



Jastus Obadiah, Patricia Wangui, David Wendover, Alfred Chonya, Michael Njiru, Jonathan Dimbleby, Maxwell Mbweza, Imani Sicalwe, Kennedy Adhola, Bill Vellacott and Catherine Mwangi.

Chairman's Message

As 2016 comes to a close we can look back on our 25th Anniversary Year with some satisfaction. After some initial delays and the usual difficulties with visas, BOAT and Bicton College were able to deliver another outstanding course on Institutional Management & Business Planning to our very impressive group of eight East Africans. The course is accredited by Plymouth University and their External Examiner once again reported very favourably on the relevance and value of the training, much of which is delivered by Trustees with substantial experience in agriculture and rural development work in the delegates' own countries. The reputation of the course is such that one of the Kenyan delegates postponed his wedding to attend! The combined Course Presentation Evening and BOAT's 25th Birthday dinner held at Bicton College was graced by the presence of Jonathan and Jessica Dimbleby. Jonathan's inspirational address was matched by Patricia Wangui's equally inspirational reply on behalf of the delegates.

Planning and recruitment has now started for the 2017 course which will run from 19th April to 27th May. BOAT continues to develop in-country follow up programmes, particularly in Uganda, to complement the Bicton training. Of course, all this activity requires funding and I would like to congratulate and thank all those involved in yet another BOAT Vintage Tractor raffle and making it such a success. Finally, when buying on-line please think of using Easyfundraising to help BOAT – it doesn't cost you a penny.

David Wendover (Chairman)

BOAT Tractor Draw 2016

As Bicton Overseas Agricultural Trust (BOAT) celebrates its 25 years of providing training it was decided to run one more Tractor Draw and a 1957 International B250 tractor was donated by Paul Sawatzki from Somerset. Paul and Bill Vellacott, a founder member of BOAT, were grease monkeys back in the late 60's and on a chance meeting in 2015 Paul offered one of his tractors which needed some restoration as a prize for the 25th Anniversary Tractor Draw. Bill couldn't resist it and accepted the offer! BOAT would like to thank Vapormatic and Firestone for supplying the necessary parts and tyres for the restoration which was carried out by the engineering students of Bicton College under the instruction of Chris Jaworski who, together with Nick Jakeman, worked through the night until gone 4am on the Saturday morning of the Devon County Show. Thank you also to other friends of BOAT; Matthew Cunningham Engineering for restoration of tinwork; Matthew Rose Engineering of Aylsebeare for injection pump repairs; and support from Ron Greet Tractors. After taking the tractor to shows throughout the South West and further afield and some sales via the Tractor and Machinery magazine, more than £8,000 was raised to continue with BOAT's objectives of 'Training the Trainers'.

The draw took place at the Autumn Tractor World Show, Newbury on Sunday 9th October and was made by Paul Sawatzki. The winner was Matthew Collett from the Crediton area, second prize went to Richard Youngman also from the Crediton area and, to round off the draw, the third prize was won by D. Genders from Beaworthy.



The Trustees would like to thank Vapormatic for producing this newsletter and to thank all its sponsors for their generous help.



