



PELICAN NEWS

Blue Skies Newsletter | September 2020 | Issue 169 | www.blueskies.com |

Plastics, Emissions and Waste among our 2021 priorities

Blue Skies have agreed its 2021 priorities following the completion of its annual Stakeholder Survey. Its top priorities for next year will be: **Materials** (with a particular emphasis on reducing plastics), **Waste, Water, Energy, Health & Safety** and **Economic Performance**. These are all topics that have been identified as material and which stakeholders have said are areas for improvement. In addition, Blue Skies aims to take a closer look in 2021 at Emissions, Market Presence, Training & Education and Procurement Practices.

All these areas will be incorporated in the Blue Skies strategy and budget plan for 2021 which is currently being devised by the company's Executive Committee and General Managers. They will also be reported on in our 2020 Blueprint Report, which will be published early next year.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Stakeholder Survey. This year over 161 people participated including staff, retailers and suppliers. A summary of the results is provided on page three.

To find out more about our Blueprint and our commitments for people, planet and profit, please visit our website at "www.blueskies.com/blueprint"



Blue Skies mourns the loss of a great friend and colleague

Blue Skies South Africa is mourning the sudden and unexpected loss of Nomthandazo Linah Mbhele. Born on the 18th of May 1978, Linah sadly passed away on the 15th of August. Waydu Nhlapo of Blue Skies SA sent the following message for Pelican News:

We were tremendously saddened about her passing. What a beautiful soul she was, inside and outside. A great friend, colleague, mother and a wife, a pillar of strength Imbokodo, Nzala bantu no words can describe the pain we felt when we received the news.

Blue Skies family, we thank you all for the support and contribution you gave to the family. You have enabled them courage to bury their loved one with pride and dignity.

To the Maduna, Mbhele and Blue Skies family: she may be gone but her memory will forever remain in our hearts. Joshua 1 vs 9 Be strong, vigorous, and very courageous. Be not afraid neither dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

INSIDE THIS MONTH:

- P2** Blue Skies makes the Sunday Times Top Track 250
- P3** Our Blueprint theme for September is Waste & Recycling

Audit Report



It has been another busy month for third party audits across all our sites with BRC, GlobalGap and customer audits taking place in Ghana, UK, Senegal and Egypt. Pictured above is some of the team at Blue Skies UK after a very successful BRC audit.

A big thanks and congratulations to everyone involved in helping us to uphold our very high standards across the whole business.

South Africa staff embark on training in retail and distribution



Congratulations to thirty eight staff from Blue Skies South Africa who were recently given the opportunity to study for a National Certificate in Wholesale and Retail Distribution. The learners are pictured above during their first induction.

Benin and Brazil bounce back



After enduring months of closure due to restricted airline movements, our factories in Brazil and Benin are now back up and running again after air links began to open up again in August. Pictured above are some recent images from Benin as the factory gets up and running with pineapple production.

Save our tree...again!



Blue Skies have again fought to save a protected ceiba tree in Ghana after receiving renewed calls for it to be cut down. As reported in November 2019, the ceiba tree is native to tropical and subtropical areas of the Americas and tropical West Africa. With the rapid pace of development in the area, there have been several attempts to cut down the tree due to concerns over safety, however last year it was declared safe by the Forestry Commission and representatives of the Municipal Chief Executive. In August, Blue Skies were approached again with an order to cut down the tree. Fortunately, following further discussions with local stakeholders and involvement with the media, the demand was withdrawn and this beautiful tree survives to live another day. Blue Skies have always rigorously strived to preserve every tree possible, as they are vital to protecting biodiversity and sequestering carbon.

Blue Skies makes Sunday Times Top Fast Track 250

Blue Skies has been ranked at No. 205 on the 16th annual Sunday Times PwC Top Track 250, which was published this month in the Business section of the newspaper.

This year's special Covid-19 edition highlights the important contribution that mid-market companies have made to the UK during the pandemic, from supporting the NHS to enabling remote working.

The national 16th annual Top Track 250 awards will be held as a virtual event on Tuesday 17 November.



BLUEPRINT 2020

MONTHLY CAMPAIGN UPDATE



Our September theme is...
Waste & Recycling

The Facts:

- Approximately 2.12 billion tons of waste is produced globally each year
- 1 recycled tin can would save enough energy to power a television for 3 hours
- 6% of global greenhouse gas emissions come from waste and food losses

Blueprint Commitment

We are committed to reducing waste and ensuring that as much of it as possible is either reused or recycled.

