



# BOAT

Bicton Overseas Agricultural Trust  
Charity No: 1017527

## Friends of BOAT Spring 2022



One of the many projects the RTC (Reach the Children) and Jastus Obadiah supports.

### Chairman's Message

In these strange times, we try to revert to some form of post-Covid normality, and in the meantime we wish our East African alumni our best wishes. Our BOAT training programme has certainly suffered and the trustees are actively discussing the role of using MS Teams as a means of in-country training. Our alumni in Kenya and Uganda in particular, are playing a major role in the reorganisation as they assume positions of responsibility, and we look forward to tailoring our training programme to suit their national and local needs.

BOAT mourns the passing of another valued supporter – John Carter – see Bill Vellacott's eloquent obituary. As one generation gives way, we relish the participation of younger people, both as supporters and trustees. Please don't be "backward in coming forward".

On a personal note, I am most grateful for the support I have received in compiling our fundraiser African Anecdotes, and hope you enjoy reading it in due course.

For those of you who have received your Tractor and Machinery magazine or any of the other Kelsey Publishing heritage magazines you will

have read of the fantastic Tractor draw being run by them solely for the benefit of BOAT. Apart from the tractor there are a further five additional prizes. Tickets are £5 each with the all proceeds coming to BOAT. Tickets are available online using the QR code below or by telephone direct to Kelsey. Details are on our website <http://boatagtrust.co.uk/>. Kelsey have been a tremendous supporter of the Trusts aims for over 20 years and we can't thank them enough.

Thank you all for continuing to support BOAT.

*John Harris* (Chairman)

## WIN A MASSEY 35 DELUXE! All proceeds going to BOAT

1st  
PRIZE



### Original style Massey Ferguson

Type: 35 Deluxe  
Engine: Perkins 3-152 diesel;  
37hp at PTO

Transmission: 6-speed H/L

Weight: 1,454kg

Fewer than 3,000 hours on the clock. The tractor is undergoing a thorough service by restoration specialist Ben Phillips

Enter online by visiting:  
[SHOP.KELSEY.CO.UK/RAFFLE](http://SHOP.KELSEY.CO.UK/RAFFLE)

Alternatively, you can enter over the phone via our customer service team by calling 01959 543 747 or by scanning the QR on your mobile smartphone.

The closing date is 30th October 2022.



### 2nd PRIZE

Granit Black Edition Dynamic Start workshop trolley with tools, 133 pcs.

### 3rd PRIZE

Multiweld 160M Welding Machine

### 4th PRIZE

Powerduction 10R Induction Machine

### 5th PRIZE

Automatic BATTERY CHARGER with microprocessor

Prizes supplied by Granit and GYS



John  
Carter

It is with great sadness we report the death of former trustee John Carter. Evacuated out of London to the South Downs where his love of nature and agriculture was nurtured. A pioneer of outdoor pig raising together with sheep and arable farming he developed a highly successful farming enterprise here in East Devon. A strong belief in serving the community John was a magistrate for 30 years, national chairman of the Institute of Farm Management, local council chairman and also established one of the first community run village shops in the country. John was also a poet, author and an amazing Fairy Queen in the local pantomime! His wise counsel and support will be greatly missed and our deepest sympathy go to his wife Dawn and family.

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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### FROM TRAINING ONE MAN, A VILLAGE IS EMPOWERED by BOAT Kenya Alumni

Mr Peter Maumo basks in a renewed sense of hope. He is the proud owner of a cow that, for the last 4 years, has given him milk that boosted family nutrition and income through sales, thanks to Reach The Children's Dairy Cow Project, one of the projects developed and managed by Jastus Suchi, an alumnus of the Bicton Overseas Agriculture Trust (BOAT).

In the project, a "seed cow" is donated to a family. The recipient family breeds the cow and chooses how to use milk but donates to two other families calves born from the seed cow.

However, it is not always this easy and straightforward. Survival of a cow, once donated especially to a family that is new to raising dairy cows, is not always guaranteed. Poor handling leads to low productivity and paves the way for disease and even preventable deaths of such cows. The transformative power of this project is therefore in the management plan to ensure the cows remain in good health and to optimize productivity.

The management plan laid out by Jastus Suchi Obadiah, who is also the initiator of this project, focuses on three pillars of success, thus: cross-breeding, effective husbandry and progressive group dynamics.

Cross-breeding ensures that the cows donated have the right characteristics for survival under local climatic conditions, can live on locally available feeds such as Elephant / Napier grass, are less prone to common diseases and are more productive. The cross-breeds produce between five and ten times more milk than local ones with most producing an average of 10 litres per day.

Before receiving a cow, the farmer is taught basic animal husbandry skills related to feeding, disease management and record keeping. In addition, they learn marketing and value addition skills to maximize benefits from the produce. In order to deliver training on this set of skills, Jastus relies heavily on the content he learnt at BOAT where he attended a training in 2016 and visited various farms for practical learning.

Through the Dairy Cow project, Reach the Children (RTC) works with 13 Self Help Groups bringing together nearly 363 families in the Western Region of Kenya. Success of the project requires that the groups are cohesive, cooperate in problem solving and demonstrate equal

commitment to the common goal of increasing members' household incomes.

Each member has signed a set of group norms. Among the group values agreed include willingness to provide the highest standards of husbandry and security to the cows and to donate calves as soon as they are weaned from milk. The receiving farmer must belong to one of the 13 Self Help Groups targeted by RTC.

Most of the families represented are peasant farmers who, otherwise, have inadequate income for their subsistence. "Since I got the cow I have more able to school fees for my high school children. Three of them have directly benefited from the sale of milk and last year we sold a heifer at about 320 Sterling Pounds to another family because I had already passed two calves required by the agreement I signed with my group", says Harrison Amunga Kayo. Since inception in 2016 over 40 cows have been donated and 50 calves passed on to new families, traceability records are kept by both RTC and individual groups. The project has also indirectly created other opportunities to other members of the community, for example, they grow grass for sale, new veterinary shops have emerged and local vet officers have opportunities to earn a living by giving their service to local farmers.

#### Management and Fund raising

Apart from managing the projects, Justus Suchi is also responsible for resource mobilization, a skill he also learned under the BOAT training. He has simplified the basic components of a business plan into fourteen simple questions and leads the development of simple business plans that can be used by less educated people. His template is now widely used by many organisations to train on business planning. He has also designed and established a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system for RTC.

Other projects that RTC supports include providing tuition scholarships to over 300 students, rain water harvesting in schools, spring protection, community economic empowerment, kitchen gardening and health projects. Jastus has also supported two schools, where he is a board member, to obtain funds from local government and other donors.



Top: A calf being passed on to another family by Bunashiko group. Top Middle: Womusula spring, serving over 40 families. Bottom Middle: Mr Harrison Amunga with his family, and the cow they received. Bottom: Jastus standing in RTC demo farm.

### New Donation Platform

Virgin Money Giving have withdrawn their giving platform, and BOAT has signed up with Evershare follow this QR code to make a donation or visit the BOAT Website and find the donation button/QR Code.

Thank you.



Become a Friend of **BOAT**

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.