



PELICAN NEWS

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Save our Trees!

Blue Skies Ghana have fought off an attempt from the National Disaster Management Organisation (NDMO) to cut down a tree which the business has sought to protect for the past ten years.

The tree, which is 15 metres in height and is a Ceiba, is native to tropical and subtropical areas of the Americas and tropical West Africa. The Ceiba was the most sacred tree for the ancient Maya, and according to Maya mythology, it was the symbol of the universe.

With the rapid pace of development in the area, there have been several attempts to cut down the tree, which has been claimed to be unsafe. The Forestry Commission and representatives of the Municipal Chief Executive have however declared that the tree does not pose a threat, and the order to remove the tree has since been withdrawn.

Blue Skies have always rigorously strived to preserve every tree possible, as they are vital to protecting biodiversity and sequestering carbon.



Inside this month:

- P2** Conference unveils Future Fit Plan
- P3** Our Blueprint Award Winners are revealed
- P6** Foundation approves twelve projects for 2020

BLUEPRINT

Blueprint 2020 Award Winners Revealed

Our 2019 Blueprint Award winners were announced on the 18th of November during our Group Conference in the UK. Turn to page 3 to find out who the winners are

Anthony finalist in Northampton Food and Drink Awards

Congratulations to our Founder and Chairman, Anthony Pile, who was a finalist at the prestigious 2019/2020 Northamptonshire Food and Drink Awards in the Food and Beverage Achiever Category. The Awards are held every year at Northampton's Royal and Derngate Theatre and recognise the wealth of talent in the food and drink industry in Northamptonshire.



Conference unveils *Future Fit* plan



Blue Skies held its annual conference on the 18-20 November at Sedgebrook Hall in the UK. The conference brings together people from each of our sites around the world and offers an opportunity for sharing ideas and collaborating on our plans for the future. This year's conference adopted the theme 'Future Fit' and set out plans for how the business would grow, diversify and remain profitable in a fast changing world.

Conference 2019 FUTURE FIT

Blue Skies exhibits at Fruit Attraction



Pictured: The Blue Skies team at Fruit Attraction in Madrid, 22-24 October. With thanks to the brand team and excellent preparations by Jayne and Diederick, we had an excellent show that attracted many new potential customers and partners for Blue Skies. A very useful presence also for Francois with quite a lot of visitors from the Middle East. Everyone loved our Ice Cream which was nominated among the five best innovations at the exhibition.



Do you have an idea that can help us improve?

Send us your Big Ideas!

It could be an idea for a new product, ways to become more environmentally friendly, ways to enhance how we work together or ways to become more efficient. Send us your ideas by completing the online form at:

<http://www.blueskies.com/ideas/>

Blue Skies samples juice in Dubai



Pictured: Blue Skies has recently been sampling its juice in stores in Dubai. The business is hoping to be able to establish its brand here and has already seen some strong interest among consumers.

Juice bar opened at Korle Bu Hospital



Blue Skies in Ghana have recently opened a new juice and ice-cream bar at the Korle Bu hospital. Korle Bu is the biggest hospital in Ghana.

Blueprint Award Winners Revealed



The 2019 Blueprint Awards have been announced during the Blue Skies Annual Conference at Sedgebrook Hall in the UK. In total, over 25 nominations were received in three categories; Care for the Environment, Respect for People and Driving Efficiencies.

Pictured from top left: Janet Lutterodt collects the Care for People Award on behalf of Ethel Offei Kwakye and Kwesi Brew from Blue Skies Ghana. Top Right: Lukasz Banas from Blue Skies UK collects the Driving Efficiencies award, and (bottom) Ruth Adjei from Blue Skies West Africa collects the award for Care for the Environment.

UK Task Force supports Brazil



Adam Sitek & Lukasz Banas from Corby and Ann Amos from Pitsford have been part of a Task Force Team in Brazil. It was three intensive days where the local team has learned a lot. Experiences have been shared and immediate actions taken to support the business in Brazil achieving a better performance and efficiency. The Task Force group is pictured in High Care

THE WINNING ENTRIES...



CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Winner: Ruth Adjei, Blue Skies West Africa

Initiative: Ruth has spearheaded the use of bat boxes to provide a home for bats at our papaya farms. It is hoped that encouraging bats that feed on insects will help to reduce the use of pesticides.



