



PELICAN NEWS

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Minister for Africa visits Blue Skies



UK Minister for Africa, Harriet Baldwin, visited Blue Skies Ghana recently as part of a trip organised by the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development. During the visit the Minister announced a new £20 million Jobs and Economic Transformation (JET) Programme to help create over 15,000 jobs for Ghanaians and facilitate over £50m of additional private-sector investment.

Harriet Baldwin is pictured above with Anthony Pile and Ruth Adjei.

Anthony receives EMY Africa Award

Anthony Pile, has been presented with the Green Corporate Star Award in recognition of Blue Skies outstanding contribution to the economy in Ghana.



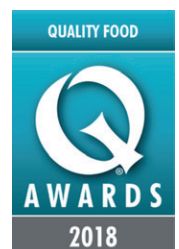
Ghana receives visit from Dutch Foreign Ministry



Mr. Alle Dorhout, Director, Sub Sahara Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands and Ms. Joan Wiegman, Deputy Director, Operational Management, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands visited Blue Skies Ghana this month, accompanied by the Ambassador and the head of mission. They are pictured above with Ruth, Janet and John.

Ice cream short listed for Quality Food Award

Blue Skies ice cream has been short listed as a finalist in the UK's Quality Food Awards in the Frozen Foods Ice-Cream Category. The winners will be announced on 1st November.





Brazil celebrates 11 years

Blue Skies Brazil celebrated its 11th anniversary this month. To make it a special day for their teams they created a sports area that can be used during lunch time and after working hours for playing volleyball and exercising. There was also Karaoke and a special lunch organised by our canteen partner. Pictured above are the administrative team and the group of staff who have been working at Blue Skies Brazil since day one.

Perfect ethical score for Brazil



Blue Skies Brazil received a SMETA audit this month and managed to maintain its impressive record with another zero non-conformance result. The audit also recognised many good practices that had been implemented since the last audit. Well done to Angelo, our HR Supervisor pictured in High Care with Sabrina (auditor) and Rafaela (Intertek interviewer), and his team for all efforts and achievements. During interviews our staff have praised the HR for their “open door” policy and the respect and support they provide for staff.

End of season in Senegal



Pictured: The team from Blue Skies Senegal get together on their last day of production to celebrate the end of the season.

Fairtrade tick for Egypt pom



Blue Skies Egypt have successfully completed their Fairtrade audit for the pomegranate association in Assuit. They covered two farms during the audit. The audit team are pictured above.

Blue Skies in LEAF case study



Blue Skies are featured in a new case study by LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming). The case study examines how Blue Skies take measures to look after the environment in its agricultural practices. You can read the case study at: <https://leafuk.org/news-and-media/downloads-and-resources>

New market team drop in on Blue Skies Ghana



Pictured on the left are Hugh, Brian, Francois and Ian during a recent trip to Ghana to investigate some exciting new market opportunities for Blue Skies. They are pictured wearing their blues following a tour of High Care.



Blue Print Update

What should be our priorities in 2019? Tell us what you think



As we start to think about our budget plans for 2019, we're also thinking about what our sustainability priorities should be for the year ahead. To help us do this, we would like to know what you think we should be focusing on by taking part in our Blue Print Stakeholder survey. It should take only 2 minutes to complete. Have your say at www.blueskies.com/survey

Just 4 weeks left to enter our Blue Print Awards

There's only four weeks left to enter our Blue Print Awards and we would love to hear your success stories. So if you've been involved in a project that has helped make a difference to people or the environment, or you would like to nominate someone who has, please share the good news by entering our Blue Print Awards and stand a chance of winning a fitness watch! You can enter the awards at: www.blueskies.com/blueprintawards



Egypt votes in staff committee elections



Pictured: Blue Skies Egypt recently held elections to select people to form their welfare and stakeholder committees.

Pitsford holds Macmillan Coffee Morning



Blue Skies Pitsford recently held a coffee Morning to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Care. The event was organised by Carrie and the Pitsford Charity Action Group. Thanks to everyone who donated, baked (and consumed) all the delicious cakes and biscuits. The event raised £126.93 in cash donations which will be combined with online donations given for the Walk for Sara (see page 4).



CHALLENGE OF THE MONTH

How can we become more energy efficient?

Send us your Big Ideas!

