



# PELICAN NEWS

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## Blue Skies wins King's Award for Enterprise

Blue Skies has been awarded The King's Award for Enterprise in the Sustainable Development category – one of the UK's highest official business honours.

This latest recognition makes Blue Skies the only company in Northamptonshire to have received the royal business accolade five times, having previously won four Queen's Awards for Enterprise.

This prestigious recognition reflects Blue Skies' longstanding commitment to building a business that delivers commercial success while creating positive social, environmental, and economic impact.

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## Let the Games Begin!



On 22nd May, the Great Green Games officially kicked off across Blue Skies sites! The initiative encourages all Blue Skies staff to stay active, have fun together, and raise awareness about the importance of protecting biodiversity.

Colleagues from Ghana, Egypt, South Africa, Benin, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Brazil, France, the Netherlands, and the UK will take on the exciting challenge to collectively walk, run, cycle, or swim 30,000 km in 8 weeks, the total distance between all Blue Skies sites.

Good luck to everyone taking part!

### In this month's newsletter...



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## Blue Skies wins King's Award for Enterprise

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Blue Skies' latest King's Award for Enterprise for Sustainable Development marks another significant milestone in the company's journey, recognising its long-standing commitment to responsible business, sustainability, and positive global impact.

The award reflects Blue Skies' distinctive value-adding at source model, strong people-focused culture, and continued efforts to integrate sustainability throughout its operations while supporting livelihoods across its international supply chain.

In recognition of this outstanding achievement, Blue Skies also received a formal letter of congratulations from the UK Prime Minister, highlighting the significance of this prestigious national honour (pictured right).



THE PRIME MINISTER

8 May 2026

Dear Hugh,

Congratulations to your company on being recognised with The King's Award for Enterprise this year. This prestigious honour symbolises the outstanding achievements, ambition and commitment that underpin your organisation's success.

The King's Awards play an important role in supporting UK businesses to grow and compete, both at home and internationally. Receiving this award provides a recognised mark of excellence, credibility and trust, helping recipients to strengthen their position, raise their profile, and be recognised as leaders within their sector.

I am delighted to acknowledge the outstanding organisations honoured this year, across a wide range of sectors, including innovative and consumer technology, clean technology and agriculture. Your achievements contribute meaningfully to the UK's economy and to our reputation as a nation of enterprise.

Please accept my warmest congratulations on receiving this prestigious award.

All best wishes,

THE RT HON SIR KEIR STARMER KCB KC MP

Mr Hugh Pile, Blue Skies Holdings Ltd



## Royal recognition through the years...

This is not the first time Blue Skies has received royal recognition for its achievements. The 2026 King's Award marks the fifth royal accolade in the company's history, following four Queen's Awards previously received in 2008, 2011, 2015, and 2020. The photos show members of the Blue Skies UK team receiving the 2020 Queen's Award from Lord-Lieutenant James Saunders Watson in 2021, following delays caused by Covid-19. The image on the right shows Andre Veldsman meeting Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace in 2015.



## Make It Yellow Global trains Ghana Team



The Ghana Team participated in an insightful A Fresh Way of Selling (AFWOS) training led by Jane Birkin and Emma White from Make it Yellow, UK. The training emphasized customer engagement, understanding consumer needs, and a proactive sales approach. Participants gained skills in building customer relationships and creating memorable brand experiences through interactive sessions. Sales and Marketing Manager Dominic Tibru noted that the training encouraged innovative thinking and reinforced the importance of company values. The team expressed gratitude to Jane and Emma for their expertise and support, and they also visited local Foundation Projects.

## Blue Skies Celebrates World Biodiversity Day

The day featured a 45-minute aerobics session involving staff and community members dressed in green, refreshing herbal green tea made from the Blue Skies garden, and the unveiling of the creative “Unusual Garden” by General Manager Janet Lutterodt using repurposed waste materials to nurture plants. Departments that successfully maintained plants distributed last year were also recognized, with the Site, Protocol and Welfare Department emerging as overall winner. Followed by the Estate/PR Department in second place, while Library and Agronomy Departments shared third place. Trees were planted within the Fresh-Cut and Branded Factory areas to promote a greener future.

