

## **TOOLS FOR AFRICA AT CHRISTMAS TIME**

Scottish groups join forces for new Malawi project.

Garvald Edinburgh's Gorgie-based Tools for Self Reliance (TFSR) workshop is celebrating the successful completion of the first phase of an exciting new project involving TFSR groups from across Scotland and the Edinburgh-based charity Global Concerns.

This week a batch of tool kits and sewing machines left the Gorgie workshop to be air-freighted to Malawi where they will be distributed amongst 13 centres for adults with disabilities and 11 primary schools. As well as tools and machines, the project will also provide support training programmes on the use of tools and developing sustainable livelihoods.

Partners in the project, which is based in the Zomba district of Southern Malawi, include the Ministry of Education and the Malawi Council for the Handicapped.

As part of an awareness raising exercise each stage of the project is being filmed. Emma Duncan of Global Concerns explained: "We have a film maker, Mara Menzies, who has been documenting various aspects of the project in Scotland, so that people in Malawi will be able to see where their tools come from and how they are produced, and we are planning to use local film makers in Malawi to show what happens to the tools there and the impact they have on people's livelihoods."

Gorgie TFSR's Paul Turner said: "This is a very exciting project for all of us in the workshop. For our group it means direct links with the people in Malawi who will be using the tools. Global Concerns understands the importance of this, and of film for relaying information back to our group.

"Exchange visits look possible too. Our members will be able to see for themselves how the tools they work so hard on refurbishing empower individuals, both with and without disabilities, to create community resources such as classrooms, school furniture and mobility aids. This all boosts self esteem and self reliance, in Malawi and here too."

The first batch of tools shipped this week included kits from TFSR groups in Milltown and Aberdeen as well as Gorgie, with the Edinburgh group also co-ordinating the kits and preparing them for dispatch.

Emma Duncan said: "This is the first project we've undertaken in partnership with TFSR. We managed to secure funding from the Scottish Government's International Development Fund earlier this year for this pilot scheme and hopefully, if it proves successful, we would like to continue working with TFSR and develop the project further."