



**Our Chapel – Re-Opened at Last! 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**DR GRAHAM'S HOMES KALIMPONG (UK)**

*Charity Registered in Scotland SC 050985*

**Annual Report and Summary Accounts**

**For the Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024**

**Mid-Year Newsletter, May 2024**

## **Our Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel .....**

**.... From This, at 18:11 on  
18th September 2011 ....**



**.... Through Thirteen Years of  
“Keep Out”,  
Between 2011 and 2024 ....**



**.... To This, Ready for Inaugural  
Service on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024!**



## Dr Graham's Homes Kalimpong (UK)

Charity Registered in Scotland SC 050985

Registered Address: Abercorn House, 79 Renfrew Road, Paisley PA3 4DA

[drgrahamshomes.co.uk](http://drgrahamshomes.co.uk)

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### **AGM and Curry Lunch**

**The Royal Scots Club, 29 Abercromby Place, Edinburgh EH3 6QE**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

We invite all our Members, Supporters and Friends to join us for an informative day of fellowship in Edinburgh at the UK Committee's Annual General Meeting and Curry Lunch

**Coffee served from 10:15 a.m. ahead of our AGMs commencing at 11:00 a.m.  
Curry Lunch at 12:45p.m.**

For more information and to reserve a place for the lunch afterwards, please contact our Committee Secretary, Frances Dent.

e-mail: [secretary@drgrahamshomes.co.uk](mailto:secretary@drgrahamshomes.co.uk) Tel: 01382 668700

Lunch cost £25 payable on the day

## Honorary Presidents

The Moderator of the General Assembly  
The Church of Scotland

The Primus  
The Scottish Episcopal Church

Honorary Vice President      Reverend John G Webster

## The Board of Trustees 2023–2024

<b>Chair</b>	James Gibson 44 Aytoun Road, Pollokshields, Glasgow G41 5HN Tel. 0141423 8290 e-mail: <a href="mailto:chair@drgrahamshomes.co.uk">chair@drgrahamshomes.co.uk</a>
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	<i>(Vacant)</i>
<b>Committee Secretary</b>	Frances Dent 12 Glamis Drive, Dundee DD2 1QL Tel. 01382 668700 e-mail: <a href="mailto:secretary@drgrahamshomes.co.uk">secretary@drgrahamshomes.co.uk</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Gordon Coupar Braeriach, South Kingennie, Broughty Ferry, Dundee, DD5 3PA Tel. 07763 941036 e-mail: <a href="mailto:treasurer@drgrahamshomes.co.uk">treasurer@drgrahamshomes.co.uk</a>

## Other Members of the Board of Trustees

	Frank Dunn	Aileen Fraser	Shona Hume	Michael Jefferson
	Esther Anne Pears	Ian Russell	Jim Simpson	Pat Simpson
<b>Joint Sponsorship Secretaries</b>	Ian and Anji Russell Hazelgrove, The Common, Cranleigh, Surrey, GU6 8NS Tel. 01483 272108 e-mail: <a href="mailto:sponsorship@drgrahamshomes.co.uk">sponsorship@drgrahamshomes.co.uk</a>			

## External Appointments

<b>Independent Examiner</b>	MILNE CRAIG Abercorn House 79 Renfrew Road Paisley PA3 4DA	<b>Solicitors</b>	GILLESPIE MACANDREW 163 West Regent Street Glasgow G2 2JJ
<b>Bankers</b>	BANK OF SCOTLAND 75 George Street Edinburgh EH2 3EW		



## **The Inauguration Service Giving Thanks for the Restoration of The Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel - Dr Graham's Homes, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

The Inaugural Service of The Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel was held on a bright sunny morning on February 11th, 2024, marking a significant milestone - ending its enforced closure following the earthquake of September 2011. Its successful reopening is attributed to the collaborative efforts of the Board of Management, the Principal, and the West Bengal Heritage Commission, not to mention a considerable amount of effort behind the scenes in the early days of recovery from the disaster. This inaugural event holds emotional resonance beyond the school and its alumni, resonating deeply within the broader Kalimpong community.



The Chapel's cultural and historical significance to the region underscores collective pride and celebration surrounding its restoration, symbolizing resilience, perseverance, and heritage preservation in adversity.

