



Registered Charity no. 1140094





The letter

Newsletter February 2020 from The Friends of Butoke Charity (Registered Charity no. 1140094)

How much did you raise in 2019?

Welcome to The Friends of Butoke Charity's annual newsletter 2019.

In 2019 the Charity's income was £24,994.91. We sent a total of £26,649.52 to Butoke to support its work (we had a small surplus at the end of 2019). A big "thank you" to everyone who contributed,

whether by donating each month, sponsoring Paul (yet again) or by buying Christmas cards. 100% of the money you give is sent to Butoke, and the running costs of the Charity are covered by the Trustees.

Tshimbundu school almost there

Butoke has continued to run a secondary school and two primary schools. Work to build a new school in Tshimbundu is nearing completion thanks to the Canadian supporters of Butoke. This means that the education of hundreds of children who would otherwise not attend school continues. However, Butoke and the new school still need money for desks, chairs and books.



Muambayi Emmanuel, to the left, is 91. He has hearing problems and can't talk well. He has no family, but he is looked after by Butoke in the shelter for the elderly. To the right, we see food being prepared for the orphans and the elderly.



Main activities 2019

2018 was a tumultuous year for Butoke with the fighting between militias in the Western Kasai making life very difficult. The general political atmosphere was calmer in 2019, with the presidential election safely in the past. Butoke's activities this year have been relatively unchanged:

Healthcare

The Musue Bantue Health Centre is Butoke's main clinic. Its quality has been recognised by it being appointed the supervisory healthcare centre for the area by the authorities – but unfortunately the authorities do not contribute towards its running costs! In December 2019 it treated 80 patients including 21 with malaria, 7 with typhoid, 11 with hernias, and 5 who needed caesarian sections. It also delivered 21 babies. Butoke also operates a small clinic in Tshikaji and wishes to open a small maternity unit in Tshimbundu (see details elsewhere in this newsletter).



Agriculture

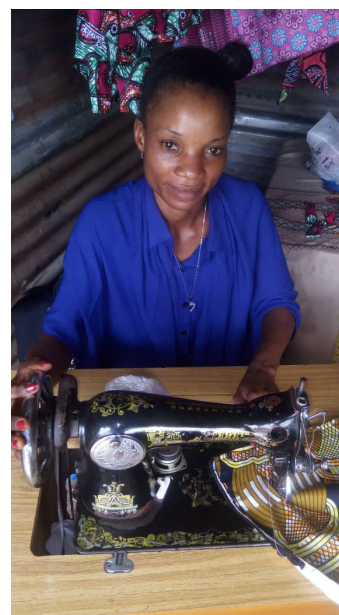
Butoke continues to work with around 30 local agricultural associations and insists that women are involved in the management committees of its association partners. Butoke helped educate its association partners in agricultural techniques, for example introducing cassava varieties which are resistant to common pests. However crops remain vulnerable to theft by people displaced during the fighting in 2018.

Fish farming

Butoke introduced fish farming to a number of its association partners to increase the amount of protein available to villagers. The fish farms were damaged and looted during 2018 but have been re-established in the last year to some extent.

The sewing machine project

You sponsored Paul for his (slow) triple half-marathon effort last summer to the tune of £1250. This paid for six sewing machines. They will be used in Butoke's programme to provide vocational education for young women who need a way to earn a living and to support themselves. Experience has shown that tailoring skills can provide this successfully.



Orphanage and shelter for the elderly

Butoke continues to operate an orphanage and shelter for the elderly. In December 2019 it had 68 young people: 28 girls and 40 boys. Some of the children are fed by Butoke but continue to live at home – their families simply cannot afford to feed them. In December Butoke took in 9 elderly people who had been sent back to the DRC from Angola. See more images on previous page.



We are on Facebook!

Please look us up by putting "Friends of Butoke facebook" into Google.

Projects coming up in 2020

Much of the money we send month-by-month goes towards Butoke's day-to-day running costs. However there are two projects we would like to raise extra funds for this year. Can you help, whether by sending an extra donation or doing a sponsored event for us?

A new maternity unit

In the last 6 months Dr Jean has twice had to deliver babies in Tshimbundu whilst en route to supervise the building of the new school. In each case the new mother was unable to travel to one or other of Butoke's clinics. Butoke would therefore like to open a small maternity unit with six beds in Tshimbundu. The local community has provided a building but it needs to be equipped. Dr Jean has prepared a budget for items including: beds, mattresses, battery powered lighting, sheets, forceps, scissors, scales, stethoscopes, and sterilising equipment. We have said we will try and raise the necessary funds for this; about £3500.

The Justice Project

Butoke works to enforce the legal rights of rape survivors, widows, orphans and those accused of witchcraft. Dr Jean often involves himself as an informal arbitrator and, when it has the funds, Butoke provides legal assistance to those most in need (at a cost of about \$150 to \$200 a case). At the moment, Butoke does not have the necessary funds. Butoke wants to reinstate its program to provide legal assistance. It also wants to train a network of volunteers who will gather information about rapes and other crimes to reduce the tendency of local communities to brush them under the carpet. Butoke would also like to use the same volunteers to raise awareness in local communities of how the legal rights of women, widows and orphans should be respected. There is no fixed budget for this project at the moment. Even a relatively small amount of money would enable the programme of legal assistance to be reinstated.

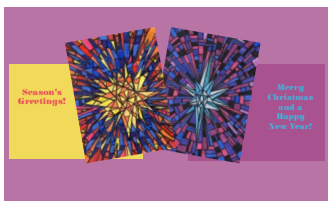
Bridlington Priory's sponsored walk

Bridlington Priory is a long-standing and generous supporter of Butoke. This year it organised a 42-mile sponsored walk from Pocklington to Bridlington. Ten committed walkers covered the distance over 3 days. In 2019 the Priory donated over £1000 to the Charity.



Get your christmas cards early!

We raised £845 from the sale of Christmas cards, thank you. However we still have boxes of them left which are cluttering up Paul and Marleen's attic. If you would like to stock up for next year, they are going at the discount price of £3 per pack of 10 plus postage.



If you would like to stock up ahead of next year, send Paul an email

Easyfundraising

Easyfundraising is a great way to help the Charity raise funds at no cost to yourself. Many big online retailers, make a small donation when you visit their website through the Easyfundraising portal. Over the last 3 years the Charity has received £1018.22 in this way. Firefox has an add on which will tell you when you visit a website that will make donations via Easyfundraising.



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 several schools, one big and two small clinics, an orphanage, and a food security programmes. The on the ground expertise comes from a medical team lead by Dr Jean Lumbala, who 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.