



TWAM

Tools with a Mission

Our News

August 2026

Kindling hope in Malawi

Our mission in Tanzania

Fundraising at TWAM

Giving communities tools to build a future for themselves

Welcome to TWAM News



Dear Friends

We are pleased to bring you this summer edition of Our News. We hope the stories within give you an idea of our growing, ever-developing impact - whether with special projects overseas in Malawi and Tanzania, or closer to home with our community of volunteers. Paul tells us a little more about how easy (and free!) it is to support TWAM by helping to raise funds, whilst we share some exciting news about our Board of Trustees.

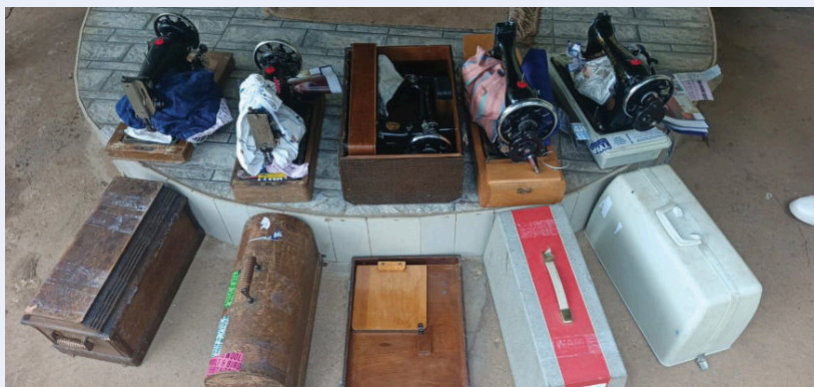
It leaves me to greet you all personally, and assure you of our continued blessings.

Warmest wishes

John Noble

Chief Executive Officer

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3: 5-6



These sewing machines arrived safely in Zambia in May, for distribution to women's shelters.

Tools with a Mission

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About us

We are a Christian charity that collects donated usable tools, refurbishes them, sorts them into trade kits and sends them to the developing world for livelihood creation.

We support local people, meeting local needs with life-transforming skills training projects. We supply tools to equip training centres and to give to trainees when they graduate. With this support we see long-term sustainable livelihoods created.

Thanks to over 500 volunteers in the UK and your support, we will continue to transform lives and communities.

Financial support



We keep our costs very low, but we still need a lot of support. We value all gifts, whether one-off or regular. You can donate online, send donations to our Ipswich postal address, or request a Standing Order and/or Gift Aid form.

Time to donate?



We are always looking for more volunteers to help in our centres. At present we particularly need volunteers in our refurbishment centres. Please visit [twam.uk/volunteer](https://www.twam.uk/volunteer) to browse our available roles or call us on 01473 210220.

Tools to donate?



To find your nearest collection centre, or to contact a local collector, have a look at our website or call our Ipswich office.

Prayer support



TWAM depends on prayer. If you don't currently receive our quarterly prayer diary and would like to, please contact our Ipswich office.



Don, tool collector

Towards the end of COVID, Don began delving deeper into the TWAM leaflets and Prayer Diary he'd been receiving. After taking the time to read about TWAM's work, it dawned on him that here was "a good, down-to-earth charity that was making a real difference to the lives of people in Africa." Don comes from a family of craftsmen and knows how important it is to have the right tools.

He says: "As a collector, there is real satisfaction and connection knowing that the same tools and sewing machines I collect and handle will be used by people in Africa. In this simple way I can make a difference in their lives. And I don't have to advertise or make phone calls or do whatever to contact people. With my address embedded in the website, they contact me and I go and collect. What could be simpler or more important or more worthwhile?"

TWAM is a Christian charity that welcomes people of all faiths and none. If you would like to find out more, please get in touch on 01473 210220. More details can be found at [twam.uk/volunteer](https://www.twam.uk/volunteer).



Kindling the fire of change

One of the special projects we are delighted to support in Malawi is Kindle Orphan Outreach.

This inspiring organisation has been serving vulnerable children and families for more than 25 years.

Founded in 2000 by Andrew and Frances Barr, a Canadian couple who felt called to remain in Africa and help children orphaned by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, Kindle began by providing food support to struggling families.

Bricklaying students at Kindle Orphan Outreach

Over the years, it has grown into a thriving community-based organisation that now employs around 42 staff and works across four key areas: health, education, community development, and spiritual and social support.

What makes Kindle unique is its commitment to strengthening communities rather than separating children from them. Instead of removing orphans from their villages, Kindle works alongside extended families, helping aunts, grandparents and caregivers to provide stable and loving homes. Joseph, Kindle's Director since 2010 and its first African leader, explains that the goal is to help families become self-sufficient - and to meet the needs of the whole person.

One of Kindle's most exciting initiatives is its vocational skills training programme, which began in 2020 following requests from local communities. Village leaders recognised that many young people who had left school needed practical pathways to employment. Together, they identified the trades that would be most valuable.