The celebration also marked the official launch of the 2026 Great Green Games, with approximately 100 participants collectively walking 480 kilometers in support of environmental sustainability. The event once again highlighted Blue Skies’ strong commitment to biodiversity, employee wellness, and building a greener future for all.

## Celebrating Our General Manager



Warm birthday wishes to our General Manager, Janet Lutterodt. She celebrated her birthday on 19th May. We hope you had a wonderful day filled with joy and celebration. Wishing you continued success and happiness in the year ahead!



## Blue Skies Egypt Celebrates 23 Remarkable Years!

Blue Skies Egypt joyfully commemorated its 23rd anniversary with a vibrant gathering that united employees from every department.

The celebration was brimming with cheerful moments, uplifting energy, and a profound sense of teamwork and community. Employees reveled in a delightful atmosphere as they celebrated another successful year in the company's journey.

The event embodied the spirit of unity and appreciation that consistently makes Blue Skies Egypt a wonderful place to work and thrive.

## Blue Skies Egypt Achieves Audit Success

Blue Skies Egypt is proud to announce the successful completion of a customer and NAFSA audit with a green grade, the highest grade awarded.

This achievement reflects the company's strong commitment to food safety, quality, continuous improvement, and operational excellence. It also highlights the dedication, teamwork, and hard work of employees across the business.

Special thanks go to all departments involved and to our superwoman, Hella for her continuous support.



## Joe and Claudia Visits Blue Skies Egypt

The team was delighted to welcome Joe, supplying assurance manager and Claudia, senior fruit agronomist during their visit to Egypt. The visit was filled with positive energy, enjoyable moments, and meaningful conversations as time was spent together within the company. Memorable photos captured the strong team spirit and friendly atmosphere that continue to define Blue Skies Egypt.





## NEWS FROM THE UK



## Celebrating a Decade with Blue Skies!

Sylwia Shurman recently celebrated an incredible milestone, 10 years with Blue Skies! The occasion was marked with a card from the Chairman and CEO, as well as beautiful flowers from Gulam, making it a special celebration shared with the team. Congratulations, Sylwia, on this remarkable achievement!



## A Beautiful New Arrival!

The Pittsford Team is delighted to share the wonderful news that Diane and her husband welcomed a healthy baby girl last Friday. Both mum and baby Kalydia are doing very well and enjoying these precious early days together. Congratulations to Diane and her family on their new arrival!



## ★ STAR of the Month – May

Congratulations to Denzil, Head of Foundation, Communications & Sustainability, on being our STAR of the Month for May!

Denzil was recognised for his continuous quiet background work on Blueprint and his outstanding contribution towards the Blue Skies King's Award received this month.

Well done, Denzil!

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## New NPD Lines Set to Hit Stores!

On 5th May, the Blue Skies Corby team hosted a customer on site for the pre-production run of two new NPD lines. The visit was a great success, with the customer very pleased with both the quality and taste of the products. This achievement highlights the strong cross-functional collaboration behind the project. The new products are due to launch in stores on 12th May. Keep an eye out for them!

## Blue Skies Corby Takes on Wolfrun 2026!

On 25 April, the Blue Skies Corby team took part in the challenging 10 km Wolfrun 2026 obstacle race. From muddy crawls and river jumps to tight pipes and tough obstacles, the team tackled every challenge with determination and teamwork. With great weather and even greater team spirit, every member successfully crossed the finish line, an achievement to be proud of!

An unforgettable day full of fun, endurance, and collaboration.



## NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA



## Stepping Up with Confidence!

On 23rd April 2026, Karabo Motloun successfully conducted her first induction training independently, a proud milestone celebrated by Lucia Mashinini, Training manager.

