



Rural Africa Children's Education Trust

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Many thanks to all those who contributed to the LUCI Solar Lantern appeal in March. Your generosity enabled RACET to raise enough funds for an incredible 427 lanterns! So far we have distributed 262 lanterns to all of the children and staff at the Community Secondary School in Ntrigom. As the children were instructed to inflate and turn them on, the whole hall was filled with squeals of delight and excitement as suddenly the lanterns created a safe and bright light that would be so valuable in this area where very few people have access to electricity. One such student invited us to her home in a very remote village, and we could see immediately that this lantern was the only thing that could enable her to study after dark in her home.



Welcome, Deirdre!

The trustees of RACET are privileged to welcome **Deirdre Trapp** as a new trustee. Deirdre is a partner in a City law firm, a resident of Weald and a St. Thomas attendee. She has done a lot of fundraising for Oxfam's Legal Circle to promote the rights of women and girls in sub-Saharan Africa. Her experience and qualifications are a wonderful asset to RACET and we are delighted to have her on board.

Visit the RACET website at www.racet.org and share your thoughts with us at secretary@racet.org For sponsorship information and other queries by phone, contact Mary Ann Perasso on 01959 522337

Sir Brandon Gough Centre Officially Opened by RACET Trustees in March



Students and staff both benefit from the wealth of learning resources on the 11 computers now being used in the newly opened computer centre.

Two RACET trustees travelled to Ntrigom in rural Cross River State for the much anticipated inauguration of the recently constructed Sir Brandon Gough Centre, which provides a spacious library and computer suite at the Community Secondary School of Ntrigom. The local chiefs and village dignitaries, as well as students and staff of the school, all attended the ceremony presided over by fellow trustee Fr. Kenneth Egere. Children and adults alike were thoroughly captivated by the exciting Khan Academy lessons that unfolded on the screens in front of them, and for many present it was their first experience with a computer.



In the library, students enjoy perusing workbooks and textbooks donated by St. Thomas RC School in Sevenoaks. The message from students is clear: More books please!



A brand new borehole provides fresh water for students at school

Thanks to the generosity of a RACET donor, the Community Secondary School of Ntrigom now has a source of clean water for students and staff to enjoy on their breaks. The well was dug more than 100 ft deep and is sure to keep supplying water even in the dry season. It is a welcome respite from the intense heat and humidity. On our recent visit, temperatures soared daily to 37° C and more.

Electricity connection makes modern technology possible at Ntrigom Community School

Nigeria is not well-known for the reliability of its electricity supply, but a connection to the mains network was necessary to power the computers and printer in the Sir Brandon Gough Centre. A generator is also on hand for those times when the current isn't available, and an inverter will soon be installed which will act as a battery that can be charged when there is electricity and then used to power the computers when necessary. It will also help protect the equipment from damage due to power surges. Fortunately, the computers and monitors have been specifically chosen for their efficient energy ratings.



A Big Thank You to Two Amazing RACET Volunteers:



Georgia Trapp climbed to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro in February and raised nearly £1,400 for RACET. She used the online donation service **JustGiving** and created the page for RACET which enables donations via a credit card.



Olga Herrmann joined RACET trustees on the March trip to Nigeria and was instrumental in interviewing students, taking beautiful photos, and keeping spirits high with her keen sense of humour.