Today, the programme is training its eighth cohort of students. Trainees can specialise in solar installation, bricklaying, tailoring and fashion design, or carpentry and joinery. The courses are government-approved and lead to TEVETA certification, giving graduates recognised qualifications that can help them secure work or start their own businesses. Training is highly practical, with 75% hands-on learning and 25% classroom theory. In a thoughtful provision that removes barriers to participation, trainees are even able to bring their children with them.

During our visit, Programmes Manager, Grandstone, welcomed us warmly and shared exciting developments. Kindle has recently launched a social enterprise that sells products made by trainees, creating both income and valuable experience. The organisation also grows crops, including maize and mangoes, to support its work and help feed staff and families when times are difficult.

Beyond vocational training, Kindle's impact is extensive: its community clinic serves around 30,000 people each year.

In education, it supports children from preschool right through to university, providing teaching materials, supporting

teachers and caregivers, and offering scholarships to between 17 and 22 university students annually. Kindle has even helped construct a primary school, reducing a six-kilometre walk that many children previously faced each day.

Through community development programmes, families receive agricultural training, fertiliser, crop storage facilities, and parenting support, helping them build sustainable futures.

As successful families become examples to others, positive change spreads throughout neighbouring communities. This 'kindling' is key to their work – they believe that once a fire is set, it can be left to grow by itself.

In 2024, we were pleased to support Kindle with builders' kits, carpenters' kits, a box of Bibles, a pack of saws, and a treadle sewing machine. These tools are helping teach skills, build confidence and ultimately earn incomes.

Kindle Orphan Outreach demonstrates what can happen when families are strengthened resourcefully and those who are shunned by society are given opportunities to succeed. Their work is changing lives today, while creating lasting hope for tomorrow!

Malawi is one of the poorest nations on earth. Around 40% of its 12.5 million people are under 15. Your support helps to facilitate projects like Kindle and brings real opportunities to lift people out of poverty. Thank you!



TWAM in Tanzania

Last year we wrote about our mission and impact in Tanzania, including the first container of tools we had sent to this country in over five years. In this edition we are delighted to bring you an update.

Launching a centre in Dodoma

This spring, TWAM launched a campaign for an exciting new project, the Dodoma Artisanal Training Centre. In collaboration with Tools For Solidarity, a likeminded Irish charity, TWAM committed to equipping and launching a special centre for trainee craftspeople in the Tanzanian region of Dodoma.

Through the wonderful generosity of so many supporters and benefactors, TWAM raised over £25,000 for this special project - a fantastic amount for which we are incredibly grateful. This kindness means that a container of tools has already been sent to Tanzania from Ireland - where Tools for Solidarity are based - and is currently in transit.

Once it arrives, the tools inside - which include lathes, chisels, sewing machines, wool, and carpentry tools - will provide new beginnings for those who seek to use their artistic talents to provide income for themselves, their families, and their communities.

In Dodoma, we will equip the newly-built training centre and help fund the training of key staff, overseeing operations for the first few months, and ensuring needs are met for the first cohort of trainees - which will include a special programme for disabled Tanzanians.

Thank you Ian!

Our tireless Country Coordinator for Tanzania, Ian (pictured on previous page, in green jersey), is a familiar face at TWAM. His efforts have ensured that this shipment of tools was sent to Tanzania in 2025 - and that another one is planned.

Container Pat - named by volunteers in honour of Patricia, a long-serving member of the TWAM family - contained 490 toolkits for Tanzania, amounting to around 1,000 individual items, tools and machines. This included some highly unusual requests, such as an engine hoist and even a set of solar panels!



These requests are testament to the very real needs of Tanzanians seeking to secure a long-term and reliable career for which they require specific equipment. Our teams have worked hard to prepare and send these tools, and are already looking ahead to the next shipment to Tanzania, which is due later this year.

Previous page: Container 'Pat' bound for Tanzania. Ian (in green, centre right) and some of the TWAM staff and volunteers.

Above and left: Trainees in car maintenance and tailoring businesses at Stara Projects, Mwanza City, Tanzania.



Changes...

farewell and welcome

Earlier this year, we bid farewell to our long-serving Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Simon Danks.

After more than twelve years of service at TWAM, with nine of those years as Chair, Simon Danks has stepped down from his role due to family and work commitments. We give heartfelt thanks for Simon's leadership and contribution to the TWAM community, particularly on behalf of those overseas in Uganda and elsewhere who have been touched by his dedication and skill. We wish him and his family every blessing for the future.

Meanwhile, we welcome Keith Holburn to the position of Chair of the Board. Keith has been the van manager and driver for the TWAM southern van for many years, and has sat on the TWAM Board since 2019. Please pray for Keith as he takes on this significant role in the leadership of the community.

We also welcome three new Trustees who have been nominated pending ratification at the AGM: Roger Beaumont, a retired mechanical engineer from

Rugby, has been volunteering at TWAM for four years, working with packing toolkits and refurbishment; Marion MacLellan lives in Rugby and is a retired university lecturer, specialising in International Development and Disaster Management; and Ian Hetherington is our Tanzania Country Coordinator, who, with his daughter Lilian, has a key role in TWAM's impact in that country.

