



Registered Charity no. 1140094



Look how much you've raised this year

The Friends of Butoke's income for this year will be in the region of £15,500 – thanks to your generous donations. Of that income approximately 90% has been sent to Butoke as and when it has been received. Butoke uses most of it for the running costs of its orphanage and nutrition centre. The remaining

10% is held back by the Friends of Butoke as a fund for emergencies. At the time of going to press, that money has not been used, but food prices shoot up in December each year so the Friends of Butoke may receive an urgent request for extra funds before the year is out.

We've been independently examined

The Friends of Butoke would like to be able to apply to grant making charities for funding for particular projects. Many such charities will only make grants to organisations who have their accounts independently examined.

David Knox, a Fellow of the Association of Charity

Independent Examiners, very kindly examined the Friends of Butoke's accounts for 2011 and 2012 at no charge. He gave the Friends of Butoke a clean bill of health. We are hoping that on the back of this we can make applications soon for grants to help Butoke with "spring capping" – that is turning a spring into a well, which will provide safe drinking water for a whole community. Each one costs about \$2750.



Some of the girls that had their exam fees paid by the Friends of Butoke

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: an Orphanage, a Clinic, a Community nutrition centre and Food security programmes.

Butoke's 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.

Jean Mukendi's story



Jean Mukendi's story illustrates the desperate struggle for survival of many of those Butoke works with. Here is how Dr Cecile de Sweemer (whose mother tongue is Flemish) told it to us:

“ At the age of 15 he joined a team of 7 students that had decided to dig for diamonds by hand to pay their studies. This is illegal but a frequent practice in Mbuji Mayi. During the first year of their activities, on 27 February 2009, the seven students were surprised by the police while they were digging and arrested. Back in the police office, the police men demanded all diamonds, especially a diamond of 50 carats, but the team had nothing to give. So the police men took their guns and threatened to kill whilst firing live ammunition at the floor and the walls. As the students still did not give anything the police brought sulphuric acid and made each one drink

about 200 cc of it. Three of the students started vomiting blood and died on the spot. The four others were each one separately thrown in a cell. The next morning only Jean and one friend were released, the two others were never seen again. Jean and his friend went each their way to their families.

Jean was hospitalised at the Health Center “The Star” Kabeya Kamuanga. The doctor wanted to refer him to South Africa or Switzerland but Jean could not even begin to afford such a trip. So Jean returned home and tried to survive on fluids. On 16 June 2009 Jean decided with his family to try the hospital in Tshikula, 2 days walking away. That hospital referred him to the Hospital in Tshikaji.

After one more day of walking Jean arrived in Kananga, to rest with his cousin brother who works as carpenter near Butoke’s clinic Musue Bantu. They discussed and Jean’s cousin advised him to contact first Butoke.

On 19 June he arrived in the Butoke Center in Tshikaji, where we started first to correct a strong dehydration and to give tea, milk and sugar to strengthen the metabolism. In the meantime we contacted Dr Fletcher and hospitalized Jean at IMCK on 25th June. Dr Fletcher placed a oesophagus catheter, but even so only broth and light semifluid passed. On 28th October because of the stenose of the catheter Dr Fletcher did a

gastrostomy, so that the food could immediately go in the stomach. The general condition of Jean’s health improved fast. On 3rd January 2010 Dr Fletcher was able to reinstall a catheter so that Jean could restart feeding by mouth, while having the security of the gastrostomy. Finally on 30th November 2010 Dr Fletcher has been able to repair the gastrostomy.”

Fast forward to 2013: Jean Mukendi is in better health and is keen to resume his studies to become a medical technician – but he needed \$300 to pay for his college fees. The Friends of Butoke has provided this, with the help of an extra gift from one particular donor.”

The Yorkshire 3 Peaks walk

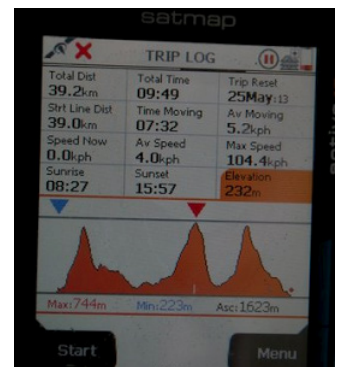
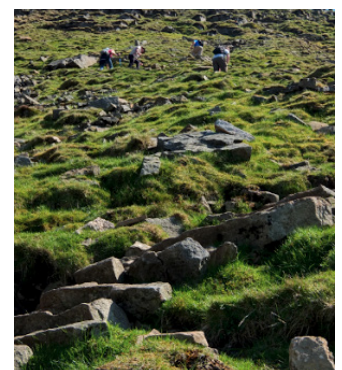
This year’s sponsored event, the Yorkshire 3 Peaks walk in May, was an international affair with Pär Pärsson from Sweden joining Paul Evans to enjoy a 25 mile saunter taking 9 ½ hours across Pen y Ghent, Whernside and Ingleborough.

Thanks to your sponsorship, Paul and Par raised £3155. Butoke used this money to pay for the exam fees of several hundred primary school girls.

Without Butoke’s assistance the girls would not have been able to take the exams, and so would have lost the opportunity of any education beyond primary level.

The amount raised, combined with other funds that the Friends of Butoke provided, also enabled Butoke to pay for the secondary school fees of the 25 girls who got the best results in the exams.

Next year’s sponsored event has yet to be identified, suggestions are welcome.



Christmas gift ideas

Butoke has suggested the following as Christmas gifts for you to "give" to your friends and family:

1 week's rehabilitation (food and medicine) for a malnourished child
\$10.50 = £7

Food for the orphanage for 1 day **\$51.50 = £35**

Seeds for 1 family to cultivate 1 hectare for 1 year
\$117.50 = £75

UK prices have been rounded up.

E-mail paulevans@blueyonder.co.uk with your orders and send cheques made payable to The Friends of Butoke Charity to Paul Evans, 5 Westville Avenue,

Ilkley, LS29 9AH. Paul will send you gift cards with details of your gift for you to send out. The additional funds will be sent to Butoke in January next year.

If anyone has had a particularly good year and is looking for a big gift then we can do a well serving a whole community for around \$2750 (£1760).



News from the front line

Butoke has continued with all its normal activities this year: the running of the orphanage, the clinic and the agricultural projects. The political climate in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been a little more stable than in 2012 with the result that Butoke's basic activities have been disrupted less.

Butoke's involvement with the end of primary school exams was a new venture. With the help of the Friends of Butoke – see "The Yorkshire 3 Peaks Walk" – Butoke paid for the end of primary school exams of 200 girls in 8 primary schools. Butoke focused its efforts on girls because very often parents will pay the exam fees of

their sons but not of their daughters.

The year has been a difficult one for Butoke's founder, the Belgian doctor, Cecile de Sweemer. She is now in her late 70s and suffered a severe bout of malaria in May. Having recovered from that, she is now suffering severe eye problems. She will shortly receive eye treatment (involving injections into her eye) in her native Belgium, after which she will head back to Butoke. Her commitment to working in one of the most undeveloped and dangerous parts of the world, at an age when most of us probably aspire to a quiet and comfortable life, is extraordinary.

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.

Marleen conquers the Leeds 10k

Paul and Par weren't the only sponsored Butoke athletes this year. Marleen, a life-long committed non-runner, donned her running shoes and ran the Leeds 10k in a personal best time for Butoke in May. She has the Yorkshire marathon in her sights for 2014.