DRIVING EFFICIENCIES

Winner: Lukasz Banas from Blue Skies UK

Initiative: Introducing continuous production methods in Brazil. Lukasz increased productivity by 55% by making modifications to a mango processing line.

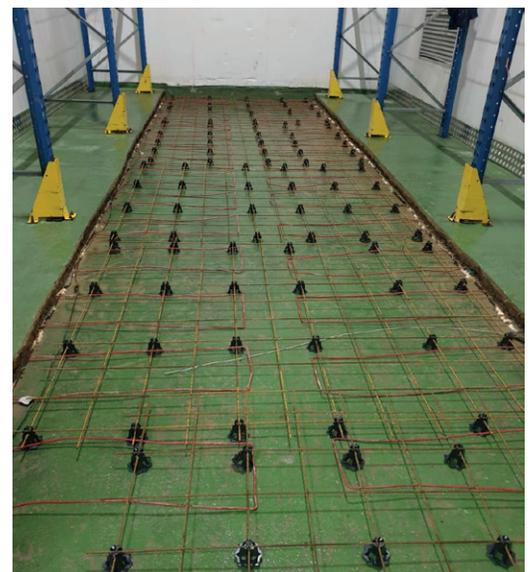


RESPECT FOR PEOPLE

Winners: Ethel Offei Kwakye and Kwesi Brew from Blue Skies Ghana

Initiative: Second Party Audits. Ethel and Kwesi have successfully led the implementation of a second party auditing system which actively seeks to help improve the livelihoods of farmers.

Blue Skies Corby takes the initiative



In order to reduce the cost of repairing cracked flooring which is unsafe for our electric forklift use, the team at Blue Skies UK decided to try it themselves! Led by Andrzej Sobocinski who has previously worked in construction, the guys have dug, prepared and finished the cracked flooring in one of our cold stores, saving Blue Skies UK around £10k, which is the figure quoted by local contractors. Well done guys!

Brazil admin team go 'Inside the Operations'



In October, following discussions with the accounts department, Flávia, our General Manager in Brazil, had the great idea to take the administrative team on a visit to the production floor in order to better understand the process and promote better integration between the administrative team and production. Production supervisor Leila and Production leader Aline conducted the factory tour explaining every step in detail. These were moments of great learning and synergy between the teams. Positive comments about the experience continued after the event. In the photo, our administrative team learns about fruit processing at High Care. Our HR team named the exercise 'Inside the Operations'.

Blue Skies Babies



Congratulations to our UK Finance Manager, David O'Keeffe and his partner Ally on the safe arrival of Evelyn Georgina O'Keeffe (pictured above) Evelyn was born on the 29th September 2019 and weighed 7lb 8oz

Introducing... Mark Crawford



Hi. I am really excited to be joining Blue Skies as the new Global Sales & Marketing Director. I have worked in the food industry for almost all my career, working across many different food types from countries as diverse as South Africa, the Caribbean and continental Europe. At the heart of how I work is a real enjoyment of food – I'll eat almost anything and believe that sharing food and mealtimes with people leads to some of the most rewarding moments in life. Away from work I have a wonderful and fruity wife, Lucy, (we met whilst selling Lychees and got engaged after visiting mango farms in South Africa) and two teenage sons. My love of food also dominates my leisure time as I enjoy fishing – then cooking the catch – and because of eating too much I also compete in long distance triathlons, which keeps me slim.

Andre is certified for awesomeness



Our South Africa General Manager, Andre Veldsman, was recently given a heroes reception when he celebrated his birthday in October. Staff turned out in numbers (pictured above) to wish Andre a

happy birthday and presented him with a specially made certificate officially recognising him as an excellent boss! The certificate read 'High five for being such a tremendously awesome boss. You do everything better than everyone else. Period. No one else has come close to being as awesome as you. No one in the future will ever be as awesome as you, not even robot people!'



