



PELICAN NEWS

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Blue Skies appeals to UK Government to protect rights of European staff

Blue Skies has expressed concerns over the UK Government's proposed new skills-based immigration system that is due to come in to effect in January next year. While the company supports the policy to raise the National Living Wage and national insurance thresholds, it opposes the use of rhetoric around ending reliance on "cheap, low skilled labour" as it believes this to be derogatory to the UK food industry and even more so to the hard working individuals who perform the essential roles needed in the UK to maintain a well-functioning society and a thriving economy.

Blue Skies is therefore calling on the government to:

- Urgently build a sector specific evidence base to fully understand the impact of the new system on UK industry and the wider economy of this hard stop to lower paid migration
- Develop a holistic access to labour strategy to address national labour constraints within entry level roles
- Recognise food production and food distribution as essential national industries and introduce, as a minimum immediate step, interim transitional lower paid migration arrangements.

Blue Skies employs over 300 people at its factory in Corby in the UK, of which over 90% are European citizens. The factory has served a critical role during the pandemic by providing a contingency for overseas operations that have been affected by supply-chain disruption. Blue Skies Chairman, Anthony Pile, said "The UK's proposed immigration policy creates yet more uncertainty among the passionate, dedicated and skilled people who have become valued members of our team in Corby. We need an immigration system that respects the important contribution our European friends have made and continue to make to our country, not one that will harm our industry and the very people who have made it a success".



Pictured: inside the Blue Skies factory in Corby



Blue Skies named Fruit Drink of the Year at Ghana Beverage Awards

Blue Skies Juice has been awarded the Fruit Drink of the Year at the annual Ghana Beverage Awards. The fourth edition of the Ghana Beverage Awards took place on the 13th June under the theme "Inspiring Excellence in Ghana's Beverage Industry". The event was organised virtually in adherence to the recommended COVID-19 protocols. The award was later presented in person at the Blue Skies Juice Bar (pictured).

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BLUEPRINT 2020

MONTHLY CAMPAIGN UPDATE



Our June theme is...

Local Communities

The Facts:

Blue Skies operates in parts of the world where our staff and farmers live in communities that lack basic infrastructure and resources such as decent schools, and clinics and access to safe, clean water drinking water and hygienic toilet facilities. For this reason, Blue Skies believes that it is the business's inherent duty to do what it can to help where it is needed the most.

Blueprint Commitment

We are committed to always engage with our local communities to understand peoples needs and provide support where it is within our means.

Foundation opens new victim support unit in Ghana



The Blue Skies Foundation has commissioned a new office for the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU) of the Nsawam Police Divisional Command. A short ceremony saw the attendance of some members of the Blue Skies local management team, Foundation Director Dr Abena Asomaning Antwi and Service Commanders of the station. The rehabilitated complex, which consists of two offices, a waiting area and sleeping area is expected to help ease the pressure faced by the DOVVSU team when handling sensitive domestic violence cases. Dr Abena Antwi stated that, "The Blue Skies Foundation will continue to support communities and stakeholders within its resources. However, it is the responsibility of these stakeholders to ensure the utmost use of these facilities". She further urged the Police Command to adopt a maintenance culture to ensure that the project becomes sustainable. The District Police Commander, Mrs Marian O. Adu also expressed her utmost gratitude to the Foundation for coming to its aid to help solve some of its most pressing problems. She further pledged to maintain the facility and ensure that it is optimally utilized. *Report by Alistair Djimatey.*

What we've been doing

- We remain committed to our Foundation which is supporting a further 20 projects in 2020, including the construction of accommodation for nurses in Ghana and the renovation of a maternity ward in Senegal.
- We are continuing our School Farm Competition in Ghana which seeks to encourage more young people to go in to agriculture.
- We are working with the Waitrose & Partners Foundation to support communities in Ghana by providing hygiene kits and a hardship fund for people whose livelihoods have been affected by coronavirus.

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



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/>



Mammography machine will save lives in Egypt

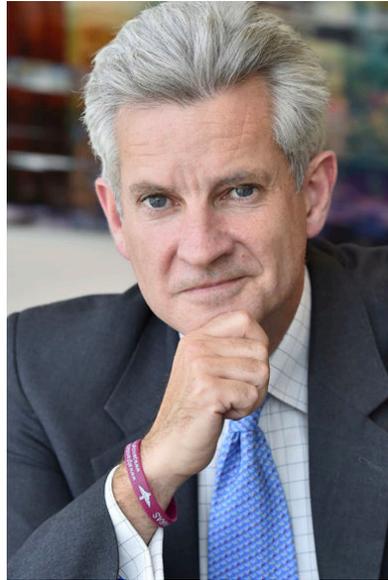
The Blue Skies Foundation in Egypt has now completed the purchase and installation of a new mammography machine for the Al-Rashad Clinic in 10th of Ramadan in Egypt. The new equipment will be the first of its kind in the area and will have an immediate impact by enabling more people to have scans who were previously unable to do so due to the lack of local facilities and the prohibitive cost of having scans carried out at private clinics. The mammography machine is pictured having just been installed at the hospital. Many thanks to the General Manager at Egypt Mohamed Bahgat, for the update and the photo.



Former Colonel inspires Blue Skies

On the 22nd of June, some of the Blue Skies team were honoured to hear a virtual talk from ex commander of the 9th parachute regiment in Iraq and Afghanistan, Stuart Toole. In the talk, titled 'Battlefield in the Boardroom', Stuart told his unique story and spoke about how a battlefield mentality can help colleagues in testing times, as well as TRIM which is a military method of spotting and dealing with stress. Many thanks to Stuart for the inspiring and insightful talk and also for Nexus Communications for hosting the event.

You can read about Stuart and find out about some of the books he has written at: shorturl.at/PQTV6



Brian runs 4/4/48 Charity Challenge



In June Brian Bircham (Global Brand Manager) undertook the 4/4/48 challenge: running 4 miles... every 4 hours... for 48 hours (48 miles total). Highlights included: Runs through the middle of the night at 1am, socially distanced support running from Sarah Bircham (UK NPd), and crossing the finish line at 5am for a much needed sit down! Brian commented the experience was 'intense' but 'overall a great physical and mental tester!'. As part of the challenge he raised £1,070 for Lymphoma Action.

Farewell Jill



This month we say a fond farewell to Jill Underwood. Jill has been with Blue Skies working in the accounts team at Pitsford for nearly 15 years. In that time Jill has become a very much valued and loved member of our family. Jill is leaving the business to move on to something new. We are all sad to see Jill go and will miss her greatly, but we wish her all the very best for the future and hope that she will drop in to see us once the office is back up and running. Farewell Jill, good luck in everything you do, and thank you for all you have done for Blue Skies.

Baby News!



The Editor and his wife Doris would like to announce the birth of their third daughter, Esme Selasie Derrick, who was born on the 25th of June weighing 6lb and 12oz. Esme is pictured above having one of her regular naps!

Blue Skies now available online in Ghana

Blue Skies freshly squeezed juice and dairy-free ice cream are now available to buy online in Ghana from Thrive Together. If you're in an eligible area in Ghana, you can order online and have everything delivered straight to your door. Click on the link below to find out more:



<https://thriveTogether.store/collections/blue-skies>



NEXT MONTH...

- An update on our Blueprint campaign for the month of July/August: Packaging and Materials.