



# BOAT

Bicton Overseas Agricultural Trust  
Charity No: 1017527  
[www.boatagtrust.co.uk](http://www.boatagtrust.co.uk)

## Friends of BOAT Autumn '15 'Improving Agriculture through Training'

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

### Chairman's Message

As 2015 draws to a close we can look back on a productive year. Our seven participants from East Africa all successfully completed the very intensive and fully time-tabled BOAT course in Institutional Management & Business Planning delivered at Bicton College by College staff and BOAT Trustees. A very thorough Course Evaluation has once again shown how well the training had been received. On June 4th we were generously and graciously hosted at Knightstone Manor for the Student Presentation Evening - a most memorable occasion. We also presented Certificates of Associateship to Fred Harper and Richard Coley for many years of outstanding service to the Trust.

Following the Trustee visit to Uganda, a MoU between Kulika Uganda and BOAT has been signed and plans are underway to develop a programme of support. We are also busy screening applications for the next BOAT/Bicton course commencing April 20th 2016.

A number of fund raising activities have taken place. Trustee Viv Horton has completed her epic 10,000 km cycle ride from Anchorage, Alaska to Mexico City. Vintage Tractors have been driven, Grizzly Run and Matford Car Boot Sales marshalled and raffle tickets sold to raise funds. Thanks to all our loyal supporters and enthusiastic volunteers. We also continue to be fully supported by Bicton College and The Cornwall College Group as their merger matures. 2016 is BOAT's 25th Birthday and planning is underway to celebrate this milestone appropriately.

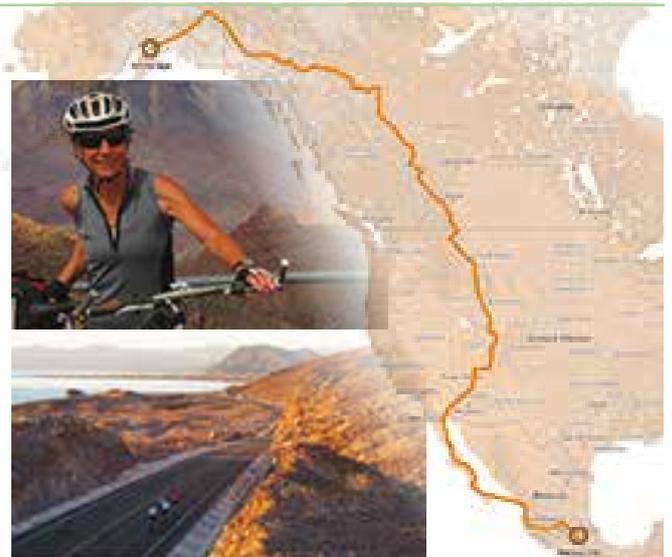
**David Wendover** (Chairman)



Margaret Pallangyo presents Jan-Eric Osterlund with a thank you gift

### Biking 4 BOAT

It is not too late to sponsor Viv's epic cycle ride from Anchorage to Mexico City which she completed on 1st Nov despite Hurricane Patricia. The hurricane meant that the riders had to make a short detour for their own safety so the organisers transported them further north, away from its expected path. More about the cycle ride can be found by visiting Viv's blog <http://vivonthenorthamericanepic.blogspot.co.uk/> and sponsoring can be done via the BOAT website



### Blessings Kambombo Interviewed on BBC2 Newsnight

Blessings, who attended the BOAT seminar held at Lilongwe NRC in 2008 and also completed the 2013 BOAT course at Bicton nominated by Concern Universal, appeared on Newsnight (24th Nov) explaining his pilot project (with Trinity College, Dublin) introducing an energy efficient stove with a simple, locally made, attachment to produce enough electricity to power a light, a radio, or to charge a handset. In an email to the Chairman he wrote "When finalised and proved feasible, it will transform the energy needs for rural communities in Malawi. It's a wonderful innovation and the demand is quite high when we demonstrate this technology to the public, particularly rural communities." He also wrote "I am hoping you are all well and progressing with BOAT initiatives. I am grateful to BOAT for the skills and knowledge gained which is long term and transformative".

### Contact BOAT

Chairman [chairman@boatagtrust.co.uk](mailto:chairman@boatagtrust.co.uk)  
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Website [www.boatagtrust.co.uk](http://www.boatagtrust.co.uk)