The inaugural service was attended by Board Members, OGBs, Teachers, Staff, and Boarder pupils. The worship was led by The Homes's Chaplain Reverend Henry Simon and the sermon was delivered by Reverend Dr. Mathusela Limboo, a former pupil, an OGB, and a good friend of The Homes. The scripture readings were delivered by Ms Pauline Singh and Mr Pravin Pradhan whilst the intercessions were led by Mrs Betsy Francis. Mr Neil Monteiro, Homes Principal, delivered an appreciation address. The service ended at 11:05a.m. and was followed by a fellowship tea in the garden of Jubilee House.

This special service presented an opportunity for reflection and gratitude, honouring memories associated with the Chapel and acknowledging the dedication of all involved. This occasion goes beyond the mere re-opening of a building. It reaffirms faith, community, and the enduring spirit of Kalimpong – remembering too, the inaugural service of almost exactly One Hundred years ago.

**Neil Monteiro**  
**Principal, Dr Graham's Homes**



*Chapel Inauguration – 24<sup>th</sup> September 1924*

## From Jim Gibson - Chair of DGHUK



**“Are we there yet?”** This is the question children often ask soon after setting off in the car to your holiday destination. One can understand their eagerness to be away on holiday but the process of getting there may not be so simple; all sorts of factors can cause delays or changes to the plan; passengers feeling sick, accidents, unexpected roadworks, and numerous factors out-with the driver's control. The journey in the DGHUK car in the last six months has not been without its complications!

### **Making Progress...**

In essence we have been in a period of transition for these last six months. Gordon, our new Treasurer, has done well in getting to grips with the finance system: recording and acknowledging income, remitting money to India for the benefit of The Homes and for our Extended Sponsorship students, not to mention the Herculean task of preparing the Year-End accounts. Not only does one need to sort out the figures affecting remittances to India, stock market transactions and the allocation of money between general funds and a variety of restricted and unrestricted funds, but also it has to be achieved against a tight timetable. Much has to be packed in between the year-end in January, our own Board Meeting to discuss the draft accounts in February before signing off the final accounts at the end of April, not forgetting that Easter holidays will affect our timetable! Gordon has risen admirably to the challenge and I am grateful not only to him but to other colleagues on our Board who have offered invaluable suggestions for the wording of the Trustees' Report.

We are delighted that Ian and Anji our Sponsorship Secretaries were able to visit The Homes in March. They had some instances of poor pupil behaviour to deal with, but overall found the pupils in good heart and sent back a fascinating group photo of smiling pupils. They have been in constant touch with our Extended Sponsorship students who clearly benefit from the advice and encouragement which Ian and Anji can give.

One area in which enormous progress has been made – progress which affects the entire Homes Community, from youngest pupil to the most far-flung OGB – is the restoration of The Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel: in the words of John Webster – “The Heart and Soul of The Homes”. Already there are numerous references to The Chapel in these pages, but The Chapel is so important to the life of The Homes that I must add my appreciation to all who



*“Our Chapel - The Heart and Soul of the Homes”*

have strived for the best part of thirteen years to bring about this restoration. There is still much to be done – the stained-glass windows to the West Facade remain in a precarious, albeit safe, condition for the moment. Hopefully that matter too will be addressed soon. But the main thing is we are all now back in The Chapel!

**...In a Period of Transition.**

The Board of Management (BOM) in India is also in a period of transition. We were pleased to see that a number of members of the alumni association Global OGBs (GO) were elected to the BOM and they will undoubtedly broaden the range of experience and interests on the BOM. Shane Calvert, the BOM Chair, has indicated that he would like to step down this year and the BOM is actively engaged in finding a successor. Mr Pradhan, Headmaster at The Homes, will be retiring at the end of the year and the role of Headmaster/Headmistress will be advertised soon. We shall look forward to working with the person appointed to that post.

**...But No "Quick Fixes"!**

To date, a large number of the Recommendations made in the Independent Review (IR) have progressed, albeit, in many instances, at a slower pace than that set out in the time frame suggested by our Consultants. The Independent Review Report made many Recommendations relating to School Governance, Management, Infrastructure, Staff Management, Finance, Academic Outcomes, as well as to general systems and processes. It is recognised that there are few "quick fixes" in this list and the JIRC is working hard to ensure that progress is as effective as possible.

