



**Buloke**  
The Friends  
of Buloke Charity

Registered Charity no. 1140094





# The letter

Newsletter December 2015 from The Friends of Butoke Charity (Registered Charity no. 1140094)

## How was your money spent by Butoke?

*Welcome to the Friends of Butoke Charity's 2015 Newsletter. We've set out below some of the work Butoke has done in the last twelve months, with a particular focus on the school that Butoke has managed to build and open in a remarkably short period of time. By the end of 2015 the Friends of Butoke Charity will have sent around £16000 that you have donated to Butoke.*

*This has been spent in the following way:*

- £1350** towards building costs of school
- £1000** towards teacher training costs
- £2700** towards exam fees for orphans finishing primary school
- £500** towards feeding of new born orphans
- £10450** towards the running costs of Butoke's orphanage

*All the money you give is sent to Butoke – the running costs of the Charity are covered by the trustees.*



## From kiln to classroom in nine months

For several years, the Friends of Butoke Charity has helped Butoke pay for the exam fees of orphans and children from very poor families and we give more details elsewhere in this newsletter about how we helped in that respect this year.

Butoke has believed for some time that local state schools provide a poor level of education. Butoke wanted to open its own school. A North Ameri-

can benefactor provided funds which covered most of the set up costs, including the building.

By making their own bricks (see picture of kiln), Butoke managed to build and equip a school with 4 classrooms for under £10,000 between January and September this year. It then went about recruiting teachers. It made qualified teachers who applied for jobs take an exam and the results

were poor. However, with the help of a Canadian consultant, Butoke pressed quickly ahead, providing training for the teachers who were recruited whilst opening the doors of the school in September, less than 9 months after building the kiln to make the bricks for the building!

Butoke aims to make the school self-funding.

Most children are charged the same fees that state schools charge. Children who are orphans in Butoke's care or from impoverished families are not charged fees.

The school has been a huge success and is already over-subscribed. It is a sign of hope that there is such hunger for education.

### Just remind me again, what does Butoke do?

Butoke is a small NGO working in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Its core activities are to run a school, an Orphanage, a Clinic, a Community nutrition centre and Food security programmes. The on the ground expertise comes from two doctors, one Congolese (Dr Jean Lumbala) and one Belgian (Dr Cecile de Sweemer). Dr Lumbala is also a trained agronomist.

The Friends of Butoke Charity raises funds to help Butoke continue its activities. We have four trustees: Matthew Pollard, Adriane Pollard, Marleen Tiemens and Paul Evans.

# Could you sponsor a Butoke child?

Muamba Kasonga arrived at Butoke in 2012, aged 3. He was not an orphan but his parents could not afford to look after him. He had chronic malnutrition complicated by kwashiorkor. At the end of his rehabilitation, he had two requests: first, to be sent to school and, second, to be permitted to eat at Butoke because his parents could not feed him properly.

Butoke has 40 children who live in its orphanage and cares for another 47, who live in the community, by providing free education and, if necessary, food.

A lot of the funding for these children comes from Dr Cecile de Sweemer's various pensions. However Dr de Sweemer is in poor health and 76. Butoke is keen to establish independent funding for the orphans. The Friends of Butoke Charity already sends about £10000 a year towards these costs.

## Could you sponsor a child?

For a child in Butoke's orphanage the costs are \$90 education costs (\$135 if of secondary school age) and \$540 for living costs a year (so about £430 - £460 a year).

For a child for whom Butoke provides a free education in its school, the costs are \$90 a year (about £60).

If you feel able to sponsor a child, please let Paul know ([paulevans@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:paulevans@blueyonder.co.uk)).

The easiest way for you to sponsor a child would be to increase your monthly contribution. Although Butoke wants to provide sponsors with information about their sponsored child, funds raised would be ring-fenced to the orphanage/school as appropriate and not to the individual child.



## We are on Facebook!



We have a rather undeveloped Facebook page – but please look us up: putting “Friends of Butoke facebook” into google will get you there.

# Christmas is coming

*The Friends of Butoke's kind pro bono Swedish designer, Carolina, has prepared tastefully designed gift cards which you might like to consider including in your Christmas offerings.*

*The presents on offer are:*

**A winter coat for one of the children in the orphanage Butoke runs (£7.50).**

**A set of winter clothing for one of the children in the orphanage Butoke runs (£10).**

**A set of agricultural tools for one of the families Butoke works with (£20).**

**Food to feed one child in Butoke's orphanage for a month (£30).**

Please e-mail [paulevans@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:paulevans@blueyonder.co.uk) to purchase gift cards. We are also hoping to add



some gift cards which cover the educational costs of orphans. These will be £20 and £30 each. Let Paul if you would like to order these. If we have them in time for Christmas, we will send them to you. If not, we will send cards for the same values as set out opposite.

## Easyfundraising



Many of you will be buying Christmas presents online this year. If you are, please visit <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/how-it-works/>. If you visit online sellers via this site, most of the big retailers (Amazon, John Lewis etc) will make a small donation to the good cause of your choice. The amounts are relatively small but

they add up: we've raised over £450 in the last couple of years. It only takes a minute to set up. If everyone reading this newsletter used Easyfundraising, it would increase the Friends of Butoke's income by a significant amount.

## The 2015 School fees project

*Butoke believes that for many of the impoverished children it works with education is the only chance of a better life – hence its desire to open a school. But education in the DRC is not free: school and exam fees have to be paid. Many families can't pay the fees for the final year of primary school with the result that many children, especially girls, leave school without any qualifications.*

This year, using funds provided by The Friends of Butoke, Butoke was able to pay the fees of 150 children who were either orphans or from impoverished families. Butoke has told us that

nearly all of the children passed the exams and that they got better results than the local and national average.



*Laying the foundations for the school.*

*The school in action in September: second year secondary school students*

