



January 2018 newsletter

The Friends of Butoke Charity (Registered Charity no. 1140094)

How much did you raise in 2017?

Welcome to the Friends Of Butoke Charity's annual newsletter which covers our activities in 2017.

In 2017 the Charity's income was just under **£24k**. A big 'thank you' to everyone whose generosity contributed to that total.

During 2017 we sent just under **£26k** to Butoke (we had a small surplus at the end of 2016). The majority of that went towards the running costs of the orphanage run by Butoke. However we also sent £2400 towards the cost of new equipment for Butoke's school (further details below).

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

Butoke's activities in 2017

Butoke has worked in the same areas as in previous years:

Education: Butoke continues to operate a school. The violence in Kasai province meant that the school had to close between December 2016 and May 2017. By June, confidence in the security situation had improved sufficiently for 86% of the students to have returned to school.

The clinic: Butoke remains committed to running a clinic providing low cost or free healthcare but its activities have been seriously disrupted by the ongoing violence in the Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (which is described elsewhere). Equipment and drugs were stolen during the worst of the violence. These cost around \$1500 to replace.

Nutrition centre: Butoke has continued to operate a nutrition centre. Many people have been displaced during the violence and Butoke, along with other small-scale NGOs, has done what it can to feed malnourished and dispossessed refugees.

The orphanage: Butoke continues to care for more than 40 orphans. New orphans arrived as a result of the violence in 2017. The orphans had to be evacuated from Tshikaji (usually the main base for Butoke's operations) to Kananga (the nearest city) for a number of months as a result of the violence, but they have all survived. The situation was far from ideal with up to 20 children and adults having to stay together in a modest sized flat.



Easyfundraising



Easyfundraising is a great way to help the Charity raise funds at no cost to yourself. Many big online retailers (Amazon, John Lewis, booking.com, for example) will make a small donation when you visit their website through the [easyfundraising portal](#). Over the last 3 years the Charity has received £800 in this way. Firefox has an [add on](#) which will tell you when you visit a website that will make donations via easyfundraising. Please give it a go!

Fund raising Christmas cards

Many thanks to those of you who bought Christmas cards again. We hope to have some new designs ready for Christmas 2018.

If anyone has any ideas about other ways in which we could raise funds, please let us know.



Our new website

Two of the Charity's supporters, Sue and Cliff, have done a great job setting up a [new website](#) for the Charity. Please have a look. If you want to pass on information about Butoke to friends or family, the

website is a great source of basic information. We're also on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). It would be great if you could share our posts and retweet our tweets!



If you fancy doing a sponsored event for Butoke, we have teamed up with Charity Checkout. You can set up your own account [here](#) and will be able to create your own sponsorship page.



The Yorkshire marathon

One of our trustees, Paul, ran the Yorkshire marathon to raise funds for the Charity. Thank you to those of you who donated £2400 in total which is being used by Butoke to equip a classroom with sewing machines (see opposite).

The sewing machine project

Many girls miss out on an education in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Butoke's school is trying to help some young women who were unable to go to school as children by providing them with a vocational education. To this end, the £2400 you donated when Paul ran the Yorkshire marathon will be spent on sewing machines and related materials. The idea is to provide students with skills which will enable them to make a living by making and repairing clothes.



The annual pilgrimage

For the fourth year running Bridlington Priory Church supported the Charity this Easter. As part of the church's Lent Appeal for the Charity a group of walkers did a sponsored 42 mile pilgrimage over the course of three days from Hull minster back to Bridlington Priory. In previous years they have walked back to Bridlington from Whitby Abbey, from York Minster and from Beverley Minster. A similar pilgrimage is planned for 2018. This year the pilgrimage raised £1700.

A difficult year for the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The DRC has had a difficult year and that has affected Butoke's ability to help those who rely upon it. The national political situation is difficult. The [BBC News website](#) has interesting coverage of recent events.

Secondly, and of more immediate significance to Butoke, a huge humanitarian crisis has developed in the Kasai province, which is where Butoke operates. Again, the [BBC News website](#) is covering the crisis, which has grown out of clashes between a local militia and the security services. The UN food agency says that more than three million people are now at risk of starvation. At least 1.5 million people have fled their homes and an unknown number have already been killed or died.

Butoke has tried to help people who have been emerging from the forests where they had been hiding from militias for months at a time. The new arrivals often have literally nothing, not even clothes, when they arrive malnourished at Butoke's door. Butoke has been trying to provide clothes, some food, medical treatment and blankets, but the situation remains desperate.



Just remind me again, what does The Friends of Butoke Charity do?

The Friends of Butoke Charity was set up to support Butoke, a small NGO working in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Butoke's core activities are to run an orphanage, a school, 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.

We have four trustees: Matthew Pollard, Adriane Pollard, Marleen Tiemens and Paul Evans. The trustees meet 4 or 5 times a year. Our accounts are examined annually by a Fellow of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners.

Contact details for the Friends of Butoke Charity

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