



PELICAN NEWS

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Blue Skies wins fourth Queen's Award



And launches ambitious project to meet the needs of the future



Blue Skies can today announce that it has been awarded its fourth Queen's Award for Enterprise in the Sustainable Development category.

The Queen's Awards for Enterprise was instituted by Royal Warrant in 1965 and is the highest official UK awards for British businesses. Businesses are awarded in three categories, International Trade, Innovation and Sustainable Development.

Blue Skies has been given a Queens Award in recognition of the company's pioneering sustainability plan, called the 'Blueprint'. This is a set of commitments for People, Planet and Profit, designed to ensure the business can meet the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The Blueprint is created through the company's 'Measure Engage Action' methodology, which enables the business to operate a cycle of continuous improvement based on being able to understand our impact, define our priorities and quickly implement actions to improve.

Chairman and Founder, Anthony Pile said "The principles of sustainable development are firmly embedded within our business, however we know there are growing issues of interest among our stakeholders, such as plastics, waste, and carbon emissions. Our Blueprint enables us to escalate focus on the most important areas, and accelerate ideas and projects that will enable us to lead the way."

CEO Hugh Pile said "Winning a fourth Queen's Award means a huge amount to us, and provides great encouragement and motivation to all our people at what is a very difficult time for the business and indeed the world. But it also comes at a very pertinent moment as, not only are we making an incredible effort to address the extraordinary challenges of the present, but we are also embarking on an ambitious new initiative called 'Project Phoenix', which will ensure we will be poised to meet the changing needs of our world in the future."

He added "We're looking at a whole raft of initiatives, such as sustainable packaging, longer-life products and new technologies that can increase efficiencies across our factories, farms and distribution and reduce our impact on the environment. Getting through the present crisis is our priority right now, but we will keep one eye very carefully on the future. That has always been our approach, and that is why we see a very exciting future for this business."



Keeping the sky blue

As a business that has moved mountains to get where we are today, we know what can be achieved if we all work together.

Over the past few weeks, we have achieved countless extraordinary feats. From transforming our entire logistics to moving production between our factories around the world, and implementing measures to ensure our people stay safe. And we're doing what we can to support for our communities, such as donating fruits to hospitals, sewing face masks and providing hygiene kits for the poorest communities where we operate.

Times are tough, but rest assured, together we've also made important steps to ensure we can sustain our business through these challenging times, so we can protect jobs, restore salaries and eventually bring everyone back.

Thank you to every one of our dear Blue Skies family for your commitment, your sacrifice and your courage, and every supplier, every farmer, and every customer for your unending support. We know there is still a long way to go, but together we'll get through this, and together we'll come out stronger, better and more determined than ever to bring joy to the world, and joy to you.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dkhlx-liAJY>

INSIDE THIS MONTH:

- P2** A thousand points of light brighten the way ahead
- P3** It's Health & Wellbeing month for our Blueprint monthly campaign
- P4** An update on Foundation projects

A thousand points of light to brighten the way ahead...

Among all the darkness, there are many acts of heroism and kindness that have helped provide a light to guide us through these difficult times. Here are just some of the countless amazing things that our people have been doing over the past few weeks.

- Our operations and logistics teams have performed miracles to secure freight space and, together with our General Managers, they have moved production to ensure our customers are kept supplied despite continually changing supply chain disruption.
- Our team in Corby have gone above and beyond to increase capacity and process more orders, while at the same time implementing social distancing measures.
- Egypt made quick changes to change shift patterns in response to the government introducing a curfew.
- With many of our machine suppliers in lock-down, our Engineer in Brazil Rubens Kaminski, managed to install a brand new machine without any on-site support from the manufacturers.
- Our technical, operations, finance and sales teams worked together to get a new customer on board and onto our systems within just a few days. They are now delivering an additional £20k worth of sales for the business!
- In Ghana, the Government have mandated people to wear face masks at work. Faced with difficulties in sourcing masks, our team managed to sew 3,000 reusable masks themselves!
- Many of our people have made sacrifices to help our business through this tough period, such as reducing their salaries for a temporary period and going on furlough.
- We have donated excess fruit to local hospitals in Ghana that are treating people who are unwell with coronavirus.

There are too many acts of heroism to mention here. To all our people, all over the world, we thank you for your dedication, commitment, sacrifice and hard work. Without you, we would not be here today.



Pictured: Top (left) our hand-sewn face masks, (right) staff in Ghana keep 2 metres apart as they are given an update on the business. Bottom (left), staff in Egypt present a hand made picture and scarf to the management team and (right), the hand washing station installed by the main entrance gate to the factory site in Egypt.



Lock Down Diaries

As we find ourselves living through unprecedented times, some of our General Managers have been recording their thoughts and feelings on how life has changed in their own countries. Here are a few revealing extracts from our GM's 'Lock Down Diaries'.

Flavia Mometti in Brazil writes: Yesterday, the numbers of death and contaminations all over the world were no longer a statistic and became reality with the loss of my first relative due Covid-19, my mother's uncle, with whom I have good memories during my childhood at the farm. Although he is not with us anymore, he has left a legacy to which we must cling: always look up, not down and live life intensely with everything good and bad it brings us. This is the way I have chosen to face this virus and get through this, being sure that there will be more gains than losses!

Janet Lutterodt in Ghana writes: Government has eased utility bills for Ghanaians; but the strife still continues. "Stay home, stay safe" is being preached by the government and also some credible health institutions, but staff try as much as they can to come to work. Their loyalty has really been tested this time. There has been little or no agitation from staff when shift patterns or rotas are reviewed at short notice. We are all in an emergency mode.