BLUE SKIES HEROES

Fatou Guere wins our 2019 Chairman's Award



Congratulations to Fatou Guere from Blue Skies Senegal who has won our 2019 Chairman's Award, which was announced at our conference on the 18th of November. Fatou Guere joined Blue Skies Senegal in July 2012. She was quickly noticed and the following year she was promoted to the position of team leader. Through her leadership, we now have a dedicated and hard working team. Visitors are overwhelmed by the energy and love our staff have shown towards the job. Fatou has managed to show the same dedication and enthusiasm in Blue Skies Cote D'Ivoire. She is able to lead our team there and inspire them to do exactly what is needed. She is a tough and sometimes strict leader, but she is friendly and always fair. She is loved and respected by all our people. Fatou will organise a team to go and harvest at farms when we are in dire need of fruit. She will go to the market and collect our crates from traders, even if she has to fight to get them back. She protects anything that concerns Blue Skies, because for her, Blue Skies is her family.

All the people that were nominated for our Chairman's Award have received a Special Commendation Award. They were: Angela Johnston from Blue Skies UK, Sombu Nkosi, David Moeketsi, China Mokoena and Themba Mngomezulu from Blue Skies South Africa, Gerald Valkema from Blue Skies Netherlands, Henri Glazot from Blue Skies in France, Victoria Asante from Blue Skies Ghana, Gloria Asare from Blue Skies Senegal, and Guy Murfitt and George Hutton from Blue Skies Pitsford.

Weddings!



Very many congratulations to Elis Regina, our financial analyst who recently married. She is pictured above with her new husband. We wish the happy couple all the very best as they embark on their lives together.

Corby's Hero of the month



Blue Skies UK's Hero of the month is Botezatu Dinu. We nominate Botezatu for the help and support he has given in prep. He is always helpful to set up the area and then to clean at the end of the day. His performance, especially on watermelon, has been noticed by the whole team. He is a great example of commitment to the Blue Skies success.

Hilario Jesus completes Amsterdam Half Marathon

Congratulations to Hilario Jesus from Blue Skies Pitsford (pictured) who completed the Amsterdam Half Marathon this month in just two hours.



Brazil appoints new machinery team leader



High Care Operators are pictured above with Maria Valdirene who has been appointed Machinery team leader. With more automation coming, the team have many challenges ahead! Good luck Maria Valdirene on your new position.



Foundation Focus

AN UPDATE ON OUR LATEST PROJECTS

Twelve new Projects Approved for 2020



The Blue Skies Foundation has approved twelve new projects for 2020, including its first project in Brazil. The projects were approved at a Board Meeting in Ghana attended by representatives of Blue Skies, Waitrose and Albert Heijn. Our 2020 projects include:

- A maternity clinic for a community near to our Packhouse in Senegal.
- A toilet block for a pineapple farming community in Ghana.
- The School Farm Competition in Ghana
- A water system for a mango growing community in Ghana
- Textbooks for a school in South Africa
- A security fence for an Educentre in South Africa
- Water storage tanks for two schools in Ghana
- Accommodation for nurses in a mango growing area in Ghana
- A mammogram machine for a clinic in Egypt
- The renovation of a Domestic Violence Unit at a police station in Ghana
- Furniture and equipment for an orphanage in Brazil

Samson launches 'The Aged Trek' to encourage keep fit for over 50's



Samson Kwawukumey, our keep fit instructor in Ghana organised 'The Aged Trek' on 26th Sat Oct. The aim of the free event was to encourage the over fifties to keep fit, get physical and improve their health. Over 200 people attended from all over the local community and Accra. The eldest person taking part was eighty five. There was also a health screening after the trek. Blue Skies supported with fruit and juice.

Foundation to award 2019 School Farm Competition Winners



The Blue Skies Annual School Farm of the Year Awards culminates in a grand award ceremony in Koforidua on Friday 29th of November, where the winning schools will be crowned. A number of prizes are up for grabs including desktop computers, laptops and tablets. The School Farm of the Year Competition has been running now for five years and aims to raise the profile of agriculture among young people with a view to encourage the next generation of farmers

Brazil goes Pink



Blue Skies Brazil participated in the Pink October Campaign in support of the fight against breast cancer. The administrative team is pictured in the Operations Room wearing the pink ribbon in support of the campaign.

NEXT MONTH...

- We launch our Blueprint 2020 Monthly Campaigns!
- The winners of our 2019 School Farm Competition are revealed