What we've been doing

- We sort our waste to ensure recyclable materials are recycled. We're working to increase the proportion of recyclable materials we use and make use of waste-to-energy plants to help us move towards our ambition of zero waste to landfill.
- In Ghana, we compost our inedible organic waste. It takes eight weeks for waste to break down in to nutrient rich soil, which goes back to the farms. Composting has helped to increase farm yields by 5% and reduce fertiliser usage by 30%.
- To avoid waste, we aim to use as much of our materials as possible. We have developed juice, ice-cream and lollies to enable us to use fresh fruit that can't be used in fruit salads, making sure all edible materials don't go to waste.



For more information, visit our Blueprint special reports at:
www.blueskies.com/blueprint

What our stakeholders told us...



Over 160 people took part in our 2020 Annual Stakeholder Survey. The survey aimed to find out which topics were the most important to our stakeholders and which topics were considered as areas for improvement. There were the topics that scored the highest in terms of importance:

1. Economic Performance
2. Anti Corruption
3. Market Presence
4. Waste
5. Environmental Compliance
6. Materials
7. Water and Effluents
8. Procurement Practices
9. Occupational Health and Safety
10. Non Discrimination

These results have been combined with an assessment on the areas where Blue Skies is considered to have the greatest impact so that we can identify the topics that are the most material to the business. We have then overlaid the 'improvement' scores to help us agree which topics to prioritise in our 2021 Blueprint plans. A full breakdown of the results of our survey will be published in our Blueprint Annual Report early next year.

Introducing our 2020 Blueprint Awards



Have you or someone you know been involved in a project or initiative that has helped the business to Care for People, Drive Efficiencies or Respect the Environment? Or have you or someone you know come up with a great idea and helped to see it through to implementation? If the answer is 'yes', then you could stand a chance of winning a prize in our 2020 Blueprint Awards.

Our Annual Awards will be presented in November in the following categories: Care for People, Driving Efficiencies, Respect for the Environment and Innovation.

We also have a category for the Chairman's Award for Achievement. This is for anyone who you think has gone above and beyond the call of duty to help the business. This category will be judged by our Founder and Chairman, Anthony Pile.

To enter our 2020 Blueprint Awards, please click the following link to complete an entry form: <https://www.blueskies.com/blueprintawards/>

The closing date is the 31st of October

How can we do better?

Send us your ideas for how we can do ever better to meet our Blueprint Commitments.

You can submit them at:
<http://www.blueskies.com/ideas/>

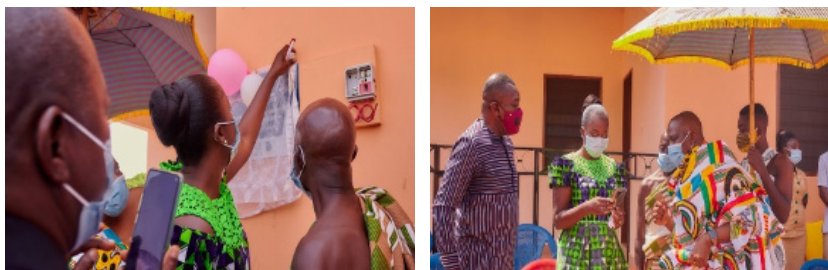




FOUNDATION FOCUS

AN UPDATE ON OUR LATEST PROJECTS

Foundation opens Nurses Accommodation in Ghana



A new nurses accommodation block for the village of Timiabu has been completed by the Blue Skies Foundation in Ghana. It was officially handed over to the community and the Ghana Health Service during a short ceremony which was attended by local dignitaries and representatives of Blue Skies. Nana Agyei Bafo, who chaired the ceremony, said that the new facility will help to save many lives in the area by helping to ensure medical staff are able to stay within the community. Foundation Director, Abena Antwi explained the principles of the Foundation and encouraged the community to ensure the new accommodation block is maintained for the benefit of future generations. The Director of Health Services and Foundation Manager, Alistair Djimatey, both praised the quality of work and the short time it had taken to complete.

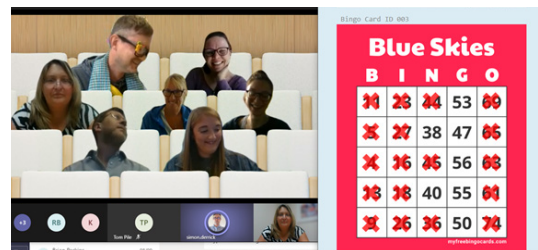
Walking in memory of Sara



Blue Skies and friends and family of the late Sara Brookes came together in different way this year as part of the annual Walk for Sara. The walk usually takes place in September around the Pitsford Reservoir, however with Covid-19 restrictions on the number of people who can meet, people were invited to carry out their own walks in memory of Sara. Pictured are a number of people who carried out their walks on or around the 26th of September. Thank you to everyone who took part and who donated to Macmillan Cancer Support.

