



## A brief introduction to the Friends of Butoke Charity

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

### What does The Friends of Butoke Charity do?

The Friends of Butoke Charity supports 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.

### How is money sent by The Friends of Butoke Charity spent by Butoke?

Most of the money sent by the Charity is spent on the cost of running the orphanage and the associated costs of educating the orphans.

The orphanage usually has about 45 children in its care.



*Children in the orphanage.*



*Girls whose school leaving exams were paid for by Butoke.*

The Charity has also provided funds several times specifically to pay for the school leaving exams of hundreds of girls: poor parents struggle to pay fees and tend to prioritise the education of their sons.

The quality of state education in the DRC is very poor. Further, although it is in theory free, in practice all state schools charge "fees". Two years ago Butoke built (literally, even down to building a kiln to manufacture the bricks!) and set up its own school. The Charity contributed funds to this project.



*The kiln built by Butoke to make bricks for the school building.*



*A capped spring.*

Clean drinking water is in desperately short supply. In 2014 the Charity sent funds which enabled 7 springs to be capped to create fresh drinking water for about 80,000 people. All for less than the price of a medium sized second hand car in the UK...

Butoke is based in Tshikaji, close to the city of Kananga. There is no mains electricity. The Charity raised funds for solar panels to be used at the orphanage.



*Children from the orphanage looking fascinated by the solar panels...*

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## How can I help?

The Charity aims to provide Butoke with a regular income, so we gratefully receive regular monthly donations, however small. However, if you want to make a larger one-off donation, we can contact Butoke and ask it to identify a specific project that needs funding. The most recent "one-off" project which the Charity funded was to pay for sewing machines for the school, which aims to run vocational courses for young women who missed out on an education when younger.

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## Who runs the Friends of Butoke Charity?

We have four trustees: Matthew Pollard, Adriane Pollard, Marleen Tiemens and Paul Evans. The trustees meet 4 or 5 times a year.

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## Who pays the running costs of the Friends of Butoke Charity?

The Trustees pay all of the running costs of the Friends of Butoke Charity. All the money given to the Charity is sent to Butoke.

The Charity's financial records are examined annually by a Fellow of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners. We submit an annual return to the Charity Commission.

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## Contact details for the Friends of Butoke Charity

<https://thefriendsofbutokecharity.wordpress.com/news/paulevans@blueyonder.co.uk>