

# PELICAN NEWS

Blue Skies Newsletter | October 2021 | Issue 181 | [www.blueskies.com](http://www.blueskies.com) |

## Blue Skies receives GOLD in Weetabix Sustainability Award



Blue Skies has been awarded gold in the Weetabix Sustainability Award, part of the 2021 Northamptonshire Food and Drink Awards. The award recognises how Blue Skies embeds sustainability within the business through the company's Blueprint Strategy and how our responsibility for balancing the needs of people, planet and profit forms a core part of our

culture and Joint Effort Enterprise model. The awards were announced during a glittering ceremony at the Royal and Derngate Theatre in Northampton on the 20th of October. The sustainability award was presented by John Petre, Supply Chain & Technical Director at Weetabix, and the TV Broadcaster, Helen Fospero.



*Pictured: Abbey Holmes and Simon Derrick of Blue Skies with Helen Fospero (far left) and John Petre (centre right)*

## ABOVE AND BEYOND 2021 AWARDS

### Deadline extended to enter Blue Skies Above and Beyond Awards

The deadline to enter our 2021 Above and Beyond Awards has been extended to November 30th following the postponement of the Blue Skies conference to the 6th of December. This means you have more time to enter in the five main categories:

- Driving Efficiencies
- Accelerating Growth
- Enabling Diversification
- Caring for People and Communities
- Protecting Biodiversity

Plus, you can enter in our special recognition awards: the Chairman's Award and the Blueprint Award.

To enter, please go to:

[www.blueskies.com/aboveandbeyond](http://www.blueskies.com/aboveandbeyond)

The winners will be announced at our conference in December.

## INSIDE THIS MONTH:

- P2** RSA introduce a well-being programme
- P3** Budget team discover abundance of biodiversity in Ghana

## South Africa introduces Keep Fit lessons for staff



**By Lucinda Hills.** When we think about the value of exercise, we tend to focus on the physical benefits. Lower blood pressure, a healthier heart, a more attentive physique. But our mental fire-power is directly linked to our physical regimen, our performance at work and our overall well-being.



Regular exercise in your routine can help improve your concentration, sharpen your memory, enable faster learning, prolong mental stamina, enhance creativity, lower stress levels and elevate your mood, which can all have serious implications for workplace performance.

At Blue Skies South Africa we recently introduced exercise lessons, starting once a week for an hour for the month of September. It is currently aiming on exercising 3 times per week at different times of the day due to the shifts we are working and we want all employees to get a few hours per week. We are looking to add more employees to participate and to improve the overall well-being of all staff.

## Measuring the impact of a healthy lifestyle in Brazil

In September, Blue Skies Brazil reintroduced their annual well-being day to promote awareness of living a healthy lifestyle such as participating in regular sport and exercise and eating a balanced diet. During well-being day, staff are able to participate in a range of activities including exercise sessions, training and massages. The event also offers the opportunity for staff to take part in research to measure health impacts and demonstrate the benefits of healthy



## Fairtrade success for Egypt pom



Blue Skies Egypt recently received a successful Fairtrade audit for the association of pomegranate growers. The team are pictured above with the auditor.

## Blue Skies display dazzles in Carrefour



Pictured above: a colourful display of Blue Skies fruit and vegetables found at a Carrefour store in France.

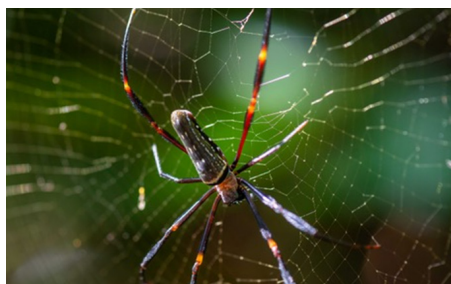
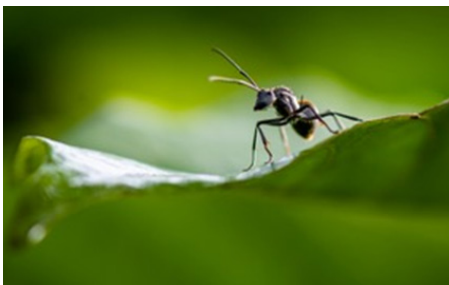
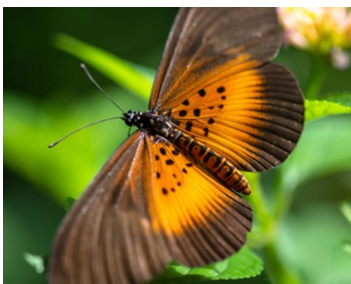
## Rubbish Artwork winner revealed



Congratulations to Menna Saly of Blue Skies Egypt for winning our 'Rubbish Artwork' Recycling Competition for a wonderful interpretation of the Blue Skies logo (pictured) made with waste cardboard. Menna wins some Carrefour vouchers. Well done to everyone who took part. We received some truly inspiring entries!



