



PELICAN NEWS

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Great Green Walk makes 30,000 km

Blue Skies have managed to travel over 31,000 kilometres and raise more than £800 in 8 weeks after taking part in the 'Great Green Walk'. The walk has brought together hundreds of people from 61 departments and across 12 different sites to walk, swim, run and cycle over 4 times the length of Africa's Great Green Wall. The challenge was started on May 22nd in recognition of International Day of Biological Diversity and has helped to raise funds for the Great Green Wall movement which is working to regreen Africa's drylands in partnership with Tree Aid. Read the full results on the back page.



Please Sign the petition to protect Atewa Forest

In February, Blue Skies highlighted how it was campaigning to protect Atewa Forest in Ghana against bauxite mining. Atewa forest is home to more than 1,000 species of plants, 230 species of birds, 570 species of butterflies and more than 50 species of mammals and reptiles, including the critically endangered Togo slippery frog. The forest is threatened however, by increased bauxite mining. We are therefore encouraging people to sign a petition from A Rocha International calling for the forest to be protected. The petition so far has 41,000 signatures, just 9,000 signatures off of the target. Please help us to get it to 50,000. **Click here to sign the petition.**



Blue Skies SA mourns the loss of Poppy



We are bereaved by the passing of our dear sister Poppy Neiso Mothokoa. She was born in 1967 and started working for Blue Skies in June 2021. She was only with us for a short period of time, but I recall the day when she got registered and how excited she was on the day she was employed. She mentioned to me that I will be able to work for my family and take care of my children and also pay tertiary fees for my other child. In the time she was with us she loved and respected her job and enjoyed working with us. She is survived by Her Husband, siblings and 3 Children Lehlohonolo, Thandeka & Zanele.

To our Blue Skies family, there are not enough words to fully express how thankful the family are for all the moral support, prayers and contribution that you have given to the family during their time of grieving. Your contribution has helped the family to bury their loved one with respect and dignity. Thank you.

By Waydu Nhlapo, Blue Skies SA.

George and Stephan make it to 20 Years at Blue Skies



In July, two familiar faces reached the milestone of twenty years service at Blue Skies. George Hutton and Stephan Morris both joined the company in 2001 and have become vital members of our Executive team, having led us to become leaders in operational and technical excellence. Speaking about George, Anthony said "Without George these last twenty years would have been nigh on impossible. Indeed, without him I'm not sure there would be a Blue Skies today". And of Stephan he said "When we were introduced George said we had to take Stephan on board because 'he is the best technical manager in the industry'. How right he was!"

The Audit Report



This month Blue Skies achieved zero non-conformances in its ICS audit in Benin. This was the first time the business has participated in an ICS audit, and the first third-party social audit for Benin. A very well done to all the staff at Blue Skies Benin on this excellent result for such a young member of the family.

Blue Skies Corby also achieved a final grade AA from its BRC audit this month (pictured). This was a three day meticulous audit during a very busy time for the factory. Technical Manager, Bozena Gwizdala said "Everyone worked very hard. Thanks to all the people from all departments, we could not have achieved a better result without all of you! Well done everyone!"

Where will your next big idea come from?



Where do big ideas come from? Some suggest there's always a 'lightbulb' or 'Eureka' moment. But one theory is that the best ideas come from a more gradual process and often through greater collaboration in the right kind of environment. There is a TedTalk by Steven Johnson who talks about 'where good ideas come from' and provides an interesting perspective on some of the biggest ideas, and why their origins are quite often very different from how they are reported and what we might assume.

Click here to view the TedTalk

Remember, if you have an idea, no matter how big or small, which you think could help Blue Skies, please share it with your colleagues or submit it at www.blueskies.com/ideas

Mohamed Shalaby highlights global shipping challenges



Blue Skies Egypt Logistics Manager, Mohamed Shalaby has participated in two events this month. In the first event, he moderated an online webinar on brexit between Egyptian exporters and the Food Export Council of Egypt. He also appeared live on Hora TV (pictured) talking about the challenges currently being faced by the global shipping industry.

Thank you to all our health professionals



The past eighteen months have been difficult for us all. On a personal and a professional level we have all faced challenges in one form or another. But while we struggle, we are always thankful to the health professionals who are always there for us and who have worked tirelessly throughout this pandemic to save lives.

Blue Skies South Africa have had a good relationship with the Department of Health since the beginning of the pandemic, and they have always been available to assist us when we needed

them, providing us with advice, supporting the vaccination programme and tending to emergencies.

