



BOAT

Bicton Overseas Agricultural Trust
Charity No: 1017527
www.boatagtrust.co.uk

Friends of BOAT Autumn '14

Honorary Patron; Richard Macdonald, CBE, former NFU Director General

Chairman's Message

Welcome to our latest Newsletter. This Newsletter will update you on our achievements and future plans and aspirations. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who give support and time to ensuring that BOAT stays on its intended course. In particular, my thanks to those who have helped Bill to sell raffle tickets at the Shows. This is still our main earner and it looks though we shall raise a five figure sum again this year. This will help to fund our training activities for at least another year.

I am pleased to welcome a new Trustee: Viv Horton. Viv lives in West Devon and worked initially in nursing and then social work and community mental health services. She spent two years with VSO in Kazakhstan and then joined Plymouth University as Senior Lecturer in Social Work. Viv is a Trustee of Devon Development Education based in Exeter and a volunteer with Kulika Uganda, where she has established a strong relationship with the organisation and its staff, including Magdalene Ogwang, who studied at Bicton with BOAT.

This will be my last Newsletter as Chairman. A new Chairman will be elected at the AGM in late November. I have enjoyed my 15 or so years with BOAT and hope to continue to support it in some way. I offer my best wishes to all Trustees and supporters in the future.

Fred Harper (Chairman)



New BOAT Trustee: Viv Horton on her recent visit to Nepal



New BOAT Website Makes it Quick and Easy to Donate

You can now donate to BOAT online. All you need to do is go to the Home Page of the new website and look for the button 'Donate Now' and simply click to enter the secure system, these donations can be regular or one off, and will include Gift Aid when you sign up, thank you.

For all the latest news and information about BOAT please visit our new website at: www.boatagtrust.co.uk

Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/boatagtrust

2015 BOAT Institutional Management Course

The process of recruiting for the Course in 2015 is underway. Seventeen applications have been received and scrutinised by members of the Training and Development Sub Group. Ten places have been offered but it is likely that the numbers enrolling will be less, due to visa application difficulties. Applications have been received from Malawi (4), Kenya (2), Tanzania (5), Uganda (2), Ethiopia (2) and Somalia (2). This is the first year we have received applications from the last two countries.

The quality of the applications is high and we can expect a very good course again. The dates for the course have been fixed as 22 April (arrive at Bicton) to 5 June (depart from Bicton) 2015. The course will be very intensive and the planning group have introduced a number of changes suggested by last year's cohort. A number of the students already have their air fares covered by sponsors and we hope to benefit from a sponsorship offer from Kenya Airways.

Contact BOAT	Chairman	chairman@boatagtrust.co.uk
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The Trustees would like to thank Vapormatic for producing this newsletter and to thank all it's sponsors for their generous help.



BOAT at the Devon County Show

For the last 12 years, Bicton Overseas Agricultural Trust (BOAT) has rebuilt a vintage tractor at the Show. This has been done by students and staff of Bicton College together with farmer and founder member, Bill Vellacott. This event has proved to be a big attraction at the Show and in recent years has taken place on the Bicton stand.

In 2014, the tractor was a Massey Ferguson 35 originally assembled in 1962; we call her Gretel because she spent some of her life in Germany. She looks splendid in her new clothes and the job was finished on the Saturday of the Show despite the appalling weather conditions.

The Devon County Agricultural Association has been extremely helpful to BOAT in many ways over the years and the Trustees thank them for their support.



Bicton College Principal David Henley, gets the rebuild underway.

And the Winner Is...

Mr Simon Browning from Redditch, Worcestershire. Simon bought his ticket at the Malvern Tractor World show back in March and intends to take Gretel on road runs and shows in the future.

Second prize of £250 goes to Mr Peter Bidder from Cheriton Bishop who bought this ticket a few weeks back when Bicton took the tractor into Princesshay at Exeter.

Third prize of £100 goes to Mr H Henwood from Hale in Cornwall and he bought his tickets at the Royal Cornwall show.

Needless to say a big thank you goes to all of our sponsors including Chris Jaworski and his students from Bicton College.

Farewell to the Course of 2014

The seven students who attended the 2014 course were all successful in achieving their University credits with some excellent performances amongst them. They have all returned home safely and we hear from them occasionally. One has recommended an excellent candidate for 2015. Their achievements were recognised at the Graduation Ceremony organised by Bicton College and Plymouth University held at Budleigh Salterton Church on Saturday 27th September. The names of all the candidates were read out by the Chairman of BOAT.

As usual, feedback was obtained from the students on their views and experiences before they left. This will be followed up in about six month's time. One of our Trustees, Adrian Gaunt, developed a new questionnaire which was also agreed by Catherine Taylor who leads the Higher Education work at Bicton College. The feedback was generally very supportive. It was particularly pleasing to note that the students rated their overall level of satisfaction with the quality of the course very highly (5.7 out of 6.0). Many of the detailed points picked up have been incorporated into the revised course for 2015.

A very pleasant and successful presentation evening was held with tutors, Trustees and Friends of BOAT at Escot House at the end of the course. Trustees are grateful to John-Michael Kennaway and his wife Lucy for making their wonderful house and grounds available to BOAT for this purpose. John-Michael presented the Certificates to the candidates and gave a fascinating account of the history of Escot and its current operations.



From left to right: Mike Pash (Course Coordinator), Nelson Makezi, Josephine Yongo, Kenneth Mukalazi, Joyce Tibananuka, Fred Harper (Chairman), Pamela Kusolwa, Peter Murage, Julius Tumwebaze from Food for Thought Uganda (linked to Devon Development Education in Exeter) and Joseph Mugagga. Photographed on the steps of Escot House after the event.



Tropical Agriculture Association

The South West Branch of the Tropical Agriculture Association (TAA) is very active and many Trustees and Friends of BOAT are members. The branch organises a number of events throughout the year, including a one-day seminar at Bicton College when the BOAT students are in residence on agriculture in a developing country in Africa. The students usually contribute to the programme.

TAA members are helpful to BOAT in a number of ways. In particular they help to identify students for the course from their contacts. Tim Roberts has been very helpful in this respect. Secondly members have been supportive in attending shows and other events to help to sell raffle tickets for the tractor draw. BOAT and Bicton College are joint Corporate Members of TAA. We thank the members for their support and look forward to working with them in future.

Link with Kulika Uganda

BOAT has long-standing links with a Non-Government Organisation in Uganda called Kulika Uganda. We have provided training for a number of their staff and the relatively new Chief Executive Officer, Christina Sempebwa, visited Devon in the autumn of 2012 with two senior colleagues to talk with BOAT Trustees to strengthen our links further. A draft Memorandum of Understanding has now been sent from Kulika and considered by Trustees. Alan Cooper and Viv Horton will be pursuing this on BOAT's behalf. The main foci of the discussions are strengthening staff capacity at Kulika for Institutional Development and Business Planning and Conducting Training at the Kulika Training Centre at Lutisi.

The next stage will be for the Board to endorse the proposal and for two Trustees to visit Kulika Uganda early in 2015.

The photograph shows the Lutisi Training Centre at Kulika Uganda.

