



Pelican News



August 2010
Blue Skies Newsletter



Above: Members of the Foundation delegation which recently met in South Africa visiting a Primary school that has asked for a fence.

Year 2 Foundation Projects Approved

Projects in Ghana and South Africa given the go ahead

Members of the Blue Skies Foundation Board recently met in South Africa to discuss how to bring Foundation projects here. Mary Vizoso from Waitrose, Henri Zondag from Albert Heijn joined Anthony Pile and the Blue Skies South Africa team to visit potential projects in the communities near to the factory. The delegation visited a local school which has requested equipment for an IT resource centre for the community, a day centre for orphans which has asked for computer equipment and a primary school which has requested a fence. The Board approved five projects in total including a clinic refurbishment and a school building project in Ghana and the three projects that were visited in South Africa. Thanks to everyone who contributed towards making this meeting a success, particularly to Andre and Waydu who have done a huge amount of work to get the project selection process working and prepare for this meeting.



Above: The Day Centre for orphans in the community of Greylingstad in South Africa. The Day Centre provides food and learning activities for orphaned children. The Centre has requested computers to enhance the learning resources it provides to the children.



Blue Skies People



This month we meet Chrissie Orr (pictured above) who has joined Blue Skies as our new NPD Coordinator in the UK office. A warm welcome to Chrissie to the Blue Skies family.

I recently joined the Blue Skies team on the 23rd August fresh from Sheffield Hallam University where I spent 5 years studying Food and Nutrition.

Firstly I wanted to say how happy I am to be here and how welcome everybody has made me feel, even at the interview stage. During my first week here I have been working closely with Cath and have been made to feel so comfortable by everybody that I feel as if I've been here for much longer. Everybody at all Blue Skies sites have been fantastic to talk to and are so happy and positive it gives me great confidence that this is a company I will be extremely happy in!! I really look forward to visiting other sites and putting names to faces!!

I have always known that development is an area I wanted to work in from a young age, even at primary school, and then as I grew older my passion increased and I even took part in several competitions whilst at school which gave me a chance to shine. So it really was an obvious step to complete a course in what I loved best – Food.

During my time at university I spent a year working in industry for RF Brookes in Leicester where I am originally from. The company supply a selection of pies, pasties and Yorkshire puddings to Marks & Spencer along with a couple of products to the Spirit Group chain. Whilst there I worked closely with NPD and Technical teams re-developing existing products to use a new method of sauce production. This experience was priceless as I was closely involved from the start through to close to the end including commissioning, trials and launching process.

As a person I'm very family and friend orientated, so I spend much of my time with those closest to me doing a selection of things, whether it be a day out, socializing in the evening or even just watching a film together.

Thank you for making me feel so welcome and comfortable and I look forward to spending many happy times here at Blue Skies.

By Chrissie Orr, Blue Skies UK.

Fresh Orange Juice launched in South Africa

Blue Skies South Africa has launched a new freshly squeezed orange juice. The product is being sold under the Blue Skies brand and has been introduced on a trial basis in local supermarkets.



Blue Skies in Monoprix magazine



Blue Skies recently appeared in a magazine article by Monoprix which tells the story of how our pineapple gets from the farm to the store. Pictured above are Delphine and Charlotte in the Purchasing office at Monoprix.

Farewell Kenneth



Farewell and good luck to Kenneth Makwoba who is leaving Blue Skies South Africa after five years with the company. Kenneth joined in 2005 as a temporary employee and gradually worked his way up to a variety of different positions. Kenneth says he particularly enjoyed his time as a Peel Operator and says he liked it when it was busy. To begin with Kenneth says he found it tough and found he was the only person in a team of four people doing all the difficult work, however as time went by he was able to settle in and had a good relationship with his colleagues. Kenneth says that he likes Blue Skies because there are good opportunities within the company to learn and progress. He says whoever takes his place would need to be fit, prepared to work fast, have good communication skills and be loyal and passionate. Kenneth is leaving because he thinks it is time for a change but would hope one day to return to Blue Skies. HR Manager, Waydu Matlala said "We will miss Kenneth. He was a very active employee and always liked to take the initiative. He built confidence within staff and he never misused his authority. He was a great asset and mentor to everyone. We will greatly miss him and he will be difficult to replace."

Photo of the month



Above: Anthony with Waydu Matlala and her second daughter Tshegofatso (being held by Anthony), and her first daughter Tshepiso

Thank you Eve



A big thank you and farewell to Eve Harper who has been helping in the UK office over the past few months. Eve has made a big impact in the short time she has been with us and will be very much missed by everyone. Eve will be going back to university to complete her studies and we all wish Eve well and hope to see her again soon.

