



PELICAN NEWS

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Eleven years to save the planet



Just over a decade is all that remains to stop irreversible damage from climate change, according to a recent high level meeting convened by the UN General Assembly, in which world leaders were urged to take ambitious and urgent action to address what is increasingly seen as a global emergency.

With the prospect of rising sea levels, increasing extreme weather events and drought, Blue Skies, must take its responsibility to do all it can to help safeguard the planet for our future generations. From using more sustainable packaging to reducing consumption of water and energy, minimising waste and cutting our emissions - it has never been more important for us all to act. Whether it be the product ideas we develop, the way we grow them, the way we manufacture them or the way we distribute and market them, all our decisions must be based not only be on how much margin we make, but also what impact they have on people and planet. Our triple bottom line.

Our Blueprint provides a strategy for how we will build a stronger business for a better world - but we will only ever achieve this if we all work together.

UK Government highlights Blue Skies Impact

Blue Skies has recently been highlighted by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department of International Development (DFID) as an example of a business with a strong impact on sustainable development in Africa.

Chairman and Founder Anthony Pile gave a TED-Talk style presentation on building a sustainable future, at a commonwealth event in Ghana attended by the UK Foreign Secretary, Jeremy Hunt. Blue Skies also featured in a video promoted by DFID on their twitter channel. You can see the video in full on youtube at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=0MJAZFuxKww



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#UKaid is helping @BlueSkiesFruit to support local communities in Ghana 🇬🇭 and supply UK 🇬🇧 supermarkets with fresh fruit 🍎



2:53 am - 30 Apr 2019

27 Retweets 52 Likes

Swiss team visit Egypt



This month Blue Skies Egypt hosted a visit by International Account Manager Gerald Valkema, NPD Manager Sarah Bircham and Thomas Lamparter from our Swiss Partner HPW. They are pictured above at a melon farm.

Naughty but Nice Digital Campaign goes live!



This month marks the launch of our 'Naughty but Nice' digital campaign. In a series of short 'popping' videos we celebrate the indulgence and freshness of our branded ice cream and lollies. The campaign is now live on UK Facebook and Instagram, introducing our brand to new customers giving them another reason to look forward to a hot English summer! *Report by Brian Bircham.*

China Europe International Business School visit Blue Skies



46 MBA students and 6 lecturers from the the China Europe International Business School (CEIBS) recently visited Blue Skies Ghana as part of their course work. There were students from Europe, Asia and Africa present as well as Dr. Dipak Chand Jain who is the Co-President and Global Advisor of China Europe International Business School.



Blue Skies in panel debate Oxford Africa Conference

Simon Derrick from Blue Skies Pitsford joined a panel discussion on agriculture at the Oxford Africa Conference this month. The Conference, hosted by students at Oxford University, brings together experts in different fields to debate various topics on Africa. Also at the Conference were Ms Arunma Oteh, Former Vice President and Treasurer of the World Bank Group and Dr Kandeh Yumkella, former Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation.



Foundation Focus

AN UPDATE ON OUR LATEST PROJECTS



2019 projects take shape

Many of our 2019 Foundation projects are now well underway, including work on a new classroom blocks at a village near to the factory in Ghana (pictured), and at a school near to our packhouse in Senegal. A new lab analyser has also been purchased for a clinic in Egypt (see special report). 2019 marks ten years of the Blue Skies Foundation. An impact report and special film will be released next month to celebrate this important milestone of ‘ten years transforming lives’.

Blue Skies South Africa supports local teenagers



Hope for Women, a spiritual-born support group started by staff in South Africa, recently held a seminar for teenage girls from local communities designed to help motivate, empower and encourage them to excel in their lives. Topics included spiritual upliftment and careers guidance. An aerobics session was also held to break the ice.