Above: Simon Danks (right) with the TWAM Uganda team.

Below: Roger Beaumont, packing toolkits at Rugby.





Fundraising at TWAM

Paul White – shown above at the Antiques Roadshow – has been a fundraising volunteer at TWAM for over six years. Today, we sit down with him and discuss the whys and whats of his service at TWAM.

What brought you to TWAM?

I first joined TWAM just before COVID. After my induction, the former CEO invited me back to help during the pandemic. Although I was initially asked to support logistics, I soon realised my skills were better suited elsewhere. Seeing a pallet of tools waiting to be resold sparked an idea, and I began supporting fundraising and resale initiatives - a world that I knew about!

Having previously worked in UN peacekeeping in Bosnia, where I campaigned for the town of Sanski Most in a fundraising project for the Prince's Trust, I was drawn to TWAM's practical approach to changing lives.

Why do you volunteer at TWAM?

I was the Volunteering Services Manager at Community Action Suffolk, just around the corner from TWAM. I've been volunteering all my life, and first came to TWAM because it brings together so many things I care about: helping people, protecting the environment, and living out my Christian faith.

There are people out there who, with only some of what we have, can do so much. That's what TWAM is about - supporting those less fortunate than ourselves. The word "transformation" is not glib or a platitude - it is a reality. It keeps me motivated and proud to support new initiatives. TWAM, in short, ticked all of my boxes!

How can people support TWAM?

There are so many ways to support TWAM. Some people volunteer hands-on, driving vans or helping in our workshops, while others - like me! - collect stamps, coins, antiques, or other items for recycling and resale. Every contribution matters. Not everyone can give money, but most of us have something we can donate at no cost.

I love the variety of things that come through our doors, and it's amazing to see how even the smallest gift can help. I particularly remember a sewing machine compartment filled with war medals, or a braille hymnbook - now being donated to the Torch Trust for Malawi!



A mission for young people

On the western shores of Lake Malawi, in the town of Chipoka, lies the local training base of Teen Missions International.

This inspiring organisation has been serving vulnerable children and families for over 25 years.

There, regional coordinators Misias and Lewis oversee a remarkable programme, dedicated to transforming the lives of young people across Malawi. Founded in 1994, the centre combines vocational training with Christian discipleship, helping teenagers become self-sustainable, confident, and equipped to

Students listening to a TWAM presentation

serve others. They also support eleven orphanages and dream of expanding further, including establishing a computer lab and eventually shipping their own container of tools further into Malawi.

Each year, students arrive from remote rural communities to attend an intensive one-month summer bootcamp. Last year, 334 teenagers from across Malawi participated, where they received practical training in a wide range of skills while also contributing to community projects and learning the Word of God.

For many, the journey does not end there. Teens showing commitment and potential are invited to continue with full-time vocational courses. Some of the young people we met when we visited in

the autumn of 2025 were learning tailoring and sewing, while others were manufacturing metal windows and doors, or practising agricultural techniques to help grow maize and rice and feed the community.

Because so many students travel from great distances, they stay at the centre for up to two years, receiving food, shelter, and boarding alongside their training. And such a comprehensive programme means that the impact extends far beyond the campus itself. Graduates often return to their home villages to teach others the skills they have learned, creating a ripple effect across Malawi.

Shortages of tools and equipment are always a challenge. After learning about TWAM through our Malawi Country Coordinator, Yunusu - himself once a Teen Missions bootcamp student - the centre applied in January 2026 for a large range of tools. These included sewing machines, agricultural equipment, and essential building tools now being used to construct a new dining hall.

Their mission is simple: they believe that today's vulnerable child can become tomorrow's caregiver, leader, and inspiration for others.



Our impact... ...far and near

TWAM's mission. We illustrate the scope of our work - from tailoring centres in Zambia to an award ceremony in Suffolk!

To read our Impact Report, please visit www.twam.uk/about and click the red button at the top of the page. Paper copies will be available at our Annual General Meeting and TWAM Day on 19th September in Rugby.

We are pleased to announce that our Impact Report for 2024-2025 is now live.

Within the report you will find details on all the countries and communities across the world that have benefited from

We hope you will find the report both informative and inspiring. This impact could not have been achieved without your faith and support. We are deeply grateful to all of you who have made this possible.



Just one toolkit can have positive repercussions for a whole community. People like this young man at Kindle Orphan Outreach (page 4), share their skills to help create many livelihoods. Please continue to support us to ensure that every suitable tool is used to transform lives overseas.

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You can donate by credit or debit card by ringing our head office on 01473 210220 Monday to Friday, 9am-3pm.

Would you like to receive our monthly **Supporter E-News**? It's packed with up to date news and inspiring stories. If so, you can either write your email address below, or go to **twam.uk/stayintouch** to sign up online.

My email address is: _____

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Please notify the charity if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address, or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you pay Income Tax at the higher rate or additional rate and want to receive additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your self-assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

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