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to Amel Sabah, Mervat El-Ghazali, Stephan Morris and Iain Highlands who all celebrated birthdays this month. Happy Birthday to everyone who celebrated a birthday this month.

Worlds most expensive pineapple grown in UK?

The Independent has reported what could be the worlds most expensive pineapple has been grown in the UK. The pineapple measuring just six inches was grown in a glasshouse in Cornwall heated by horse manure. Although the pineapple is half the size of the average pineapple, this one costs around £10,000 which covers the cost of labour, equipment and urine soaked hay.

Safety Slogans

CHANCE TAKERS
ARE ACCIDENT
MAKERS.



Blue Skies Thinking

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Money Cannot do Everything



Kwaku Mainoo was one of the most prominent men in the neighbourhood with a fleet of luxurious cars and as many as 7 houses in high class residential areas in the city of Accra. Business looked very good and life appeared like all was going to be well with this man till death takes him out of this world. A year before he went

on retirement a strange illness leaned on him. Doctors both home and abroad tried their best but their best was not enough to save him. Interestingly the illness did not have a scientific cure so all drugs and treatments the doctors recommended rather worsened Mr. Mainoo's situation. As the days slipped by, property after property gave way for cash to flow into the medical coffers of personnel and facilities taking care of his health.

After battling for almost 3 years with this strange illness, my friend finally passed away in a chamber and hall apartment at his home town. This scenario makes it clear that money cannot do everything. Unfortunately, people have often thought that once they have money they can do everything but this assertion is very erroneous and will have to be withdrawn from one's thinking. I want every one to note that it is not everything that money can do. In a jiffy I will make this very clear to you.

What can money do to reverse traits like naughtiness, irresponsibility, pride, arrogance, incompetence, dishonesty, laziness, gossip, lateness, distrust, pilfering and unfaithfulness? These are behaviours that money with all its power can do nothing about. Money is powerful yes but this power is limited and toothless in diverse ways. Funnily most of us have failed to notice the weaknesses associated with money and have been unable to fight it as a result of our pursuit of this commodity. The other danger we have failed to recognize is that the desire to get money has resulted in situations where people readily do all kinds of things irrespective of the consequences. It gets to the extremes with some even visiting occults or shrines and getting hooked to very weird covenants just to make money. There are scenarios of people allegedly sacrificing relatives or friends to shrines with the intention of getting rich.

At work, people often use all kinds of documentary tricks to siphon monies from the company whilst others through wastage cause the company huge sums. In very unfortunate and embarrassing situations some people may even go to the extent of giving false info about and undermining others just for monetary gains or favours. This is very dangerous. In an organization like Blue Skies it is imperative for staff to be content with what is paid to them and work hard to achieve financial obligations instead of cutting corners to make money at the company's expense.

By Shakespeare Djokoto, Agronomy Dept. Blue Skies –Ghana

Cath walks 110 miles for charity

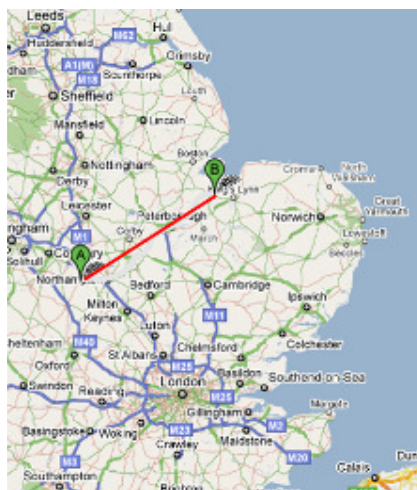
On Saturday 31st July, 4 friends and I set off on a 5 day walk to raise money for charity. We walked 110 miles from a village called Badby in Daventry to Sutton Bridge, along a river called the Nene Way, which runs through our hometown of Northampton. The idea came about as two friends of mine lost people close to them to cancer and so we decided to complete the walk for a charity called 'Cancer Research UK'.

The walk was really challenging as on most of the days we had to walk over 25 miles but luckily we had good weather (sunny but cloudy, so not too hot). We successfully completed the challenge on Wednesday and raised over £2000 for the charity. Thanks to everyone who supported this event.

By Cath Maskell, Blue Skies UK.



Above: Cath (right) preparing for the walk with boyfriend Barnaby.



Above: the route across the centre of England covering 120 miles