



PELICAN NEWS

Blue Skies Newsletter | December 2020 | Issue 172 | www.blueskies.com |

Thank you all for helping us through a remarkable year

A message from our CEO Hugh Pile

It has been such a challenging and difficult year. And on Monday, we saw the UK's literally darkest day. It was the Winter Solstice - the fewest daylight hours of the year. And this felt rather depressingly appropriate as we had no answer on Brexit, Covid cases spiking across Europe, trucks stuck at ports, flight bans being applied across every country. Things haven't moved much since then, and our teams across the group continue to do remarkable things to ensure our products reach our customers. But maybe there are some rays of hope ahead although we will undoubtedly have many tricky weeks ahead.

So, at this moment where many of you take a few days of rest and recuperation, I wanted to drop you all a note and say a huge THANK YOU for your efforts and endeavours in 2020 and to wish you all enjoyable and restful moments with your family in the holiday period. It has truly been a remarkable global team effort; every challenge has been faced bravely head on, and every day we have witnessed wonderful moments of ingenuity, diligence and perseverance.

Finally – with more meaning and passion than ever before – let us hope for a 2021 filled with happiness, health and success.



Egypt signs UK trade agreement

Blue Skies has welcomed a new free trade agreement between the UK and Egypt.

Founder and chairman Anthony Pile said: "As a British business that has invested significantly in Egypt over the last 18 years, a continuation of the free trade agreement between Egypt and the UK is of critical importance to Blue Skies.

"The agreement is vital to securing jobs, prosperity, sustainability and indeed driving much needed economic growth in both Egypt and the UK."

Factory withstands big storm in Benin

A storm in Benin recently caused damage in the area around our factory. Fortunately, the factory itself stood firm, however the storm still managed to uproot trees as is shown in the photo below.



INSIDE THIS MONTH:

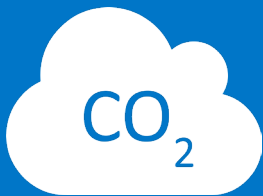
- P3** Brazil introduce action packed Health and Safety programme
- P4** 11 Foundation projects approved for 2021

BLUEPRINT 2021

Our Blueprint Big 4 Ambitions

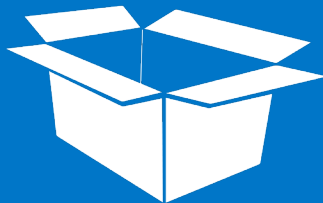
Blue Skies is introducing 4 big ambitions as part of its 2021 Blueprint Sustainability strategy. The Blueprint outlines our commitments for People, Planet and Profit. These commitments are based on priorities that have been identified in consultation with our stakeholders and are designed to ensure our business can meet the needs of an ever-changing world. Building on these commitments, we have outlined four core ambitions which encompass all elements of our Blueprint. These ambitions will enable the business to focus its energy and drive the actions and innovation needed to achieve our goals. Next year we will be publishing more information about our big four ambitions and how we plan to achieve them.

NET ZERO EMISSIONS



We will follow a path that leads us towards net zero emissions

100% SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS



We will only source materials that do not harm the environment

ZERO WASTE



We will ensure nothing is wasted and whatever is left is either reused or recycled

THRIVING COMMUNITIES



We will continue to benefit local communities and give every person the opportunity to thrive

Blue Skies speak at World Banana Forum



Representatives of the Blue Skies Foundation recently spoke on a virtual panel organised by the UN FAO World Banana Forum. The panel discussion on Corporate Responsibility and responding to COVID-19 saw several business and NGO's talking about the impact of the pandemic and some of the measures taken in response.

Blue Skies highlighted how the pandemic had affected the business and some of the initiatives that had been implemented to keep the business and people safe. They also talked about the Waitrose Foundation COVID-19 Response programme which had been used to provide hygiene kits for local communities and introduce a hardship fund for staff in need of support.

Janet Lutterodt appears on UN judging panel



Blue Skies Ghana GM, Janet Lutterodt, was part of a panel of judges for the United Nation's 'Hult Prize' which seeks to fund student led ideas that can help address some of the world's biggest challenges. Janet is pictured second from right with fellow panellists.