The DGHUK Board in October took the very difficult decision not to take on any new children in February 2024. This was in part due to concerns the Trustees had at that time regarding child welfare and building safety, and also because, despite the hard work of the JIRC, there had been very slow progress on implementing the Independent Review Recommendations. All the Trustees expressed their commitment in principle to continuing child sponsorship and the UK Board will review its decision following a period of reflection now that Ian and Anji have returned from their visit to The Homes.

Our *raison d'être* is child support, involving individual and personal links with children in need throughout their school careers, and we recognise that although under UK charity law governance at the Homes is not our responsibility, it is our responsibility to ensure that governance is exercised. Accordingly, we will continue to work with the Board of Management in India, offering support and the benefit of experience to help with the efficient running of The Homes and to ensure that The Homes can deliver a high standard of education and care to all its pupils, together with appropriate vocational training for the less academic pupils.

**Thank You ...**

Thank you so much to our readers, friends, and supporters. ....  
*and*

**..... a Request ...**

may I please ask you do not send any money-related communications to me but direct to our Treasurer Gordon at the Broughty Ferry address noted on Page 4 of this Annual Report!

**Jim Gibson**

**Trustee - Chair, DGHUK**

## Retiring Trustees - End of Two Eras!

All good things must come to an end at some point in time, so I and my fellow-Trustees are sad to see that that time has indeed arrived for two long-serving members of DGHUK Committee: Anne Hoggan and Margaretta Purtill. Whilst we know that this is "Farewell" to their involvement with our Committee, we also know that it is not "Good-bye" to their ongoing association with Dr Graham's Homes. A love for The Homes never fades so we look forward to welcoming them back at future Homes-based events for many years to come.

### Anne Hoggan



We were sad to say farewell at last year's AGM to **Anne Hoggan** who stepped down after two years as Chair and many years before that, not only as a Trustee on our UK Committee in the role of Committee Secretary, but, additionally, as a keenly interested sponsor of a number of Homes' children across those years. She is also a veteran of John Webster's 3Ks Tours to Kalimpong (including the occasional conversation with an elephant!), and a general source of counsel and wise advice. We will be honouring her sterling service more formally at this year's AGM. She has been a model sponsor, going out of her way to keep in touch with the children assigned to her and supporting them in practical ways. As Committee Secretary she has been forward thinking, diligent and assiduous in her tasks and, as you might expect from a former head teacher, she was firm, gracious and unflappable in her chairing of meetings.

**Margaretta Purtill** also retired from the Committee last November. As a former pupil of Dr Graham's Homes, she has been a bundle of energy in her service to the DGH family for many years, including three years as Chair of the UK Committee, and a further three as Representative Member of the International Committees on the Kolkata Board of Management. Before UK Committee, she was the driving force behind the Kalimpong Association, much of that time serving as their President. She has been a frequent visitor to the Homes, faithfully reporting back on her findings and passionate in her concern for the welfare of the children. Anyone who has seen her haggle in an Indian market can confirm that she is a force with whom to be reckoned!

### Margaretta Purtill



We wish them both well in their retirements!

### Jim Gibson

Trustee - Chair, DGHUK



## DGHUK Committee Secretary's Report



At the end of 2023 and in the early days of 2024, two dedicated Trustees stepped down. One loss was expected; we had known for some time that Margaretta Purtill would be leaving us in December to coincide with the AGM of the Board of Management . (BOM) This was when her appointment as the International Committees' Representative on the Board of Management in India (BOM) came to an end. The second Trustee to leave us was Matthew Pears. He had recently accepted the role of Vice Chairman but, unfortunately for DGHUK, his work commitments changed and he felt unable to fulfil his trustee duties as he would wish. He is still willing to give advice in his specialist fields, including marketing.

At the coming AGM on 15<sup>th</sup> May, we hope to be announcing the appointment of two new Trustees. However, we are always seeking new Trustees so, if you are interested, please refer to the Notice to be found towards the end of this Annual Report. Our Trustees are appointed for three years and may be re-elected for two further three-year periods.

We have been pleased that Ian and Anji Russell, our Joint Sponsorship Secretaries, had a successful visit to Kalimpong and Kolkata in March. I'm sure you will find their Report on pages 18 and 22 very interesting. Later in the year Esther Anne Pears, Chair of the Joint Independent Review Committee, will be visiting The Homes and in November I hope to visit with my husband John. We were last there in 2019 so I'm looking forward to meeting children and staff and seeing various developments.