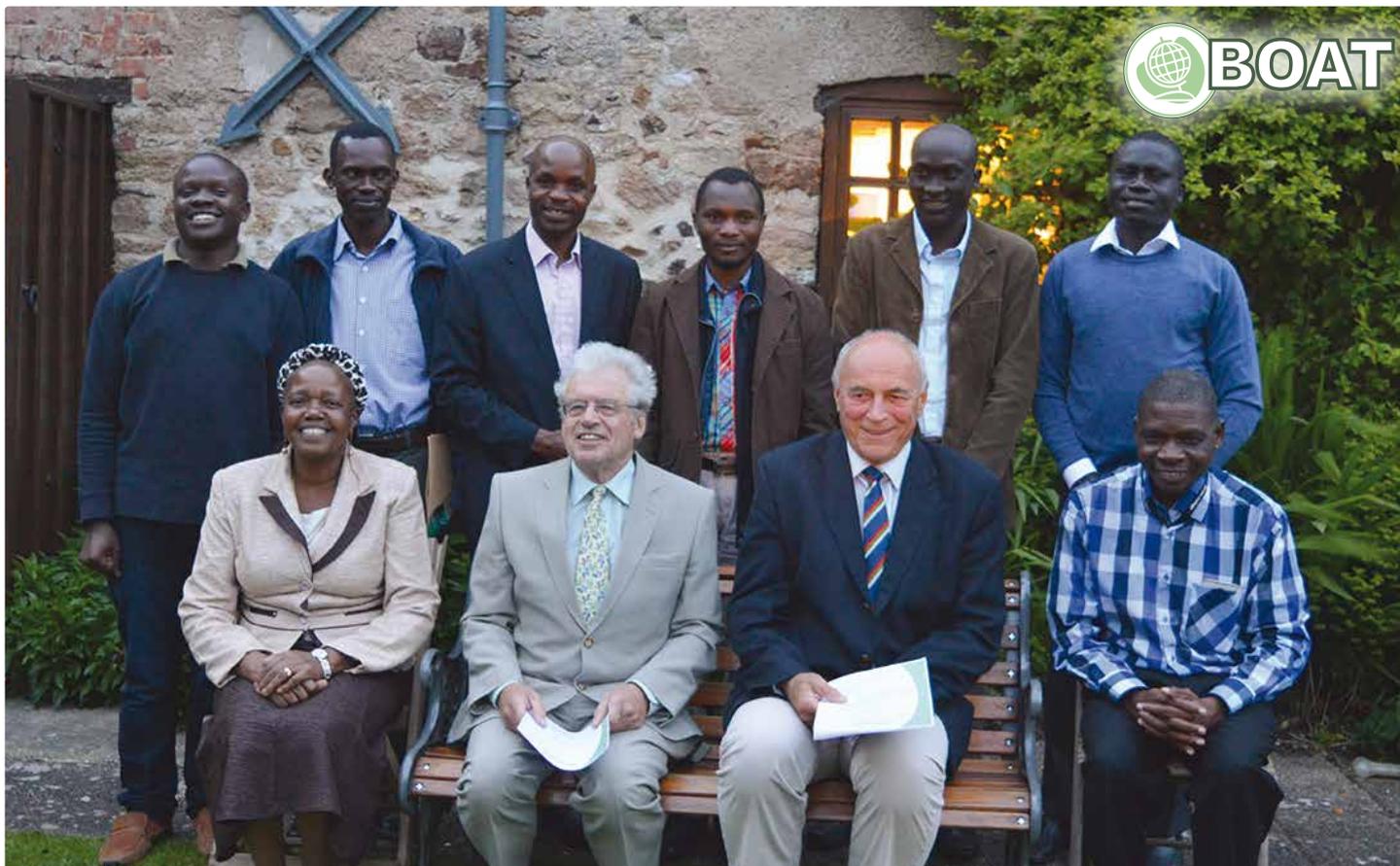
### Friends of BOAT Concert

The Tamar Valley Male Voice Choir will be performing 'Songs from your favourite musicals' in aid of BOAT on Sat 12th March 2016 at St Peter's Church, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 6LR.

Tickets are £10 each and available by sending a sae and cheque made payable to 'BOAT' to:  
c/o 8 Slade Close, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1SX.

Find us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/boatagtrust](http://www.facebook.com/boatagtrust)





## The BOAT Course Presentation Evening

2015 course participants and guests enjoyed a lovely evening at Knightstone Manor kindly hosted by Jan-Eric Osterlund and family. The evening started off in lovely warm sunshine but by the end it had turned cold for our overseas visitors. Fortunately Jan-Eric was able to provide some warm coats for them to wear. Kennedy Orwa, one of the course delegates from Kenya, gave a very heartfelt speech on behalf of the group thanking BOAT and its supporters for giving them the opportunity to come to Bicton and study, and to help them with their own individual professional development and enable them to pass on this knowledge to others (posted on the BOAT Website). As you know this cannot be done without financial help from our supporters, and hearing Kennedy's speech helped focus the BOAT Trustees to carry on with this work.

The Trustees had clubbed together for small mementoes for Fred Harper and Richard Coley and the picture shows Fred and the course participants sitting on the bench presented to Richard. Also in the picture (rear left) is Victor Muwanguzi who was on a short visit to UK. Victor's father, the late Elijah Kyamuwendo, was CEO of Kulika Uganda for many years and a good friend of BOAT.

Richard Coley, Fred Harper and this years students at the presentation evening.



This years group with Peter Brennan, Vapormatic Managing Director, on their visit to one of our primary sponsors.

## The BOAT 2016 Course at Bicton College

A substantial number of high quality applications have been received and Trustees have been working hard to select the candidates to be invited to join the 2016 course.

## BOAT 25th Anniversary

Plans are underway to celebrate BOAT's 25th anniversary in 2016. One event will be a dinner on 2nd June 2016 at Bicton College which will form part of the End of Course Presentation Evening.

More details will be available on the BOAT website in the New Year, but in the meantime put this date in your diary and remember to buy your tickets when they are available.

## Fundraising

If you have any ideas of an event that could help raise funds for BOAT please get in touch. If you wanted to hold a Coffee Morning for your local community, BOAT publicity material can be provided.

## Grand Draw

Thank you everyone who bought Draw tickets this year to help keep BOAT afloat. The Draw was arranged by South East Devon Rotary and took place on 24th Nov and the £1,000 first prize winner was Natalia Michelak of Cullompton, Devon. The second prize of £500 was won by Mrs Starkey of Kingswinford, West Midlands. There were also a number of other cash prize winners.

## Become a Friend of BOAT

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