

Blue Skies PELICAN NEWS

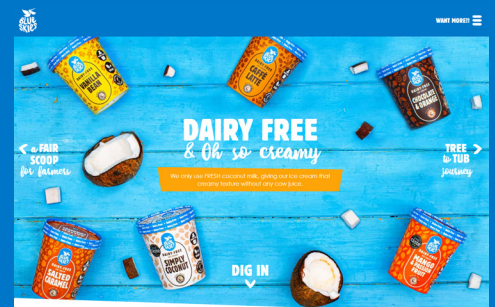
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Blue Skies calls for urgent action to help UK food industry in crisis

Blue Skies have written to the government asking for urgent action to support the food industry as it faces the 'Perfect Storm' of COVID-19 restrictions, immigration policy and tax reform. All three issues are already impacting the ability of food suppliers and hauliers to transport their products and recruit the necessary labour to keep retailers supplied. Pelican News reported back in July 2020 how concerns about the UK government's immigration policy would lead to labour shortages. These fears have now materialised and, compounded with the continuing instability of freight routes, threaten to do serious long-term damage to the UK food and beverage sector. CEO, Hugh Pile, said "We have been struck by the sheer number of companies in our sector that are being forced to scale back their operations and reduce supplies to UK retailers. Unless something is done soon, it will start to have a noticeable impact on availability in stores, something which we are pulling out all the stops to avoid".



New ice-cream site launched



Blue Skies have launched a new website to promote our dairy-free ice-cream and our fantastic new partnership with Reggie Yates. Aimed to be more consumer facing, the site allows users to experience the 'tree to tub' journey to understand the benefits of using fresh coconut milk and how this delivers a dairy-free ice-cream that is "oh so creamy". Access the website at www.icecream.blueskies.com

INSIDE THIS MONTH:

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- P3** Great Green Walk achieves 16,000 km in under 5 weeks!

IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

Meet the moths that are thriving in Benin



Following International Day for Biological Diversity on the 22nd of May, we have received a wonderful selection photos showing moths seen at our factory in Benin. Blue Skies actively seeks to encourage biodiversity at its factories so it is great to see these beautiful photos. Is anyone able to name them? Send your answers to simon.derrick@blueskies.com and we'll reveal the answers in the next edition of Pelican News.

Sparrow on blossom crop wins Pitsford photography contest



Congratulations to CEO and budding photographer, Hugh Pile, on winning first place in a recent 'Spring time' photography competition held amongst staff at Pitsford. The winning photo (pictured above) depicts a sparrow on blossom.

The Audit Report

There have been yet more successes with audits at our sites this month with Senegal completing their GlobalGAP audit and their first ever SMETA audit, and Egypt completing their ISO 22000 and Fairtrade audits! Well done to all our teams involved in ensuring we continue to uphold high standards across the business. Pictured below (top) is the team in Egypt after their Fairtrade audit, and (bottom), the team in Senegal after their SMETA audit.



Brazil form new staff committee



Blue Skies have formed a new 'Labour Relations Committee' comprised of staff voted in by their colleagues during elections which took place on the 14th and 15th of June. The staff that were voted in are pictured above (left to right) Marcela Araujo (technical), Bianca Garcia (production) and Nayhale Marques (production). This Committee complements the existing communication channels and representative committees in Brazil.



FOUNDATION FOCUS

AN UPDATE ON OUR LATEST PROJECTS

Foundation opens Kpong school sanitation block



BEFORE



AFTER

The Blue Skies Foundation have officially opened a new bathroom and toilet facility for a girls boarding school in Ghana. The project (pictured left) is a significant upgrade on the previous structure and will greatly help to improve the health, safety and security of the boarders.

Blue Skies Great Green Walk smashes target to achieve 16,000 km in 5 weeks!



