but as TWAM grows, we want to do even more to recognise the fantastic work that our volunteers are doing. We have volunteers across the country that we don't often get to visit, so we want to use this newsletter as a way of recognising and thanking them for the work that they do for us.

If you volunteer with TWAM, please let us know what you are doing for us. We want to hear about everything that you're doing for us, whether that be a jumble sale to raise money for TWAM, or a community tool drive. We would love to show the world how much you're doing for us! Also, if you would like to share your story and what led you to TWAM, please get in touch.

If you have any pictures or stories that we could use for the newsletter, please send them all to James, our Fundraising Apprentice, at jamesn@twam.uk

This newsletter will also be a huge help to us as we seek to expand our activities in the UK. As we look to send more tools to Africa, we will need to collect far more tools and raise more money at home.

Your stories will help to inspire people across the country to join the TWAM family and support us in any way possible, working together to get more tools in the hands of people who deeply need the transformation that they bring.

We hope you have enjoyed this first edition. We will be releasing them quarterly in a digital-only format. We look forward to seeing all of your stories!

