



# PELICAN NEWS

Blue Skies Newsletter | September 2021 | Issue 180 | [www.blueskies.com](http://www.blueskies.com) |

## Blue Skies presented with fourth Queen's Award for Enterprise



Blue Skies has been presented with its fourth Queens Award for Enterprise by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Northamptonshire, Mr James Saunders Watson. The award was presented at a ceremony hosted at the company's fresh fruit packing facility in Corby on the 17th of September.

Blue Skies has been given a Queens Award in recognition of the company's pioneering sustainability plan, called the 'Blueprint'. This is a set of goals aimed at enabling the business to balance the needs of people,

planet and profit. They centre around the company's vision of building a world where there is zero poverty, zero biodiversity loss, zero waste and net zero emissions.

Chairman and Founder, Anthony Pile said "The principles of sustainable development are firmly embedded within our business; however, we know there is growing interest among our stakeholders on issues such as plastics, waste, and carbon emissions. Our Blueprint enables us to escalate focus on the most important areas and accelerate ideas and projects that will enable us to lead the way."

CEO Hugh Pile said "Winning a fourth Queen's Award means a huge amount to us and providing a great encouragement and motivation to all our people at what is a very difficult time for the business. But it also comes at a very pertinent moment as, not only are we making an incredible effort to address the challenges of the present, but we are also embarking on a number of ambitious new initiatives that will enable us to meet the changing needs of our world in the future."



## Blue Skies up for five 2021 FPC Awards



Blue Skies have been short-listed for three awards in this year's Fresh Produce Consortium Awards.

They are

Supermarket Fruit and Vegetable Supplier of the Year, Best Place to Work and Sustainability Excellence. All finalists also have a chance to win a Hero Award and Best of the Best. The winners will be announced on the 19th November at Old Billingsgate in London.

## And we're finalists in 2021 Weetabix Sustainability Award



It's a busy month for awards as Blue Skies are also finalists for the 2021/2022 Weetabix Sustainability Award. The award is part of the annual

Northamptonshire Food and Drink Awards. Last year Blue Skies achieved silver in the same category. This year's winners will be announced on the 20th of October at the Royal and Derngate Theatre in Northampton.

# Senegal celebrates ten year anniversary



All too soon we are also a decade old, and we are grateful for every opportunity to serve the Blue Skies family. During a short cake cutting ceremony to round up activities over the season at the site at Notto Gueye in Thies, the General Manager, Gloria Asare said “our growth and productivity of work over this decade has always depended on our people and support from the rest of the Blue Skies family”. She continued to say that “no individual can take the credit for all those years of success. Celebrating a ten-year anniversary milestone is a big achievement in itself especially in a year where we worked extra and increased our productivity significantly. It’s a celebration for all who have been a part of the company through all those years”. The occasion as usual attracted the Mayor of Notto and other friends who broke bread together as is the family tradition that has been maintained over this decade. Messages of best wishes were delivered from many of the sites wishing them the best in the next decade. Happy Anniversary Blue Skies Senegal! *Report by Alistair Djimatey.*



# Brazil celebrates fourteen years



On September 24th, Blue Skies Brazil celebrated its fourteenth year. The canteen company helped us with the decorations and prepared a special menu to celebrate this date. Our team loved the celebration and many took their photos which they posted on their social networks.

## Culture training for Brazil leadership



Pictured: This month, our leadership team in Brazil underwent communication training focused on building an environment of trust.

## Brazil resumes ‘Coffee with Manager’ initiative

Due to coronavirus protocols in Brazil, our ‘Coffee with Manager’ initiative was suspended in 2020. With the advance of the vaccination programme in Brazil and still following the protocols, this month we were able to resume the ‘Coffee with Manager’. The purpose of this event is to encourage interaction between people, get to know each other and hear from the General Manager a little about the history of Blue Skies and plans for the future and also respond to any concerns or suggestions for improvements raised by our staff.



## Corby celebrate end of season



The Blue Skies Corby production team organised a BBQ this month to celebrate the end of the summer. There was fantastic food, dancing and games under the sun. Well done to all the team for such a great summer.



# Supporting local charities and reducing our waste



Blue Skies is now able to ensure surplus stock is prioritised for redistribution to local charities at each of its airport hubs in Europe. At Paris, Amsterdam and London, Blue Skies has formed partnerships with local organisations that can take any surplus stock and ensure it is given to local charities, schools, food banks and homeless shelters.

Most recently, our team in the Netherlands have started working with the Dutch Food Bank, and our UK team at Heathrow have partnered the Felix Project. Meanwhile, our team in France have been working with Resto du Coeur for some time now. All these initiatives play an important role in helping Blue Skies to meet its 'zero waste' Blueprint commitment while also helping communities address the growing challenge of food poverty. Well done and thank you to all the teams for making this work.

## Great Green Walk raises £838 for Tree Aid

Thanks to the amazing efforts of everyone who participated in the Great Green Walk earlier this year, Blue Skies have been able to raise £848 for Tree Aid. All donations were matched by the UK Government, doubling our initial total to over £800. Thank you and well done again to everyone who took part.



## Blue Skies staff get creative for Recycling Week

On September 20th to the 26th, Blue Skies promoted 'Recycling Week'. To raise awareness, we held a competition to encourage people to create artwork using waste materials! The winners will be announced in October, but now you can have a look at just some of the incredible masterpieces that have been created....