# Budget team discover an abundance of biodiversity on our doorstep in Ghana



**By Hugh Pile.** During a recent budget team visit to Ghana as part of the APP (the annual planning process), an intrepid crew of explorers headed out to a nearby nature reserve called the Atewa Range Forest Reserve. This evergreen forest is very rare in Ghana and is protected from farming but still sadly at risk from logging and mining. That is why eco-tourism can be so important for it.

The reserve is quite astonishing: many of the plant species occur only in this part of Ghana, and there are many rare birds and butterflies as well as a few critically endangered frog species. Our team of explorers hiked for 6 hours towards the summit and back, and were lucky enough to enjoy some remarkable bird sightings, as well as butterflies, dragon flies and some amazing spiders.

We must never forget that around all of our sites, there is much beauty if we just choose to look - including crocodiles (pictured above as found at Zulu farm!).

*Some of the many incredible photos of wildlife taken are shown above, including a sighting of a rare Englishman with long-focus lens (shown bottom left)*

## Brazil turns food waste to compost

**By Angelo Silva.** Blue Skies Brazil recently introduced an initiative to reuse eggshells and coffee grounds to make a homemade organic fertilizer. For 8 days we collected discarded eggshells and coffee grounds from around the factory and then let the residues dry in the sun. After drying, the eggshells were crushed and together with the coffee grounds flour was mixed with earth and composted leaves. After this preparation, with the earth ready, we collected used disposable cups, sanitized them, dried them and then made them into small vases. We then planted some seedlings and delivered them to over 100 employees during Welfare Day which took place on September 29th.



## RSA impresses in Environmental Assessment



**By Waydu Nhlapo.** On October 7th, Blue Skies South Africa received an environmental assessment by Enviroscentific, an independent company appointed by Woolworths to conduct a Green Factory Assessment which aims to evaluate ethical and environmental practices related to areas including water use, effluent and waste management and emissions. The assessment team of Adele and Tess (pictured) were complimentary of Blue Skies and encouraged the team to keep up the good work, and always keep nature in mind.





# FOUNDATION FOCUS

## AN UPDATE ON OUR LATEST PROJECTS

## School Farm Awards to take place on 26 November

The 2021 School Farm Awards which is funded by the Blue Skies Foundation in Ghana, will take place on the 26th of November at the Gnat Hall in Koforidua. The awards will recognise the best schools, students and teachers who have participated in this year's competition, with a host of exciting prizes awarded to the winners. To find out more, you can follow the School Farm facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/blueskiesschoolfarm/>



## Saving lives by giving blood



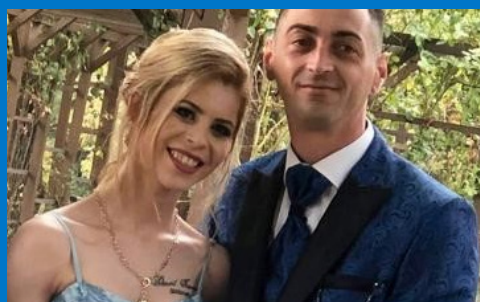
For another year, staff at Blue Skies South Africa have been volunteering in a blood donor programme organised by the South African National Blood Service (SANBS) and hosted by Blue Skies. 20 donors participated in the most recent blood drive in October and a total of 106 donors have so far taken part throughout the year. According to SANBS this has helped to save up to 318 lives since January.

## Your Macmillan donations would fund a nurse for three weeks

Macmillan Cancer Support have written to Blue Skies to thank all our supporters who have donated to the charity through our annual Walk for Sara and Coffee Mornings. In total, these events have raised an amazing £3,528 since they started, which Macmillan inform us would fund a nurse for 3 weeks. Thank you to everyone who has supported Macmillan over the years, you are helping to make a huge difference to the lives of people living with cancer.

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Cosmin and Mihaela from Blue Skies UK who married on 25th of September (pictured below top) and Sorin and Ana-Maria also from Blue Skies UK who married on the 28th of September (pictured below bottom). We wish both couples a lot of luck on their new journeys together. Congratulation to both couples!



## Thank you and Happy Retirement



**By Sabine Hill.** A big thank you to Malgorzata Pudelska (Gosia) who has recently retired from Blue Skies Corby. Gosia has been working with us for 7 years, first in Kent then moved with her family in Corby. You could always find Gosia slicing and packing the watermelon wedge at super speed and more recently, Gosia joined the cleaning team on day shift who looks after all of us from the canteen to the meeting rooms. As her husband and one of her grandchildren work in BSUK, Gosia will remain closely knit with BSUK! You are welcome anytime to see us Gosia and we all wish you a happy retirement.