Before Christmas we had a surprise donation of a collection of 'photos of Kalimpong dating back to the 1910s and 1920s. The aunt of the donor's mother-in-law had been a nurse missionary in Kalimpong. Jim Simpson is now sifting through the photos and has made a number of interesting discoveries to add to our own archive of photographs.

I hope to see many of you either at the AGM and Curry Lunch in Edinburgh in May, or at the London Reception in October. For anyone living within reach of Dundee, it would be lovely to see you when John and I open our garden, as part of Scotland's Gardens Scheme and in aid of Dr Graham's Homes. (see details on page 35)

In the meantime, remember to look at the DGHUK website. If you don't 'do websites' yourself, it would be well worth asking a friend or relative to show it to you. You'll find lots of information about the Homes, past, present, and future.

**Frances Dent**

**Trustee - DGHUK Committee Secretary**

## Report from The Homes Principal, Neil Monteiro



October 2023 saw a fairly large number of holidays on account of Durga Puja which is celebrated in West Bengal and also the Diwali holidays. Holidays apart, we did run the inter cottage Athletics meet.

The Children's Day celebration and Kindergarten Sports were events thoroughly enjoyed before the commencement of the final examinations.

The Carol Service was held on the last day in the Jarvie Hall. This would mark the end of the Jarvie Hall serving for Chapel Services, knowing that next term we would once again have services in the Chapel!

I stayed back over the winter vacation and monitored progress in the Chapel by working very closely with the restoration team to ensure that the interior of the Chapel would be ready for February. I am extremely delighted to state that we had our inaugural service in the Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February and it was absolutely divine. All concerned were overjoyed to be able to congregate once again at the Chapel.

The New Year commenced with the Class Monitor's investiture which was followed on 24<sup>th</sup> March by the investiture of Cottage Captains and Vice Captains. The twelve pupils so honoured included sponsored pupils Elton Pereira, Joy Sarkar, and Natasha Wilson as Cottage Captains. In addition, Blessen Abraham, Babita Bhuiya and Elisha Narzary were appointed Vice Captains.



The investiture of Prefects was held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024. Fourteen Prefects were invested, seven boys and seven girls. Amongst them were Gabriella Paul, Mohammad Shahnawaz, Prabhat Kullu, Gyumri Lepcha, and Sonam Palden Bhutia - all supported children.

This year, for the first time, we have selected Sports Captains for girls and boys. Joy Sarkar is the boys' Sports Captain for this academic year.

Our 'photo shows Prefects and Sports Captains after their investiture ceremony in the Chapel.

**Neil Monteiro**

**Principal, Dr Graham's Homes**

## ANNUAL ACCOUNTS for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024



The Charity's accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 reflect an income of £224,581 and a deficit of (£205,217). The Independent Examination has been completed and reproduced below is an extract of key sections of the accounts, namely a summarised Report of the Trustees, the Statement of Financial Activities, and the Balance Sheet.

The summarised financial statements have been extracted from the full financial statements which were independently approved on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024; they do not constitute the Charity's statutory financial statements and may not contain sufficient financial information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs

of the Charity. However, copies of the full financial statements are available, free of charge, from the Treasurer whose contact details are given on page 4.

**Gordon Coupar**

**Trustee – DGHUK, Committee Treasurer**

## ANNUAL ACCOUNTS for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024

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### Status of Charity and Governing Document

Dr Graham's Homes was founded in 1900. For many years the work of The Homes was supported by the UK Committee Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong, India ("UK Committee"), operating as an unincorporated association and a recognised Scottish Charity (No. SC016341). In order to bring the Charity into line with modern charity practice and thereby making it fit for purpose for the coming years, a new company, limited by guarantee, **Dr Graham's Homes Kalimpong (UK)**, ("DGHUK"), was formed in December 2020 and registered as a Charity with both OSCR and HMRC. Approval was granted for the change from an unincorporated association to a company limited by guarantee and to transfer the assets to the new limited company.

The business formerly carried on by the former unincorporated association, UK Committee Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong, India is, therefore, now carried on under the auspices of DGHUK and the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 were prepared on that basis.

### Statement on Risk

The Directors consider that the major risks which the Charity faces are continuity of income, fluctuations in foreign exchange, the residual impact of the Covid pandemic, threats to the quality of care for its beneficiaries, political uncertainty in India and local factors affecting the management of the Homes in Kalimpong. The potential impact of these risks is minimised by regular correspondence with supporters and monthly review of sponsorship funds received, sending remittances to India on a quarterly basis in order to even out exchange fluctuations, and regular contact with, and visits by, Trustees to the Homes to discuss operational issues.