We would like to thank all the stakeholders and individuals for supporting the event, including Blue Skies South Africa, RCFC church for the venue, Lindiwe Mashaya for providing the Ministry, the Department of Agriculture Forestry & Fisheries (careers awareness), Sibongile Nhlapo (careers guidance), Dike Mabelane (aerobics instructor), Morena Nkosi (music), the caterers and last but not least, all the teenage girls who attended the event and their parents who trusted the ministry with their kids.

Thanks to Mampho Mokoena for the report

New machine will improve diagnosis for clinic in Egypt



A project to provide a medical analyser for a clinic in Egypt has been successfully implemented. Trials of the lab machine purchased for the Al Rashad charity clinic (pictured) have been carried out on the first sixty people. The machine can test samples from 60 individuals for 40 different conditions and takes less than 2 hours. The machine will speed up the time it takes to provide test results for patients and make diagnosis more affordable for the local community.

Fairtrade tick for melons



Blue Skies Egypt have achieved Fairtrade certification melon after another successful audit result for the association of Melon farmers. Congratulations Blue Skies Egypt. The audit team and members of the association are pictured above.

Going the extra mile to keep customers served



Staff at Blue Skies Brazil recently went the extra mile to meet huge orders with one of our newest customers, despite challenges with machinery and fruit. "Our people definitely make the difference in the business and never leave us behind" says General Manager, Flavia Mometti. "Thank you to all our staff and also to Colletivas, our canteen contractor, who provided us with snacks to help get us through this exceptionally busy period".

Staff complete English course



A number of staff at Blue Skies in Corby have finished their first English language course (E1 and E2 levels). Pictured above is one of the happy groups with their fresh certificates. Blue Skies UK plan to repeat the course next year to give more people a chance to improve their English skills.

Gerald to walk 40km for Dutch Refugee Foundation



When we thought off the idea to join the 40-kilometer night walk for charity this upcoming June it was comfortably far away. But now that it's fast approaching, our preparations are becoming more and more serious. Next to getting the 'right' hiking boots and luminous vests, night-time walking at all hours of the day has become a regular and recurring thing on our agenda.

Do you know that 1 in 110 people worldwide is on the run?

68.5 million men, women and children around the world are fleeing from war, violence and oppression. It's higher than ever before and as such, we decided to participate in the 40-kilometer night walk, organised by the Dutch Refugee Foundation on June 15 -16 June. Walks are being organised throughout the Netherlands to raise money and draw attention to all those people who cannot simply be or feel (at) home - one of those things that we so easily take for granted in our own lives - let alone have a roof over their heads, or access to medical care, food and clean water.

The more the better!

We are going to walk (and for sure: struggle) through the night to support all those in need - departing at midnight from Amsterdam and hoping to arrive in Haarlem early the next morning. We naturally want to raise as much money as possible. Our aim is to raise at least 1000 euros and with your contribution I hope we can really get there! Every little contribution helps.

You can donate online via the website:

<https://www.nachtvande vluchteling.nl/team/anette-gerald>

Thanks so much in advance!
Gerald & Anette

Rich to attempt Three Peaks



On the 26th May Rich Railton will be attempting to complete the UK 3 peaks challenge. The challenge is to climb the highest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales and drive between them all within 24 hours. Why you may ask? To raise funds for the RTS support group and to raise awareness of the condition.

RTS or Rubinstein-Taybi Syndrome is a specific pattern of physical features and developmental disabilities and is the result of chromosomal abnormality which occurs very early on in a baby's development in the womb. This leads to moderate to severe learning and developmental difficulties and delays. For example, most babies start to walk at 11-15 months. For a child with RTS, this would be in the region of 15-54 months

RTS affects approximately 1 in 100,000 births, it is so rare that most doctors don't know what it is, let alone, how best to manage it which is where the RTS support group comes in. This group offers information and support to families and individuals affected by RTS to help them to understand and adapt to life with the condition.

The support group is a not-for-profit organisation which is completely funded by donations, so please help Rich to make these family's lives a little easier. You can donate at the website below:
<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/RTS3PeaksChallenge>

For more about RTS or the support group please go to www.rtsuk.org.