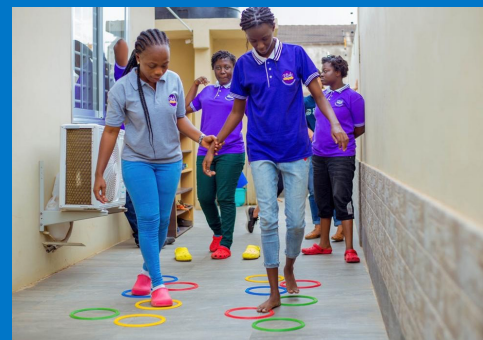


Virtual Bingo raises £180 for Macmillan



On September 24th, Blue Skies Pitsford held a game of virtual bingo to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Staff came together with virtual bingo cards and watched as a 'special guest' bingo caller (who looked suspiciously like Denzil) called the numbers as they rolled out of a children's bingo machine! Jayne, Sonya and Tom all won prizes and over £180 was raised for Macmillan. Thank you to everyone who took part and helped raise money for this incredible charity.

FutureFresh Appeal



Last month we launched an appeal to support a charity in Ghana that works with children with disabilities.

Fun.ctional Works are partners of Klicks Africa Foundation and need help to support children who have not been able to attend classes due to lockdowns. Many of these children are losing valuable skills because they lack access to resources while at home.

We have so far received an excellent response with a number of people donating educational materials and funds.

Thank you to everyone who has donated so far, but we need more help! We are therefore extending this appeal to the end of October.

If you are able to help by purchasing an item (from as little as £3.70) from our Amazon Wishlist, it will go a long way to helping this charity continue to support children in Ghana.

You can also purchase items through the Amazon wishlist by following the link below:

www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/LYK6JF7T6143

South African Dance Craze arrives at Blue Skies!



A dance craze that has swept South Africa has found its way to Blue Skies. 'Jeruselema' by Master KG has attracted 153 million views on YouTube and inspired a dance challenge that has been endorsed by President Ramaphosa ahead of the country's plan to open up to tourism on 1 October. At Blue Skies South Africa,

Mampho, Sombu, Dianetsi and Yvonne from the accounts team recently took up the challenge.

You can see the Dance Challenge at <https://youtu.be/613A9d6Doac>
The team at Blue Skies South Africa challenges any other group within Blue Skies to give it a go and send in their video!

Farewell to Sandra

This month, Blue Skies said farewell to one of its longest-serving colleagues at Blue Skies UK. Sandra Smolen Piwowarska joined Blue Skies in the early days when it had a factory in Kent. Now wife and mother, she has moved to Corby with her family in 2017 to follow the business. She has helped us to train many new comers in Corby and will be very much missed by all her colleagues and friends. Staying in touch will however not be a problem as her mum Aneta is still with us in Corby! Farewell Sandra, we wish you all the best. Pictured below is Sandra with our Founder Anthony Pile, and a beautiful cake that Sandra backed to say goodbye.



Blue Skies Baby News



Congratulations to Prince Asimani, our Estates Manager in Ghana, who recently held a naming ceremony in Ghana for his first daughter, Petra Miciela Baaba Asimani. Prince is pictured above (top) with Petra and his wife.

Congratulations also to Vijay Gulati and his wife Sarika on the birth of a baby boy, Priyash, born on the 19th of September 2020. Priyash is pictured above (bottom).

Blue Skies' first GM visits Pitsford office



Our first General Manager in Ghana David Arnold paid a visit to the Pitsford office this month to find out how Blue Skies was doing during these difficult times. David and Robin Chapman helped to train the 35 staff who started Blue Skies in January 1998 and launched our first consignment into Sainsburys the following month. David was a very hard working and committed GM but could not remain with us for too long as he had left a wife and family back in England to help get us started. David is pictured top at Pitsford in 2020 and below this, in Ghana 1998.

NEXT MONTH...

- An update on our Blueprint campaign for the month of October: Energy
- Blue Skies picks up an exciting award!



Enter our 2020 Blueprint Awards

If you have done something to help Blue Skies care for people, drive efficiencies or respect the environment, you could win a Blueprint Award. You can apply at <https://www.blueskies.com/blueprintawards/>