### Charitable Purposes

The Charity is established for the following purposes:

- (a) to relieve the poverty of under-privileged, disadvantaged, and needy children through provision for their education and for their accommodation, upbringing, safeguarding and general care and welfare at Dr Graham's Homes, all in continuance of the legacy of Dr John Anderson Graham; and

- (b) to support the ongoing career development of young people, following completion of their time at Dr Graham's Homes, by providing for their maintenance, accommodation, and general welfare, in Kolkata or elsewhere, for a period of further education, apprenticeship or training.

#### **Principal Activities**

The Charity's principal activity is to encourage and provide sponsorship of needy children and to engage in fundraising ventures to meet the objective of raising money for The Homes in India. DGHUK shares this task with Committees in Ireland, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

The affairs of The Homes in India are governed by a Board of Management (BOM) based in Kolkata. An alumni association, Global OGBs (GO) is represented on the BOM.

The Charity's principal source of income is funds raised from supporters.

#### **Achievements and Performance**

The Directors met regularly during the year to review how best to support the needs in India, to receive reports from the JIRC and to monitor the transition to new company.

We were sad to say farewell at our AGM in May 2023 to Anne Hoggan who stepped down after two years as Chair and many years before that on the Committee as Secretary, a keenly interested sponsor and general source of counsel and wise advice. Margaretta Purtill has also retired from the Committee. As a former pupil of the Homes herself, she has been a bundle of energy in her service to the DGH family for many years including three as Chair of UK Committee, a President of the Kalimpong Association, and a representative member of the International Committees on the Kolkata Board of Management. We wish them both well in retirement. We have been delighted to welcome Gordon Coupar as new Trustee and Treasurer during the year; his skills and experience will add value to our deliberations. Matthew Pears resigned during the year due to pressure of business; we are sorry to lose his energy and experience after a relatively short period of service.

DGHUK has operated efficiently by Zoom and other virtual means and maintained continuous liaison with both the Board of Management and the Senior Management Team at the Homes concerning specific needs and priorities at Kalimpong and ways of helping the children who are supported through DGHUK. Much of its work in the last year has concerned the implementation of the Independent Review of the Homes prepared by an external international firm of consultants, commissioned in November 2021. The report was received in March 2022 and its Recommendations have, by and large, been accepted by DGHUK and by the BOM. Accordingly, a Joint Independent Review Committee (JIRC) has been formed, consisting of three members from DGHUK, three from the BOM and two from the GO community. This committee has met frequently by Zoom since July 2022 and is working to prioritise the various Recommendations made in the Independent Review. Deliberations within the JIRC have also resulted in an agreement by DGHUK to lend the sum of £145,000 to the Homes on commercially favourable terms. The first instalment of that loan was paid to The Homes in early February 2023, with the balance paid in October 2023.

Our Joint Sponsorship Secretaries' first visit to the Homes in November 2022, after a three-year period when visits from the UK were not possible because of the Covid pandemic, was most successful and allowed Ian and Anji Russell to see the Homes at first hand, to meet the BOM, staff, pupils, and students and to return home with a most favourable impression of the valuable work being done in The Homes. They had intended to visit again in November 2023 but were unable to do so because of adverse weather. However, they were able to visit in March 2024.



### **Support for The Homes**

During the year the Charity continued to provide a significant level of support to The Homes in India. The number of children supported was around 115, with a further 60 students at further education colleges. This compares with some 160 supported at school and 45 in colleges in the previous year

In October, the UK Board took the difficult decision not to take on any new children in February 2024. This was, in part, due to concerns the Trustees had at that time regarding child welfare and building safety and also because, despite the hard work of the JIRC, there had been very slow progress on implementing the Independent Review Recommendations. It was agreed that our Board would review its decision following the outcomes of the Sponsorship Secretaries planned visit in March 2024. All the Trustees expressed their commitment in principle to continuing child sponsorship.

The children come from disadvantaged backgrounds and care is taken to match them with supporters. These in turn are encouraged to maintain an individual and personal link with the children who have been assigned to them throughout their time at The Homes and, if appropriate, in further education.