After launching on May 23rd, participants in the Blue Skies Great Green Walk have managed to achieve 16,000 km in less than 5 weeks, smashing the original target of 8,000 km by the 16th of July. Over 58 departments across 11 sites have joined the Great Green Walk so far, collectively managing to walk 12,000 km, run 2,200 km, cycle 15,000 km and swim 51 km! But we're not finished yet, and after voting to increase the target, the race is on to now accomplish 30,000 km by the 16th of July!

Thanks again to everyone who has taken part or donated so far. The Great Green Walk aims to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity by raising money for Tree Aid, a charity which is supporting the planting of Africa's Great Green Wall. You can sponsor our amazing progress by supporting TreeAid at: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/blueskiesgreatgreenwalk And you can check our progress at www.blueskies.com/results

*** Donate before 11 July and your gift will be doubled by the UK government! ***

Ghana keep fit for Founders Day



Pictured: Staff at Blue Skies Ghana gathered at the Guest House on the 12 of June to participate in a series of keep-fit and tree planting activities to mark the annual Founder's Day celebrations. Founder's Day takes place every year in June to celebrate the birthday of Blue Skies Founder, Anthony Pile.

15 minute Keep Fit delivery service launched in Ghana!



Blue Skies Ghana have introduced a Keep Fit Delivery service for staff at the factory! Departments can request a 'moderate' 15 minute workout to be conducted at their departments by our instructors at a set time. The initiative is already proving to help promote well-being and boost morale.

PEOPLE OF BLUE SKIES

Meet Portia Obonse



Meet Miss Portia Obonse, one of two female engineers at the Blue Skies' Ghana Engineering Department. After joining Blue Skies Ghana in 2018, Portia has broken many barriers in the male-dominated industry. She said the opportunity given to her by Blue Skies after the completion of her tertiary education has helped her tremendously. Portia has stayed with Blue Skies for over 3 years, and her job has not just accelerated her professional growth but her personal growth as well.

Among a tall list of newly acquired experiences, she has developed real appreciation for team work which she says may never have been possible without the support from our inclusive and seamless society.

Shedding more light on her experiences, Portia acknowledges that though she entered Blue Skies as a certified electrical engineer, she is now a fully trained engineer. Over the years, she has also acquired knowledge and potent skills in both mechanical and civil engineering.

For Portia, seeing more women like her in her field of work will boost her morale, understanding that her own growth has been made possible because of the opportunities Blue Skies offers women. She is inspired by the achievements of women in key leadership positions at Blue Skies and has urged the younger ones to persevere and ask for help when in need. "People are willing to help if only you ask for it" she says.

Portia believes many women are reluctant to pursue the engineering program out of fear of maths and the associated occupational hazards, and wishes to be a role model to many young women who would like to embark on the same journey. She has advised young girls who have the zeal for the job to "learn before the fear" emphasizing that in actual fact, the fear is nothing but the mind playing tricks.

Portia believes the involvement of women can be heightened by the government through youth-centred initiatives while acknowledging that women are at a greater advantage in the engineering field. "Women should strive more, push, ask without fear. If there is fear you can't achieve what you want to achieve. It applies to everyone" she adds.

Portia is part of the few who have benefited from last year's Industrial Control Systems Training with Aytech Power and Control Systems Limited (APCS), a training which was sponsored by Blue Skies Ghana. She says the hands-on practical training was a chance accorded to her to improve herself.

By Alistair Djimatey, Blue Skies Ghana

Happy Birthday to Rose Azumah



A very Happy Birthday to Rose Azumah from Blue Skies Ghana who turned 50 this month. Rose is our long standing procurement manager, leader of a team of men and a staunch patron of the Blue Skies Prayer team. Happy Birthday to this woman of true character, charisma and competence.

Greetings from Benin



Many thanks to Stephan Morris for these photos from Blue Skies Benin. Pictured above (top to bottom) Francoise and Esperence weighing pineapple in high care, Bella, Fustelle, and Raliath packing pineapple and Abel operating the Proseal sealing machine in high care.