



2017 BOAT Course delegates meeting with HRH The Countess of Wessex over tea.

Chairman's Message

Our 2017 Plymouth University accredited five week residential course on Institutional Management & Business Planning delivered by BOAT at Bicton College was successfully concluded and all our trainees returned to their countries at the end of May. As usual the fully timetabled course was intense with many hours in the classroom and written assignments submitted. Highlights of their time in Devon included visits to a number of agribusinesses in the area as well the County Show where they enjoyed a meeting with HRH The Countess of Wessex over tea. She had just returned from a visit to Malawi to view the avoidable blindness (Trachoma) programme and was most interested to meet our student James Longwe, CEO of an organisation working in the Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene sector, and fully involved with that very programme. I would like to thank all those who gave their time and expertise so generously to make the course memorable and meaningful for our students.

Some 20 of our Kenyan alumni wishing to build on their Bicton training experience and, with BOAT's help, developing their organisations' management and effectiveness in training and delivery of sustainable field services to their smallholder farmers and rural communities held their first meeting in Nairobi in July. Information exchange is now taking place to provide the basis for a development plan. This activity will replace a Bicton course in 2018.

Our partner in Uganda, the Kulika Trust, has recently appointed Magdalene Ogwang (inset photo) who attended our 2008 Bicton training course as their new Executive Director. We look forward to working with her and Kulika.

Once again BOAT's grateful thanks to our loyal band of fundraisers and supporters who make it all possible.

David Wendover (Chairman)



First Outing for Last Year's Little Red Tractor



Matthew Collett takes his BOAT little red tractor on its first local outing to Tedburn St Mary fair.

Goodbye to an Old Friend

A celebration of the life of Richard "Dick" Taylor was held on the 28th July this year in Plymouth following a long illness courageously borne. Dick had been an active supporter of BOAT since its early days some 26 years ago. He had been a Trustee and Friends of Boat coordinator helping to set up its database and hosting our trainers, including this year when of course they visited his beloved Dartmoor.



The picture is of Dick in The Gambia on a Friends of Boat trip in 2012 to visit projects BOAT had been associated with through its training programmes.

He will be sadly missed and our sympathies go to his family and friends.

We get by with a little help from our "Friends"

The Trustees of BOAT are looking for help. Do you have experience of fundraising and grant applications, or know of anyone who has? If so please email the secretary: secretary@boatagtrust.co.uk

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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Course delegates with David Wendover, Mike Drewe and Chris Jaworski.

Just prior to returning back home and putting into practice their new skills the delegates, together with over 50 Friends of Boat, enjoyed a wonderful evening in the beautiful gardens of Broadhembury House thanks to the kind hospitality of Mr and Mrs Mike Drewe.

Chairman David Wendover welcomed everyone to the Presentation Evening, some of whom had travelled considerable distances, and thanked everyone who had taken part in the delivery of the lectures and hosting of the delegates throughout their stay in Devon.

Bill Vellacott MBE welcomed and thanked Richard Maunder, the Chief Executive and Secretary to the Devon County Agricultural Association, for the Association's continued support by hosting the delegates at the Devon County Show. Thanks also went to Ollie Allen of DCAA. David Wendover presented the delegates with their BOAT Certificates and James Longwe from Malawi gave a heartfelt speech on behalf of the delegates, "As we go back to Africa, we assure you that the enormous amount of knowledge

and skills we have acquired will be put into use to benefit our brothers and sisters we represent back home. The knowledge acquired will be applicable to our individual lives, those around us in our organisations and communities we serve".

Another vote of thanks was given to Chris Jaworski by Bill Vellacott. Chris, who was retiring from full-time teaching, had been instrumental in the rebuilding of 14 classic tractors over the years which had been raffled and raised some £200K for BOAT funds. He also spent many hours at tractor rallies and shows supporting this activity and promoting the sponsors who helped to make this possible.

Once again a fantastic spread by Cottage Caterers was enjoyed by all.

Talks and Presentations

The Chairman and other Trustees are willing to give talks to societies and clubs, whether the local Gardening Club or Rotary, detailing the work of BOAT. Should you wish to have someone come to your meetings to give a talk then contact secretary@boatagtrust.co.uk and she will pass on your details. If your club would like to hold a fundraising event in aid of BOAT publicity material is also available.



Pitman Training session at Bicton College

 **Collect FREE funds for us** any time you shop with  **Sign up now**

All aboard for Christmas!

Do you shop online for gifts, everyday essentials, or for your holidays and hotel accommodation? Then why not sign up with:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bictonoverseas/>

Your favoured retailers, eg Amazon, John Lewis, will make a small donation based on the net amount spent by you to BOAT. Here again there is no extra cost to you, and it helps support the 'Delivery of Sustainable Aid Through Training', the work of BOAT.

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

1. Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bictonoverseas/> and join for free.
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.



Correction

As reported in the Summer Newsletter BOAT has now signed up with mydonate.bt.com a secure platform whereby donations, monthly/annually or just one off, or sponsorship can be made securely and at no cost to you, other than your donation. The links for this are here; <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/boat> to donate to BOAT <https://mydonate.bt.com/events/boat> to sponsor the cycle event'.

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 via <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/boat>. 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.