Structural repairs and refurbishment works required to the Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel continued. The Chapel was badly damaged by an earthquake in September 2011; the West Bengal Heritage Commission has undertaken to fund and project manage the restoration work, in conjunction with the Kalimpong Public Works Department and Jadavpur University in Kolkata. The Board has also been working with GO, the Global OGB Association, to effect ongoing repairs to the cottages on the campus.

Sponsorship income is our main source of revenue, but we receive income from a large variety of sources and we are grateful to all those by whose loyalty and ingenuity it is generated. Legacy income of £8,500 in the year, for which we are very grateful, showed a decrease compared with the previous year's £11,425. We continue to receive donations from church services and Guild meetings, all of which are very much appreciated.

### **Strengthening Safeguarding and Interaction with The Homes**

We have continued to maintain strong relationships with the Board of Management (BOM) in Kolkata and with the Senior Management Team at the Homes through:

- Regular meetings of our Safeguarding Subcommittee which has continued to cooperate effectively with the BOM.
- Liaising with the BOM on the content of public statements on issues affecting The Homes.
- Meetings of the JIRC to progress the recommendations of the Independent Review of The Homes.
- Continuing cooperation with the International Committees and the Global OGBs (GO).

These developments have maintained the transparent relationship with the BOM and have helped to retain a joint approach in addressing various key issues.

Ian and Anji Russell, as our Joint Sponsorship Secretaries, have continued to develop their close liaison with the BOM and The Homes' Senior Management Team.

With regard to our Extended Sponsorship students, the arrangements whereby our Sponsorship Secretaries keep in touch with our students continue to work effectively; as well as keeping in touch, they channel funds to the students, engage with them in the management of their academic progress and offer them pastoral support.

### **Outreach**

The Charity retains strong links with the Church of Scotland family, in particular with Church Guilds. We appreciate the fact that the Moderator of the General Assembly and the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church are both Honorary Presidents. Contacts with potential new supporters have been made at events such as the London Reception and by the efforts of those who have engaged in fundraising events. Our newly redesigned website went live in early March 2023 and is updated regularly.

### **Investment Policy**

In accordance with the Constitution, the Directors have the power to invest in such stocks and shares, investments, and property in the UK as they see to be both ethical and appropriate. The policy is to ensure a good level of income consistent with security of capital and accessibility of funds. Money which is surplus to immediate requirements is invested at the highest appropriate rate with institutions approved by the Directors.

Responsibility for investment management rests with the Treasurer. Our stocks and shares are held in safe custody through Killik and Co, Stockbrokers, who provide investment advice when requested. Our holdings are managed with a view to obtaining a balance between income and growth. On 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024, following the withdrawal of capital amounting to £120,000 in support of the Charity's activities, our portfolio was valued at £1,031,666 (2023 - £1,167,221). The current yield on our well diversified portfolio is 2.6%. Sales were made to release funds to support the School.

### **Grant Making Policy**

The Charity makes grants only for the direct benefit of pupils at The Homes and former students of The Homes who are pursuing further education.

### **Financial Review - Principal Sources of Funds**

The Charity's activities and developments continue to be dependent upon funding from a core of committed supporters, both individuals and groups, whose donations and fundraising activities provide sponsorships for particular children. In addition, funds are received from legacies and the Committee acknowledges with grateful thanks all donations received during the year, as detailed in Note 5 to the Accounts.

Ordinary donations and sponsorship income (excluding legacies) showed a decrease of £265,226 to £180,513 much of the decrease being due to an exceptionally generous gift of £250,000 from a charitable trust.

Legacy income in the year was £8,500 against £11,425 in the previous year. In contrast to decreased donation income, there were investment gains of £37,178 (2023 – losses of £57,207) representing an improvement in global markets despite remaining geopolitical uncertainties following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

We have continued to draw down restricted funds to help meet sponsorship costs. The results for the year enable us to maintain reserves which will be required to meet increasing costs at The Homes. The total net assets at the year-end were £1,332,707.

### **Utilisation of Funds**

The purpose of the Restricted Funds has been to provide money for sponsoring children at The Homes and it is our Directors' intention to use these funds over a period of years to supplement funds received from individual supporters which do not cover the full cost of the sponsorships provided.