Andre Veldsman in South Africa writes: Covid-19 has actually had a very positive impact on South Africa. Crime has plummeted to all-round lows. Serious crime such as murder, rape and hi-jackings are about 15% lower compared to the same time last year. So we are actually better off believe it or not. There are more people surviving crime than those dying of Covid-19.

Mohamed Bahgat in Egypt writes: I was surprised this week when some ladies hand made a Blue Skies picture and scarf to present to me. They spent about 30 days to make it at home, just to send the message that they are happy to work in Blue Skies and they believe that together we will overcome this difficulty and become stronger.

David Moeketsi in South Africa writes: This disease has affected me greatly, my family lives in Soweto and since it was peak season, I could not travel to go see them. I planned on visiting them sometime after the mango season. Soweto being very close to the Covid-19 hotspot areas in Johannesburg, I decided to not go. I miss them dearly and I hope to see them once everything has settled.

You can read the entries in full at:
www.blueskies.com/lockdowndiaries

BLUEPRINT 2020

MONTHLY CAMPAIGN UPDATE



Our April theme is...
Health & Wellbeing

The Facts:

- Staying fit and healthy can reduce the risk of major illnesses, such as heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and cancer by up to 50% and lower the risk of early death by up to 30%.
- Exercise also makes us more productive by keeping blood, glucose and oxygen levels high, which feeds the brain. It also releases endorphins into the body giving our mood a boost.

Blueprint Commitment

We are committed to ensuring the safest and healthiest working environment for all our people.

What we've been doing

- Our Keep-Fit Club in Ghana has started hosting sessions online so that it can continue running during lock-down restrictions.
- We have provided mindfulness training and introduced a Blue Skies choir at our head office in the UK.
- We provide health care facilities where clinics are not easily accessible or affordable. Our clinic in Ghana employs four full-time nurses and sees over 100 people a day. It also offers counselling and advice on issues such as family planning and mental health.

For more information, visit our Blueprint 2020 special reports at:
www.blueskies.com/blueprint2020



CORONAVIRUS

Please keep following the advice below to protect yourself and others from coronavirus



WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash your hands thoroughly for about 20 seconds with soap and hot water or use a sanitizer gel.



USE A TISSUE FOR COUGHS

Use a tissue for coughs and sneezes. If you don't have a tissue use your sleeve. Immediately dispose of tissues.



AVOID TOUCHING YOUR FACE

Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.



AVOID CLOSE CONTACT WITH OTHERS

Avoid handshakes and close contact with others, especially people who are unwell.



STAY AT HOME IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS

If you have a new persistent cough or a high temperature, it is important that you stay home and seek medical advice

How can we do better?

Send us your ideas for how we can do ever better to meet our Blueprint Commitments.

You can submit them at:
<http://www.blueskies.com/ideas/>



Join the Pelican Support Network

Blue Skies has setup a the Pelican Support Network to share positive news, updates and ideas to lift our spirits and boost our mental wellbeing during these difficult times. You can join the network on whatsapp by clicking the link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/yb7kpm62>



Ghana's Keep-Fit Club goes online!

KEEP FIT
with Sampson



With lockdown restrictions preventing many of us from going to our usual gyms, Ghana's very own keep fit coach Sampson Kwawukumey, has started running keep-fit sessions which we can all join in with online!

You can join Keep Fit with Sampson every Thursday and Saturday at 0700 GMT. Just join our [Pelican Support Group](#) to get all the details!



FOUNDATION FOCUS

AN UPDATE ON OUR LATEST PROJECTS

Work starts on our 2020 Foundation projects in Ghana

Work has started and is making good progress on a number of projects in Ghana, including a new accommodation block for nurses, a toilet facility, a number of water systems and the renovation of a domestic violence victim support unit. All projects are on target to be completed by the end of the year. And a project to construct a classroom block and perimeter fence in Senegal is also now complete.



Pictured: Top, work progressing on the Abbey Quarshie toilet project. Bottom (left and middle) the completed school project at Thilane Dior and (right) work progressing on the new nurses accommodation at Timiabu.

Ghana schools receive books, toys and sports equipment



Before the partial lock-down started in Ghana, Blue Skies distributed a number of donated items to local schools. They included educational materials, books and toys that were donated by staff from Corby and the Head Office as part of our Christmas appeal, and gym kits that were donated by parents from Stamford School in the UK. Foundation Manager, Alistair Djimatey said “on behalf of the beneficiary schools and their head teachers, we wish to thank you for the efforts from Blue Skies staff and Stamford School for this kind gesture which will seriously enhance not just the teaching and learning but also the development of talents in our schools.”

And finally...

A group of people from Blue Skies Head Office recently formed a choir! They meet on a Monday lunchtime every fortnight and learn to sing a selection of joyful songs. There's no requirement to know how to sing or read music, everyone who participates does so in order to have fun together and relieve some stress. And since the coronavirus restrictions have prevented choir members from meeting in person, they have turned to meeting online! And thanks to modern technology, it's now possible for anyone from any of our sites to join the choir! So if you fancy joining the Blue Skies virtual choir, please get in touch with Denzil (simon.derrick@blueskies.com) or join the Pelican Support Group (details on page 3).

JOIN THE BLUE SKIES VIRTUAL CHOIR



Everyone is welcome!
You don't need to be able to read music
You don't even need to know how to sing
Join in to have some fun, and relieve some stress!

NEXT SESSION:
Monday 27th April, 1pm BST

NEXT MONTH...

- Our Blueprint campaign for the month of May is Emissions Reduction. What can we do to reduce our emissions?