Sister Thangi and Her team we would like to thank you all for your support, advice and training that you have given. Your phones are always open when we need to reach out to you, in times of our emergencies your team will attend to us as quickly as they could, thank you so much.

On the 16th of July 2021 you availed yourselves to our staff to render a vital and important service. We are blessed to have such health employees in our area. You are part of our family and together we will overcome.

Here is our message to Sister Thangi and her team:

To the amazing healthcare employees, we thank you for all the efforts and strength you have given us over the course of this pandemic. From the bravery and love you continue to give us, we appreciate the work you do to put an end to this virus. Especially with all the risks involved, you go to work anyway for the sake of others. I can't express enough how fond I am of your actions. Thank you again for everything that you do to protect us.

By Waydu Nhlapo, Blue Skies South Africa

Moth of the Month

This month we feature two photos from Anthony and Stephan, both taken in Benin. On the left is a beautiful caterpillar taken by Anthony. On the right is a big moth photographed by Stephan, which was on the floor by the washer. Please keep sending your moth and wildlife photos!



Brazil launch office recycling initiative



Blue Skies Brazil have introduced a new paper and plastic recycling process. They now separate all waste generated in the administrative area which they organise into bags for recycling. This is all part of Brazil's wider drive to reduce waste to landfill.

Fire prevention committee carry out inspections



Brazil's Fire prevention committee coordinated by Flademir Vieira de Faria are pictured carrying out tests on the fire pumps, hydrants and alarm systems. An inspection of fire extinguishers and hydrants are carried out monthly throughout the factory.



FOUNDATION FOCUS

AN UPDATE ON OUR LATEST PROJECTS

Waitrose Covid-19 Fund supports redundant farmers



The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in an unprecedented crisis for many businesses in Ghana and across the globe for which many have been forced to either shut down or develop strategies to remain sustainable. Zulu Farms (Unifruits), one of largest pineapple production companies in the Country, which is also part of the Blue Skies Group, was not an exception, and had to lay off some staff to enable the business to stay afloat.

An grant of £10,000 was received which was used to support redundant staff at Zulu farms. After several engagements and counselling sessions, with over 90 affected persons, a total of 64 people benefited directly from the Waitrose Global Fund. These individuals, within the age range of 21 to 59 years, had expressed interest in various vocations and trades that they wanted to pursue in order to support their families after losing their jobs. An arrangement was made with professional trainers to provide the requisite training needed, tools and equipment were procured and support was provided to enable others to set up or expand their existing trade.

A short ceremony was held to present items and financial support to beneficiaries on the 1st of June 2021 at Bawjuase in the Central Region of Ghana. The Director for West Africa of Blue Skies, Mrs. Ruth Smith Adjei, admonished the beneficiaries to receive this gesture with love and understand it is been presented to their livelihoods are supported in this difficult period.

Out of the total number of beneficiaries, thirty-eight individuals who opted to trade (selling, farming, graphic designing, electricals, auto mechanic, carpentry, tiling and welding) were supported with capital ranging from Gh1000-Gh1500 for their business ventures. Seven others were supported with hand sewing machines, scissors, tape measures and materials as support for their dressmaking and tailoring work.

Others who requested to acquire hair styling skills were also supported with hair dryers and washing sinks while one person received an oven to support his bakery business.

Furthermore, ten people, including two women were enrolled in a driving institution to be become professional drivers with all fees and charges fully paid to enable them to pursue careers in driving. The Public Affairs Manager of Blue Skies, Alistair Djimatey also advised them to invest the money in profitable ventures and ensure the skills of customer management as provided them should help them in all endeavors.

The ceremony ended with one of the beneficiaries, Derrick Adu Debrah extending his appreciation on behalf of everyone to the Waitrose Foundation and the entire team for their thoughtfulness, immense support and contribution.

Report by Alistair Djimatey, Blue Skies Foundation, Ghana

Stamford School collects clothes for Ghana



After what has been a challenging academic year the families of the Stamford Junior School generously donated their school shoes, trainers and sports shoes that were outgrown through lockdown along with old design PE kit and stationery. We collected a whopping 17 moving boxes over the 1 morning with a total of 252 pairs of shoes all in bags for the children in Ghana to use. The Asari Project will be distributing the donations in Ghana. We plan to keep you updated hopefully with photos once they arrive in Ghana Thanks again to The Asari Project, Stamford Junior School and the SJS PA. *By Carrie Starkings.*