### **Reserves Policy**

It is the Trustees' policy to set aside, in designated funds, from within its Unrestricted Funds, sufficient funds to cover:

- The future educational needs of all existing sponsored pupils (Sponsorship Fund), *and*
- Assistance in meeting the cost of emergency and/or unexpected expenditure (Special Projects Fund)

while maintaining free reserves equivalent to a minimum of six months of ongoing general fund expenditure.

### **Plans for Future Periods**

Charities continue to experience challenges following the COVID-19 pandemic, as they attempt to rebuild income and adapt to changes in their ways of working. The immediate priority of the Charity will be to maintain close liaison with the Board of Management and ensure that the welfare and protection of the children under our care is maintained.

The underlying political situation in India, in general and in the Kalimpong and Darjeeling districts in particular, remains volatile and there are threats to the continuing existence of the School as an institution for disadvantaged children. Inflationary pressures continue to affect the Indian economy and these will inevitably affect the funds which we are required to send to India. We are working with The Homes to ensure that there is full justification for any increases in Homes' costs, as these will, in the longer term, require to be reflected in an increase in the funds provided for sponsorships.

Child support, involving individual and personal links with children in need throughout their school careers, is our *raison d'être*. We recognise that while under UK charity law governance at The Homes is not our responsibility, it is our responsibility to ensure that good governance is exercised. Accordingly, we will continue to work with the Board of Management in India, offering advice and the benefit of experience to help with the efficient running of The Homes and to ensure that The Homes can deliver a high standard of education and care to all its pupils, together with appropriate vocational training for less academic pupils.

In the coming year we will continue to focus on the principal challenges which face us:

- Arresting a gradual decline in sponsorship in recent years in a climate where there are many other charities with similar aims competing for public support, *and*
- Contributing to developing and refreshing the overall management and strategy of The Homes to allow them to remain competitive and avoid future decline.

The Directors will continue to work with the Board of Management to do all they can to support the School in its efforts to increase numbers of boarders and upgrade facilities, with the aim of attracting more sponsors to give the chance of a good education to many more children from underprivileged backgrounds in the future.

### **On behalf of the Trustees**

**James N Gibson, Chairman**

**Dated: 26 April 2024**

**Dr Graham's Homes  
Kalimpong, (UK)**
**Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024**

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>2024 Total</b>	<b>2023 Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Income from</b>				
Donations and Legacies	43,471	145,542	189,013	457,164
Charitable activities	1,400	-	1,400	5,386
Investments	23,620	10,548	34,168	37,876
				37,876
<b>Total income</b>	<b>68,491</b>	<b>156,090</b>	<b>224,581</b>	<b>500,426</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Raising Funds	37,182	-	37,182	24,471
Charitable Activities	25,506	404,288	429,794	415,017
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>62,688</b>	<b>404,288</b>	<b>466,976</b>	<b>439,488</b>
Investment gains / (losses)	37,178	-	37,178	(57,207)
<b>Net income / expenditure</b>	<b>42,981</b>	<b>(248,198)</b>	<b>(205,217)</b>	<b>3,731</b>
<b>Transfers</b>				
Transfer to sponsorship funds	(147,008)	147,008	-	-
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>	<b>(104,027)</b>	<b>(101,190)</b>	<b>(205,217)</b>	<b>3,731</b>
Balances brought forward at 1 February 2023	<u>1,063,107</u>	<u>474,817</u>	<u>1,537,924</u>	<u>1,534,193</u>
Balances carried forward at 31 January 2024	<u>959,080</u>	<u>373,627</u>	<u>1,332,707</u>	<u>1,537,924</u>



**Dr Graham's Homes Kalimpong (UK)****Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024**

	£	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Investments		<u>1,031,666</u>	<u>1,167,221</u>
<b>Non-Current Asset</b>			
Loan		<u>144,726</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	18,332		12,361
Cash at bank	150,157		369,383
		<u>168,489</u>	<u>381,744</u>
<b>Current Liabilities due within one year</b>			
Accruals and deferred income		<u>12,174</u>	<u>11,041</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<u>156,315</u>	<u>370,703</u>
<b>Total Assets less Liabilities</b>		<u>1,332,707</u>	<u>1,537,924</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
Restricted funds		373,627	474,817
Unrestricted funds		959,080	1,063,107
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u>1,332,707</u>	<u>1,537,924</u>

James N Gibson CA Chairman

Gordon D Coupar CA Treasurer

26 April 2024



## Sponsorship Secretaries' Report



We eventually managed to get to the Homes in March 2024 after our planned November 2023 trip had to be postponed. This was due to the failure of the Teesta Dam and the severe damage to the road that accesses Kalimpong. As it was, even several months on from the flood, our journeys were 'interesting' to say the least. But we made it and had a very positive visit.

