



Friends of BOAT Spring and Summer 2020

Bicton College's Agricultural Engineering students with the newly restored Massey Ferguson 35 tractor

Chairman's Message

With the COVID-19 Pandemic raging we sadly had to postpone our 2020 BOAT training course in early March. After months of careful planning and selection our excellent candidates from Kenya and Uganda were due to arrive in the UK on April 22nd to begin their six week intensive, fully residential course in Institutional Management, Business Planning and Communications (International) based at Bicton College.

One positive feature to emerge from this year's aborted course has been the strength of our partnerships, particularly in Kenya and Uganda. BOAT now has a substantial network of alumni from past training courses, many of whom have reached senior positions in their smallholder agricultural and rural development organisations in East Africa. In Kenya they have formed their own BOAT Kenya network. It was these partner organisations which carried out all the identification, screening and visa documentation mentoring of suitable candidates for the planned 2020 course based on their own experience of the training. Strengthening and deepening these partnerships bodes well for the future as more training and technical support is delivered in-country by BOAT.

We are again indebted to Chris Mitchell and his engineering students at Bicton who have rehabilitated a classic tractor in their own time to raise funds for BOAT with the support of our sponsors (see footnote). We have also been assisted by The Prince of Wales's Charitable Foundation as well as fundraisers like marshalling at The Grizzly Run. To all our supporters I say THANK YOU!

Meanwhile I wish you all, and particularly our African friends, good health and STAY SAFE.

David Wendover (Chairman)

WIN A NEW POLARIS SPORTSMAN

A big thank you to Kelsey Media who for 2020 have teamed up with Polaris to donate this Sportsman 570 EU ATV.



Enter online at: www.winasportsman.co.uk or download an entry form from the BOAT website, www.boatagtrust.co.uk and return to the BOAT Secretary. Winning entry will be drawn at the Newark Vintage Tractor Show on the 8th November 2020. Terms and conditions apply.



2019 Competition Super Dexta Finds a New Home

Last November at the excellent Newark Vintage and Heritage Tractor Show the winning entry form was drawn from the drum by The Nottingham Agricultural Show President William Parente CBE DL. The winner was Mr John Nettleton who is a retired farmer and comes from Goxhill in North Lincolnshire.

John had attended the show and, seeing the tractor, bought some further entries to go with those he had already purchased through Kelsey Media and one of their tractor magazines. It was one of these which proved to be the lucky entry. Although John was delighted to get the news we understand that his grandson, Lewis Nettleton, was even more excited!

My sincere thanks to all those who entered this competition and especially of course to Kelsey Media for their tremendous support to BOAT over the past two decades and once again this year.



Bill Vellacott MBE and Nottingham Agricultural Show President William Parente CBE DL pick out the winning ticket.



Super Dexta winner John Nettleton and grandson Lewis Nettleton.

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



**Contact
BOAT**

Chairman: david_wendover@hotmail.com
Deputy Chairman: bv@woodbeer.eclipse.co.uk
Website: www.boatagtrust.co.uk

 Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/boatagtrust

Bicton College Students have done it again for BOAT

Following on from our news in Autumn 19 newsletter the Bicton College's Agricultural Engineering students have completed a full restoration to a Massey Ferguson 35 Tractor donated by BOAT Trustee John Harris, which will be auctioned by the charity later this year.

The students have worked very hard on this restoration and a big thank you must go to Vapormatic for all the new tractor parts, Firestone for the new tyres and rims and also North Devon Tyres for fitting them.

Many congratulations and a big thank you to Chris Mitchell and his team on completing this huge task.

Over the years BOAT has received wonderful support from the raffling of classic tractors refurbished by Bicton staff and students and the funds raised have been a tremendous help for BOAT to carry out its work improving the lives of rural people in Africa.

Although we have sadly had to postpone this year's BOAT course because of the Coronavirus situation we continue to strengthen our ties with our alumni and their organisations, particularly in Kenya and Uganda, which is very gratifying for our Trust. We have a lot of friends in that part of the world and I certainly hope that these contacts will provide travel opportunities for Bicton students to experience the real Africa with all its wonders, opportunities and challenges.

Once again a huge thank you to all who have been involved in this project.



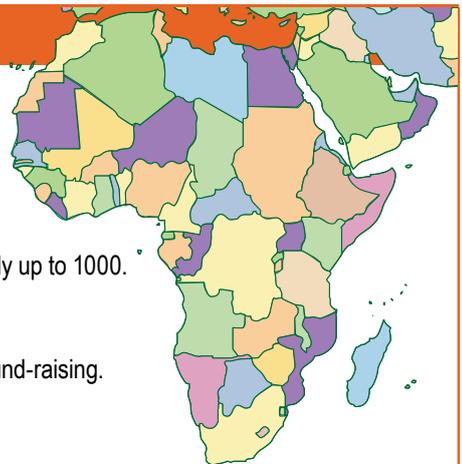
African Anecdotes

Need something to do during lockdown? At the Tropical Agricultural Association AGM in January, John Wibberley, (now its chairman), proposed a fund-raiser for BOAT; that such is the wealth of experience amongst members, we compile a book/let of African anecdotes. This has been taken on board by the committee, and muggins actually volunteered to coordinate the project.

So, your trials and tribulations from that huge continent please, both at work and at play, and from all walks of life, but preferably, not overtly scandalous! My initial concept is between 100 and 500 words, exceptionally up to 1000. As many as you like, preferably funny, scary, out of the ordinary, etc please send as a word.doc file, to: jpgvharris@hotmail.com. A relevant photo would be a bonus, a cartoon even better.

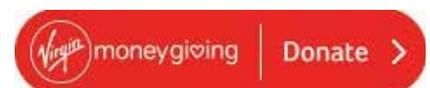
We all have a few "when we" stories, so please, no holding back – we're running out of old tractors for our fund-raising.

Thank you,
John Harris



Thank you to everyone who has given donations via the website.

Going forward donations can also be made via VirginMoneyGiving, 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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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.