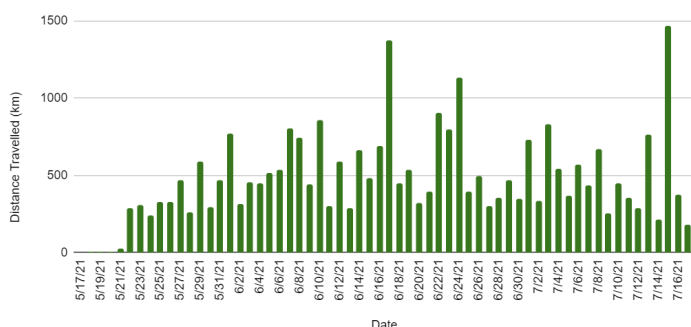
Foundation opens teacher's bungalow



The Blue Skies Foundation have opened a new four bedroom teacher's accommodation block for Tikobo Community School in the Western Region of Ghana. The new facility aims at improving teaching and academic performance for the school by improving access for teachers to the community.

Great Green Walk

The full results



The Blue Skies Great Green Walk took place between the 22nd of May and the 16th of July. In total 61 departments across 12 sites clocked 31,207km in 8 weeks, averaging 460km per day. 26,434km were walked, 42,432km were ran, 2,339km were cycled and 100km were swam. The chart below shows our progress over the full 8 weeks.

Ghana Fresh Cut completed the highest distance at 17,324km, followed by Pitsford with 4,430km. Egypt Freezone came third with 3,300km and then South Africa made it to fourth with 2,669km.

The department achieving the furthest distance wasn't really a department as such, but one of our most active groups in the business, the Ghana Keep Fit Club. Collectively they managed 4,853km. Second was the Ghana security team who achieved 3,739km, followed by Egypt Production with 2,826 km. You can see the top 20 departments below, but there are no individual winners or losers in the Great Green Walk, we are winners together! A special mention however must go to Hella Lipper from the Pitsford Technical Team, who over eight weeks swam almost 100km by herself! Well done to everyone who took part and a big thank you to everyone who donated.

#	DEPARTMENT	KILOMETRES
1	Keep Fit Club - Ghana (Fresh Cut)	5,853.60
2	Site/Security - Ghana (Fresh Cut)	3,739.32
3	Production - Egypt (Freezone)	2,826.59
4	Technical - Ghana (Fresh Cut)	2,035.49
5	Estates - Ghana (Fresh Cut)	1,779.21
6	Sales, Marketing and PR - United Kingdom (Pitsf)	1,674.77
7	Health and Safety - Ghana (Fresh Cut)	1,365.07
8	Technical - South Africa	1,136.38
9	Transport - Ghana (Fresh Cut)	908.85
10	General Management - Ghana (Fresh Cut)	890.40
11	NPD and Innovation - United Kingdom (Pitsford)	870.99
12	General Management - United Kingdom (Pitsford)	704.10
13	Sales, Marketing and PR - Netherlands	566.90
14	Finance - United Kingdom (Pitsford)	560.35
15	Finance - South Africa	483.92
16	HR - Ghana (Fresh Cut)	456.79
17	Health and Safety - Ghana (Branded)	422.00
18	Engineering - South Africa	408.31
19	Production - Brazil	368.00
20	Technical - United Kingdom (Pitsford)	349.74

Congratulations



Congratulations to Production Engineer Ahmed Sayed of Blue Skies Egypt and Yassmin Magdy, who were married this month. We wish Ahmed and Yassmin a very happy marriage.

Welcome Shiv and farewell Iain, Sarah and Brian



A warm Blue Skies welcome to Shiv Krishnan who has joined Blue Skies as our new Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Shiv brings with him a wealth of experience. A qualified Chartered Accountant, having trained with PwC, he gained significant experience at Unilever in a range of Financial

and Commercial roles. He understands West Africa well, having spent many years in Nigeria in a number of Supply, Operations and Financial General Management roles and also the sharp end of the financial world having worked in investments for a private high-net-worth fund. Welcome Shiv and we hope you will be very happy at Blue Skies.

This month we also say happy retirement to Iain Highlands who stepped in for a short time as interim head of finance. Iain had previously spent many years at Blue Skies before moving to another role, but he couldn't resist the opportunity to come back and finish his career with us. Happy retirement Iain and thanks for all your help.

Last but not least, we say farewell to Sarah Bircham and Brian Bircham who are leaving Blue Skies for pastures new. Sarah spent many years as a New Product Development manager, overseeing the launch of a host of new products and building our plastics strategy. Brian has also made a significant impact, having transformed our brand and launched our latest campaign with Reggie Yates. We wish Sarah and Brian all the very best in their new jobs.