Programme in Brazil highlights importance of Health and Safety



Blue Skies Brazil have recently carried out an extensive training programme as part of activities for the annual Health and Safety Week. The programme included training 30 new members of the first aid and fire-fighting commission (pictured top). In addition 16 members of the new health and safety committee received Health and Safety at Work training. The SIPAT (Internal Week for the Prevention of Occupational Accidents) also induced lectures, group activities and the dissemination of guidance materials.

This year, due to the need to maintain social distance, the programme was organised in a different way to usual. Fernanda Renzi, Blue Skies Brazil's Occupational Health and Safety technician, came up with the idea to put on an exhibition. There was also a quiz held via Whatsapp where the winners received prizes.

At the end of SIPAT, a tasty special Christmas lunch was served and there was a raffle with gifts donated by some of our suppliers, providers and partners.



Egypt celebrate successful mango season



Pictured: The team at Blue Skies Egypt celebrating the end of a successful mango season.

Meet SA's budding new photographer



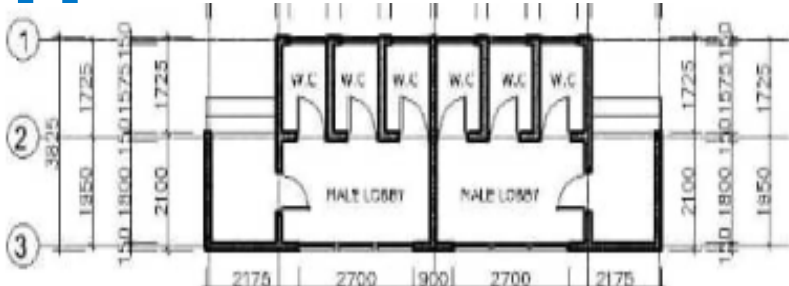
Sibusiso (pictured) from Blue Skies South Africa has shown he has a great talent for photography. After practicing during the year, he's taken some cool photos of the Blue Skies factory in Balfour. We have featured one here.



FOUNDATION FOCUS

AN UPDATE ON OUR LATEST PROJECTS

11 Foundation projects approved for 2021



Eleven more projects have been approved for 2021. They include a new 'Bio' toilet block for a school in Ghana (plans pictured above), a borehole and effluent treatment station for a children's educational charity in Brazil, IT equipment for an adult learning initiative in South Africa, a fully equipped computer classroom in Senegal and a gym for staff at Blue Skies Egypt. The projects were approved during a virtual Board meeting on the 10th of December. It was the last meeting to be attended by Waitrose Board Director Nyika Brain, who is moving on to a new role at Waitrose. We wish Nyika all the best in her new role and thank her for the great contribution she has made to the Foundation over the past few years. We'll miss you Nyika!

Blue Skies gets into the Christmas spirit



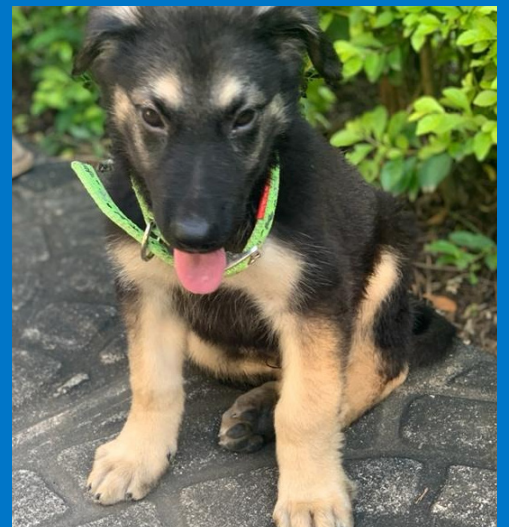
Secret Santa paid an early visit to Blue Skies Corby this month as people covertly exchanged gifts. The gifts were all left under the beautifully decorated Christmas tree. A variety of interesting presents were given, but Adam Sitek got particularly lucky when he received a lovely new apron (pictured above right). Our team in Benin have also got into the Christmas spirit with Santa making an appearance here too (pictured below left).

Congratulations



Congratulations to Mohamed Shalaby from Blue Skies Egypt who recently completed a masters degree in logistics.

And finally...



A warm welcome to Jerry, the new Head of Security at the Guest House in Ghana.

THAT'S ALL FOLKS!

Thank you for following us during this extraordinary year. We wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and all the very best for the New Year.

SEE YOU IN 2021