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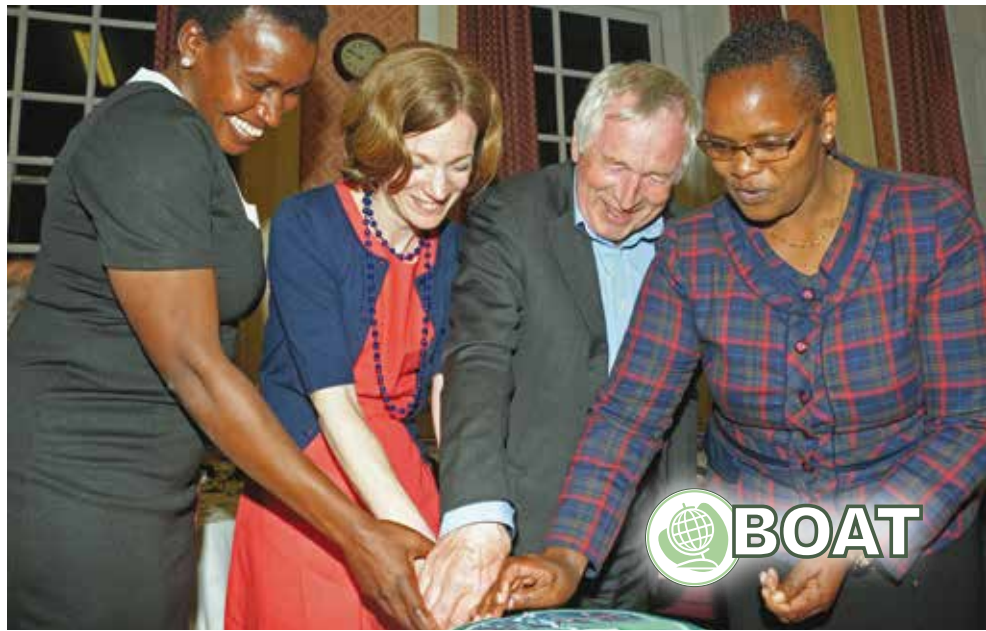
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Improving Agriculture Through Training

25th Anniversary Celebratory Dinner and 2016 Course Presentation Evening

To mark BOAT's 25th year our eight students on this year's training programme who came from Kenya, Malawi and Tanzania together with over seventy supporters were treated to an after dinner speech by Jonathan Dimpleby who attended together with his wife.



Patricia Wangui, Jessica and Jonathan Dimpleby along with Catherine Mwangi cutting the anniversary cake.

A journalist, author and broadcaster, he has a strong affinity with Africa having reported on the Ethiopian famine and presented the documentary 'An African Journey with Jonathan Dimpleby', travelling back and forth to the continent over the last 40 years. He reflected on what a diverse continent Africa is and the changes he had seen in the countries in that time. Although he initially reported on crises he was aware that around such crisis points there was life going on and people coping with the challenges. He said that the changes arose with improved education and mobile 'phones transforming lives but that although many of the individual countries of Africa could sustainably feed the world they did not have the opportunity to do so. He argued that "the way in which you produce food in a sustainable fashion is fundamental to the achievement of healthy, just and fair societies which could be sustained for generations ahead. A large part of that is through the combination of communication and education, sharing ideas. Organisations like BOAT play an incomparably valuable part in helping others, and us, to achieve a much better future."

Speaking on behalf of the delegates Patricia Wangui, Project Manager of the Biodiversity, Community, Carbon & Livelihoods Project under the Zeitz Foundation, Nairobi, made a very moving speech. She captured the importance of what the students had learned during their six weeks, pointing out that despite the trepidation of a journey to a foreign land before the course started, the real concern was how to share the ideas and excitement with those they will work with in the future. No-one was in any doubt that her passion would be communicated and make a difference in her home country of Kenya, just as much as in this one. Not only was this a great evening enjoyed by all but thanks to sponsorship by Every's Solicitors, Chris Piper Wines and donations for the raffle, over £800 was raised for the 2017 training programme.

Prize Draw Quilt

Once again a handcrafted quilt using fabric and design by Kaffe Fassett has been donated by Barbara Gaskell as a raffle prize.



Tickets have gone on sale now - £1 a ticket £5 per book - available by posting a cheque payable to BOAT c/o 8 Slade Close, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1SX. Include Name, Tel no, Postcode & sae for your tickets back.

The draw will take place in the evening of 25th May 2017 at the End of Course Presentation Evening at a venue tbd.

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There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's - it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

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2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and Bicton Overseas Agricultural Trust (aka BOAT) will be really grateful for your donations.

Thank you for your support.

Thank you to all those who have supported these events to raise funds for BOAT. If you would like to help by holding an event such as a coffee morning, cream tea or any other event either in your home or village Hall please contact our secretary at the address in the newsletter and we can provide information and a speaker if required.

Become a Friend of **BOAT**

For an annual donation of £25 per household, payable by standing order. Apply to secretary@boatagtrust.co.uk for further details, or donate via the website www.boatagtrust.co.uk to continue to support the work of BOAT and receive the BOAT newsletters.