Karabo trains staff on Blue Skies Employees Hygiene rules and Basic Food Hygiene for fresh cut salad and freshly squeezed juice, reinforcing key practices such as preventing cross contamination, allergen control, temperature management, and cold chain integrity.

Sharing her advice with the team, Karabo reminded everyone: "In fresh cut, you are the last line of defense. Follow the BSSA rules every single shift. No short cut." Well done, Karabo!



## Celebrating Our General Manager

The team recently came together to celebrate the birthday of our dear General Manager, Flávia Mometti. The occasion was filled with joy, laughter, cake, gifts, and many shared smiles.

More than just celebrating a birthday, it was a special moment to express gratitude and appreciation for Flávia's dedication, leadership, and the inspiring way she supports the team every day.

Thank you, Flávia, for your care, partnership, and contribution to the growth of the team!



## Celebrating Mother's Day with Appreciation

Mother's Day was celebrated with care, appreciation, and affection in Blue Skies Brazil. To make the occasion extra special, the HR team thoughtfully prepared gifts for all mothers as a token of gratitude and recognition for their dedication and importance in our daily lives. These meaningful gestures continue to strengthen bonds and create a more welcoming, united, and special workplace.



## Work starts on 2026 Foundation Projects in Ghana

Blue Skies Foundation has officially commenced the implementation of its 2026 projects in Ghana, reaffirming its commitment to supporting sustainable community development, education, health, environmental protection, and youth empowerment initiatives across its operational communities. This year's projects are mainly support projects, including boreholes and the provision of medical equipment for various health facilities in Ghana. The 2026 projects are expected to build on the Foundation's impact over the years by strengthening partnerships with schools, community leaders, local institutions, and other stakeholders to improve livelihoods and create lasting change.

Speaking on the commencement of the projects at a groundbreaking activity in Fotobi, the Foundation Manager, Alistair Djimatey stated, "Our goal in 2026 is to continue investing in people and communities through impactful and sustainable projects that respond to real needs and create opportunities for future generations." The Foundation remains committed to working closely with beneficiary communities to ensure the successful implementation and sustainability of all projects throughout the year.

## Training held for 2026 ENABLE participants

The Blue Skies Foundation is implement the second cohort of its ENABLE Entrepreneurial Programme, aimed at empowering individuals in the Nsawam Adoagyiri Municipality. This year, 22 participants received training on Business Proposal Development to prepare them for pitching their ideas. The session brought together young aspiring entrepreneurs and innovators who were equipped with practical knowledge and skills in developing clear, impactful, and sustainable business proposals.

The Facilitators from African Skills Hub guided participants through key areas including problem identification, business planning, budgeting, value proposition, and presentation techniques. The training also encouraged creativity, confidence, and critical thinking among participants as they prepare for the next phase of the Programme.

Bridget Eshun, a participant, also shared, "This training has helped me to structure my business idea better and given me the confidence to pursue it seriously." The successful completion of the training marks an important milestone in preparing participants for the opportunities ahead under the ENABLE 2026 initiative by completing their proposals for the next phase of the project.



AND FINALLY...

# The Pondering Pelican

The Joint Effort Enterprise (JEE) is the name we gave to our business model in Blue Skies. It seems to have served us well.

The JEE is about inclusion of all types of people baked into a rich team. A team that works as one and yet it encourages individuality. That way entities like our many outlying businesses, departments, and groups can function as autonomous units in which their members feel recognised and free to take risks.

Risks lead to results and they come with success and failure. Both are acceptable in the JEE concept because they lead to results that take us ahead of our competitors.

## Our Joint Effort Enterprise

Our business operates according to our **Joint Effort Enterprise**, a shared foundation of Diversity, Respect, and Positive Return, built on the collaboration of people worldwide to deliver our products and services to customers.



We are strengthened by our **Diversity**



Bound by our culture of **Respect**



Driven by generating a **Positive Return**