This month we're looking for ideas to help us improve our energy efficiency. If you have an idea to help us achieve this, or any idea, please let us know at:

<http://www.blueskies.com/ideas/>

The best ideas will also be considered for our annual Blue Print Awards

A new look for SA Ops team!

On 7th of September, the South Africa operations team turned up for work sporting a radical new look. It was all in celebration of 'Casual Day' with a variety of exciting hairstyles, outfits and headgear on show.



ACTION GROUPS



BLUE SKIES HEROES

Meet Rubens Kaminski



Rubens is our Maintenance Coordinator at Blue Skies Brazil. He is 39 years old and has been married for over 20 years. He has 2 boys aged 10 and 14. Rubens joined Blue Skies Brazil in October 2016. When he is not working, Rubens loves traveling with his family and visiting new places. He says he feels very valued working at Blue Skies. Within the little time he has been in the business, he has always been concerned about bringing economy and improvement solutions to our factory. Although he has a small internal team, he has never limited himself and has implemented projects and modifications to solve the needs of our operation. He has adapted very well to Blue Skies culture of teamwork and your cooperation is valuable to us! Thanks to Daniele Costa for nominating this month's Blue Skies Hero!

Joe hits 10 years



Congratulations to our Fruit Technologist Joe Revell who has been with Blue Skies for ten years, having started in September 2008. Well done Joe. Here's to the next ten years!

Congratulations!



This is my niece Gill who came to Ghana about 10 years ago and helped us with LEAF. She has now given birth to Finbar and is pictured here with her husband Liam. Gill was born with her heart back to front (blood for the lungs went to the body and vice versa) and she had major surgery when she was a year old. Now she has her first child.
From Stephan Morris.

Say hello to Stefcio

Meet Stefcio, the new mascot at Blue Skies UK. Made entirely from fruit off-cuts by Michaela and Marysia from Technical department in their spare time!



Photo of the month



This month our photo of the month comes from our Technical Manager Izzy Fisher of her son Arthur enjoying our watermelon wedge. He took packs into his playgroup who all thoroughly enjoyed our wonderful fruit. Well done Arthur!

Introducing Gulam Ramji



Welcome to Gulam Ramji who has recently joined us to strengthen the team at Heathrow.

Gulam comes from Salvesen, is very experienced and knows our business and air freight industry very well.



Foundation Focus

AN UPDATE ON OUR LATEST PROJECTS



Foundation opens Kindergarten



The Blue Skies Foundation have opened a new kindergarten block for Anoff School in Ghana during a ceremony of Chiefs, Chief Executives, Directors of education, Management of Blue Skies, media, Head Teachers and students.

The Head Teacher of the school, Ms Dora Ayesu, was very grateful to the Foundation for this gesture. She said, the life of the kids in the school has been a worry since

they do not have a permanent place of study. This has affected their enrolment at the basic level over the years. She said that with the completion of this structure, the school becomes the first Kindergarten in the municipality and possibly the region with a kitchen, dining room and bathrooms.

Report by Alistair Djimatey, Blue Skies Foundation

Bumper Harvest for School Farms

Some of the School Farm of the Year participants have experienced a bumper harvest, as this year's contest draws to a conclusion. Their freshly harvested produce is being sold in local markets with proceeds used to support the schools. The winners of this year's competition will be announced at an awards ceremony in November.



Walking thousands of miles apart but joined in memory of Sara Brookes



This year's Walk for Sara was a little different than previous years. With the Brookes family away in Crete celebrating the marriage of Michael and Kelly, a smaller than usual group made the seven mile walk around Pitsford Water, while the Brookes family group completed the walk in Crete! The walk takes place during the same weekend every year in memory of Sara Brookes, who worked for our accounts team in Pitsford. Thanks to everyone who joined the walk and donated to the JustGiving page. Combined with funds from the Coffee Morning, a total of £416 has been raised for Macmillan Cancer Care.

Sally completes Night Walk



Congratulations to Mervat's daughter, Sally El-Ghazali who successfully completed the UK Shine Night Walk in support of Cancer Research. Sally walked the half marathon with her father Khaled and her brother Shawki in just under 5 hours. They managed to raise over £1,500. Thanks to everyone who supported Sally. And a very well done to the El-Ghazali family.