



Pelican News



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Blue Skies Newsletter

Blue Skies win FOUR Fresh Awards



Blue Skies picked up four gongs at the FreshAwards in London this month including a Lifetime Achievement Award for its Founder Anthony Pile and the overall Fresh Produce Business of the Year.

The Awards were organised by the Fresh Produce Consortium (FPC) and held at the Intercontinental Park Lane on Thursday 9 June 2016. The evening was hosted by actor and comedian Craig Charles and attended by over 500 people from across the fresh produce industry.

Blue Skies also won the CSR Excellence Award for the second year running and the Best Place to Work. Chairman and Founder Anthony Pile said "It is an absolute honour to be recognised in this extraordinary way. To receive a FreshAward means a huge amount to Blue Skies and is credit to each and every person who has played a part in our wonderful business, to receive four FreshAwards including a Lifetime Achievement Award and the Fresh Produce Business of the Year, leaves us all speechless!"



Above: the Blue Skies team picking up the award for Fresh Produce Business of the Year during the awards evening on June 9th.

Anthony receives an MBE



Blue Skies Founder and Chairman Anthony Pile has received an MBE in the Queen's 2016 Birthday Honours Anthony receives an MBE for services to International Business in the same week he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the UK's Fresh Awards.

On receiving the MBE Anthony said "This honour is for every one of the people working in Blue Skies and is encouragement for us to stay on the track we set out on twenty years ago, to foster a happy and healthy company whilst working to destroy poverty in the developing world"



Read Anthony's response to the UK's decision to leave the European Union on page 2



Blue Skies reacts to UK's decision to leave the EU

In the last Pelican News we published two perspectives on whether UK should remain in the European Union (EU). Since then UK citizens have taken to the polls with 52% voting in favour of the UK leaving the EU.

The immediate aftermath has seen volatility in world markets and a sharp fall in the pound, but what does it mean for Blue Skies in the long run? Our Chairman, Anthony Pile, gives his reaction:

The news to which we awoke this morning was not what many of us wanted or indeed expected. Of course we are where we are and now we must rise to the challenge of change. But Blue Skies likes change and welcomes challenge and always emerges at the other side successful and strong.

The leadership of our wonderful business now simply needs to read the ground, step over the difficulties and seize the opportunities. And that is exactly what we shall do for the sake of the 4,000 and more people in our business, for our customers and many stakeholders. So hold tight as we steer through these choppy waters, but I promise you we shall get through, for the good ship Blue Skies is in very good shape.

Senegal prepares for mango season

Blue Skies Senegal are preparing for another busy mango season. Gloria and her team (pictured below) have been busy visiting farms and building capacity at the Packhouse to be able to supply the factory in Ghana with mango over the next few months.



Above: Gloria (bottom left) and her team at a farm in Senegal.

Perfect audit result for UK



For the fourth time in succession BSUK has achieved zero non-conformances for their BRC audit, this time against BRC version 7. John Currie from NSF is a very experienced auditor but again was very impressed with the BSUK Quality System and how it is operated by the technical team. This result was achieved despite a succession of record weeks in terms of sales, and in the absence of our highly respected General manager Vijay Gulati, for whom we wish a speedy recovery from his medical treatments, and Marcin our technical supervisor who despite his paternity leave still came in to help preparations. Les Cole our interim General Manager was a great support to Marta, as of course was her marvellous technical team, especially Linda. Thanks very much everyone, and very well done! *Report by Stephan Morris*

South Africa takes action against fire



Pictured: the extreme dry weather in RSA has affected our management of the fire threat at our factory site and we have invested in a tractor and "slasher" to keep the dry grass level low. Report and photo by Anthony.

Foundation meets to discuss ideas for 2017

The Blue Skies Foundation Board and Council recently met in Ghana for their mid-year review. They usually meet in June each year to review progress on current projects and discuss ideas for projects in the subsequent year. During the meeting, members of the Board and Council also managed to visit a number of projects in progress including a new KVIP latrine for the village of Kojokrom in a pineapple growing area and a new clinic for the Jomoro area where much of our coconut comes from.



Above: community members from Kojokrom turn out to meet Council and Board Members by their newly constructed KVIP latrine



Above: the Foundation team by a clinic being constructed in Nawule in the Jomoro area of Ghana. The project will be completed by August.

#SayHello



#Sayhello to Dennis Owusu-Akonnor, Fruit Intake Team Leader at Blue Skies Ghana.

BS Egypt host VIP's



Blue Skies Egypt has recruited three young ladies recently. They came as a quick rescue to help with heavy orders. They worked in Dispatch and High Care. Those are Mohamed Abdul-Razik daughters; Aliaa (11), Raghad (9) and Rana (7). By Mohamed Abdul Razik, GM Blue Skies Egypt.

Blue Skies Baby News



Congratulations to Marcin, our technical Team Supervisor at Blue Skies UK and Dispatch Team Leader Klaudia, on the birth of their baby boy Alan. Alan (pictured) was born on Saturday morning 04th June and is a beautiful and healthy boy.

Blue Skies South Africa remembers Soweto Uprising



Youth Day in South Africa commemorates the Soweto Uprising in the country. The day is celebrated on June 16 every year in order to recognize the role of youth in the liberation of South Africa from the Apartheid regime. People traditionally dress in school uniforms to remember the protests made by students which are thought to have claimed up to 700 lives. *Report and photo by Waydu Nhlapo, Blue Skies South Africa.*

HQ holds charity Cupcake Day



While South Africa commemorated Youth Day on the 16th of June, the UK HQ team took part in Cupcake Day to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society.

On the day staff brought in cupcakes to share with the office in exchange for a donation to the Alzheimer's Society. In total just over £100 was raised thanks to the vast amount of cake that was consumed.



Above: pictures of cupcakes and the art of cupcake consumption.

Pictures from the Fresh Awards



Above: The Blue Skies table



Above: Anthony receives his Lifetime Achievement Award.



Above: the Blue Skies team collecting the Fresh Produce Business of the Year award