Above: An amazing recreation of the Blue Skies logo made by Menna Saleh at Blue Skies Egypt



Above: Model ships and other sculptures made by Carol Ramawa at Blue Skies South Africa



Above: Shelving units made out of old cardboard boxes, made by Jeam Oliveria Barbosa at Blue Skies Brazil







## FOUNDATION FOCUS

### AN UPDATE ON OUR LATEST PROJECTS

# Blue Skies Egypt installs new staff gym

A project to equip a new gym for staff at Blue Skies Egypt is making good progress. Gym equipment (pictured) is now being installed for staff to soon be able to use. The gym will not only provide people with an excellent facility to keep fit and healthy, but will also improve access to women who are often not permitted to use local facilities. Elsewhere, projects are also making good progress in Senegal, South Africa and Brazil while almost all our 2021 projects have now been completed in Ghana. It is just left with the annual school farm competition which will award the winners in November.



# Blue Skies South Africa celebrates Heritage Day



Heritage Day on 24 September recognizes and celebrates the cultural wealth of our nation. South Africans celebrate the day by remembering the heritage of the many cultures that make up the people of South Africa. Various events are staged throughout the country to commemorate this day.

*The culture of the Basotho people.* The Sotho people, or Basotho are a Bantu-language ethnic group of Southern Africa who speak Sesotho. They are native to modern Lesotho. The Basotho have inhabited the region since around the fifth century CE. Blue Skies South Africa is a home to about 70% of the Basotho speaking nation. The Basotho have a unique traditional attire. This includes the “mokorotlo” and “modianyewe”, a conical hat with a decorated knob at the top that is worn differently for men and women. The Basotho

blanket is often worn over the shoulders or the waist and protects the wearer against the cold. Although many Sotho people wear westernised clothing, often traditional garments are worn over them.

Pictured is Cilia Veldsman wearing the Basotho hat and the blanket. Article by Mampho Mokoena, Blue Skies South Africa.

# Walk for Sara



A small group of people met on the 26th of September to take part in the annual Walk for Sara. The 7 mile walk around Pitsford Reservoir is held in memory of our much-loved colleague, Sara Brookes, who worked at the finance team for 15 years. Sadly, we lost Sara to cancer in September 2013. Thank you to everyone who joined the walk, particularly the Brookes family who join us every year.

# Coffee Morning helps to raise over £800 for Macmillan



Blue Skies Pitsford held a Coffee Morning on the 23rd of September as part of the Macmillan ‘World’s Biggest Coffee Morning’, which aims to raise funds to support Macmillan’s work in providing vital support to people that have been diagnosed with cancer. People baked many delicious cakes, cookies and biscuits, which were all enjoyed by the Pitsford team, who also made donations to Macmillan. Combined with the Walk For Sara, the Coffee Morning raised over £800, a new record for our Macmillan fund-raisers! A massive thank you and well done to everyone who took part.

# ABOVE AND BEYOND

## 2021 AWARDS

### Introducing the Above and Beyond Awards

Enter today for your chance to win!

This year we have built on the success of our Blueprint Awards to introduce our 2021 Above and Beyond Awards.

Our Above and Beyond Awards recognise outstanding achievement against the businesses core strategic pillars and Blueprint goals.

We invite nominations to be submitted for the following award categories:

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

In addition, we will be accepting nominations for the following Special Recognition Awards:

CATEGORY
Chairman's Award
The Blueprint Award

Have you or someone you know been involved in a project or initiative that could win an Above and Beyond Award?

If the answer is 'yes', then we really want to hear from you!

Please go to [www.blueskies.com/aboveandbeyond](http://www.blueskies.com/aboveandbeyond) where you can find out more and submit your application.

You can enter as many of as few awards as you like.

Applications for our Above and Beyond Awards will close **at 2300 GMT on the 31st of October.**

Winners will be announced at the Blue Skies Conference in November

## 007: From Ghana with Love...



As the latest James Bond film is released, our first ever General Manager, David Arnold, is reminded of his time in Ghana...

In the very early days, working to establish the Ghana Factory of Blue Skies was a seven day a week operation. But as time went on and those that had been recognised as team leaders readily shouldered responsibility I was able to manage a few hours, on a Monday afternoon, relaxation at Labadi Beach in Accra. Monday in those days was a non fly day, and besides I always carried a two way motorola handset for emergencies if anything untoward happened at Dobro.

Here at Labadi I could enjoy coastal breezes, have something to eat, a couple of 5-Star beers and look out over the beach at the many hawkers as they applied their trade.

One such day a young boy walked along the beach offering a home-made toy for sale. It reminded me of the vehicles that laboured up the hill at Nsawam taking people and produce to markets in Accra, and with all such vehicles a phrase or biblical saying painted on the side.

My Ewe and his English were non existent. So I asked the lady who looked after my table to negotiate and buy the toy for me. Some 23 years later I still have that toy. (see photo)

I was reminded of that happy but exhausting time when I saw that the new James Bond is shortly to be released. The phrase/saying on my toy is "No time to die". I wonder if that young boy, who would now be in his thirties, remembers and wished he could receive royalties for the 007 Film?

One up to Ghana I think.

*By David Arnold*



# Queen's Award Ceremony in Pictures



*Pictured: Photos from our Queen's Award presentation ceremony, held on the 17th of September at Corby. Many thanks to Sabine and the Corby team for hosting this event. You all did Blue Skies proud!*

## Keep Fit On Demand



Pictured top left: The synchronised dancing team at Ghana Intake got a bit out of practice during the COVID break. Actually, this is Sergeant George Doe aka 'No pain, no gain' (foreground in black). Sergeant George is one of our keep fit coaches who run classes for all three factories in Ghana. They had the brilliant idea of taking classes to the departments 'on demand' in instead of waiting for people to come to them.



Pictured below is the Ghana weightlifting club who clearly lack some important resources. Actually, it's just the keep fit club again. Thank you to Stephan Morris for the photos and the report.

## News just in...



Congratulations to Blue Skies Ghana on a very successful GlobalGAP surveillance audit! Thank you to Joe Revell for the update.