



Children eating the pawpaws they grew themselves.



Chairman's Message

As we witness the devastation caused by the intense Tropical Cyclone Idai in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe, it brings home to us the fragility of life in these areas. In the mid-seventies I lived for three years in the Shire Valley in the southernmost part of Malawi working on the World Bank assisted Agricultural Development Project. The Shire Valley, low lying and surrounded by Mozambique, was already one of the poorest regions of the country. As part of the development planning we carried out a Participatory Rural Appraisal in a village near Nsanje and during discussions with the villagers they identified an elderly lady as being their poorest resident. Her entire asset after a hard life consisted of a cooking pot. I can only imagine what conditions are like in these areas now. The role of the locally based development organisations (NGOs) supported by

international aid helping these devastated communities to recover has never been more important. BOAT's mission in the East and Central Africa region to strengthen the management capacity and effectiveness of NGO leadership through targeted training is our contribution to the development effort. We thank all those who volunteer their time and donate financially to BOAT to help it achieve its mission.

David Wendover (Chairman)

Certificates Arrive Safely

Last course participants eventually received their certificate awarded by the University of Plymouth as they were carried by hand from the UK to their homelands in Siaya County, Western Kenya. Photos show Shem and Gordon receiving their certificates.



Win this Tractor – Fordson Super Dexta

Once again we wish to thank Kelsey Media and their Heritage Magazines who have donated this tractor as the sole prize for this year's tractor competition to help BOAT raise funds. Entry forms can be downloaded from the BOAT website, or contact: secretary@boatagtrust.co.uk to obtain the form.

Entries are £2 per entry, and you can enter as many times as you like. The winner will be the first randomly selected correct entry drawn by Kelsey Media on 10th November 2019 at the Newark Vintage Tractor Show.

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



Gordon Owino receives his certificate from Josephine at Rafiki wa Maendeleo Trust.



Shem Kambogo, "This has just arrived, Thank You"

Planning Ahead

Following the recent receipt of a grant from The Prince of Wales's Charitable Foundation to add to revenues from the Tractor competition organised by Kelsey Media as well as other funds raised from special events and donations, planning is underway for a BOAT course on Institutional Management and Business Planning which we hope to run at Bicton College in 2020. Our thanks to all BOAT supporters.



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Tractor Rebuild by Bicton College Students



Bicton College students on the tractor re-build project

A classic tractor was donated to BOAT at the end of 2018 by John Harris, BOAT Trustee, which was promptly taken to Bicton where, under the guidance of Chris Mitchell, the students have set up a Tractor Club to restore it. This work will be done voluntarily for a few hours each week outside the formal curriculum. The photos above show the work so far. What happens to this tractor once it has been fully restored has yet to be decided but we will keep you updated via Facebook and these newsletters of the progress. BOAT would like to thank the students and Chris for their work on this project as well as Vapormatic for their continued support in supplying spare parts.

BOAT AND Kulika Uganda

by Viv Horton and Avril Bellinger

An item in our last newsletter described the background to BOAT's fruitful, long-term relationship with Kulika, Uganda, an NGO with a vision to enhance livelihoods in rural communities across Uganda. As regular visitors since 2004, we have been privileged to see how the organisation has adapted, grown and developed, despite significant setbacks, and in November 2018, we were delighted to find it in burgeoning health.

The impact of the BOAT institutional management and business planning course, now successfully completed by eight core members of the Kulika team, including CEO Magdalene Ogwang, has had a tangible influence on all aspects of progress and clearly underpins current performance. When we asked Amen Emmanuel, head of the training centre (KTC) at Lutisi, how he explained his new-found motivation, creativity and effectiveness, he immediately identified 'enabling leadership and my BOAT training'.

Examples of positive changes are: the flourishing and productive farm at KTC, already 60% self-financing and predicted to be fully so this year; commercially successful honey, egg and pig production enterprises; increased visibility of Kulika's stylish own brand 'Katu' products; assertive outreach programmes with five local schools to establish food gardens in partnership with the children and their communities; successful extension projects



Amen, Avril and headteacher

with young farmers and much more. These are just a few of the many advances that evidence the organisation's vibrancy in all spheres.

Kulika Uganda and BOAT will shortly renew their Memorandum of Understanding and both look forward to exploring opportunities for future cooperation. BOAT is grateful to Viv and Avril who visit Kulika during their private visits to Uganda to offer help and advice.

Improving Agriculture Through Training

BOAT is a charity that aims to improve smallholder agriculture and rural life to reduce poverty in developing countries.

How

By providing high quality training to people who are in a position to influence aspects of rural development such as changing methods of food production, managing livestock and land development.

Where

Short residential management courses for senior personnel from African countries held at Bicton College East Devon and accredited by Plymouth University. Participants return home better equipped to fulfil their roles as trainers and managers. Also some workshops are held on the campuses of agricultural colleges or institutes abroad.

How can I help?

BOAT is a charity and relies on donations to fund these courses. Please help the Trust to continue to provide quality training in the UK and abroad.

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.

Donations.

It is always good to receive donations, but with the automated banking system we can no longer accept cheques made payable to 'BOAT' this has to be spelt out in full 'Bicton Overseas Agricultural Trust' thank you.

Thank you to everyone who has given donations via mydonate.com or the website. Going forward mydonate.com are withdrawing their platform for charities to collect donations. VirginMoneyGiving will replace this service, please visit their website to make a donation, regular or one off at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/boatagtrust> this is secure and gift aid will be collected by them on our behalf or donations can be made via the BOAT website.



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