### THE HOMES

**Infrastructure:** We were encouraged to see a number of improvements to the Homes' infrastructure. Several of the cottages have been renovated, with the work on Heathland about to start as we write. We also noted that a number of general repairs around the campus have been carried out since we last visited. While there, we held discussions with school staff and cottage parents, and they raised some maintenance concerns. Since leaving, we are pleased to see that some of these repairs have been carried out.



**The Chapel:** The really good news is that the repairs to the Chapel are almost complete. Services are being held there again, new paths and railings are being installed around the outside, and the scaffolding and steel braces are soon to be removed. All that remains is the repairs to the windows and these are being planned. And – there has been no cost to the school, as all the repairs have been funded by the West Bengal Heritage Commission.



### The Bakery and the Workshop:



*Workshop Manager - about to retire after 40 years' service.*

## CHILDREN



**Outcomes:** When assessing the effectiveness of a school, one of the key measures is 'outcomes' in terms of such aspects as grades and exam results achieved, as well as pupil attitudes and behaviours. Although there is always room for improvement – after all, many of our sponsored children come from very challenging home backgrounds - overall we feel that there is a great deal to be encouraged about. As in every school, there are children amongst those whom we support who find academic study a challenge, and there are others who try to push the boundaries of behaviour. However, the overwhelming impression we have is that the children are extremely happy to be at the school, they really enjoy the sense of being part of a family-like community, and most are achieving results of which they, and we, can be very proud

**Support:** Where some children are struggling either emotionally or academically, we are pleased to be able to report that a very skilled School Counsellor has recently been appointed, and that a Special Needs teacher is actively being sought to replace the one who recently left the school. Once both are in post and able to work together, we expect that those children who have issues either emotionally or with their learning, will be able to make progress and achieve well.

### **Safeguarding and Behaviour Management Policies and Procedures:**

We saw clear evidence while we were there that the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Guidelines (2021) are being followed robustly and effectively by the school management team. The school also has a clear set of behaviour guidelines for the pupils to follow, which are set out in the school diary at the start of each academic year for both parents and children to follow.

### **Numbers:**

This year's Class XII ISC exam children have now left the Homes, so currently DGHUK is sponsoring 111 pupils at the school.



## STUDENTS



After spending a week at The Homes, we returned to Kolkata to meet with the students who are currently part of the DGHUK Extended Sponsorship Scheme. Through this scheme, we seek to help students complete college or vocational training courses before entering the world of work. We currently have over 60 students either on courses, just completing courses or about to embark on courses – including those who have just completed their Class XII Board exams and have recently left the Homes. Also included in this number are several students who have gone on to undertake post-graduate courses that are essential for their planned careers. These include, B.Ed. and Masters courses.

We were delighted to be able to meet up with about 40 of our current students. The Birkmyre Hostel kindly hosted a lunch for us all so we could meet together, and Nanette Nayar spoke to them all about the important work that GO does in supporting the Homes. She encouraged them all to continue to persevere through life's challenges and to be 'Thorough', as stated in the school motto.

### **A wonderful chance meeting:**

While in Kolkata, we were shown to our dinner table by a young hotel manager. He politely asked about our travels, and when we mentioned that we had visited Kalimpong, his eyes lit up. It turns out that he had been a DGHUK sponsored child at the Homes! It was a delight to meet him and to see how well he has overcome the many challenges in his life and that he is now embarked on a career in hotel management.

## SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

Currently DGHUK has about 130 supporters who sponsor children and students at some level. A further 30 supporters correspond with children as their contribution towards the work. We also have a large number of Friends and Members who make regular or occasional donations towards the charity's funds so that we can continue this vital work.



We are grateful for every one of these generous individuals and groups. Without them, DGHUK could not survive. However, the unfortunate reality is that life is hard for everyone just now. Consequently we have seen a decline in the number of our supporters in recent years. Age and financial pressures have taken their toll. So – if you know of anyone who might be interested in becoming involved in supporting the work we do, please encourage them to look at our website, [drgrahamshomes.co.uk](http://drgrahamshomes.co.uk) or to contact us directly. The website is constantly being updated with new and very interesting 'News' items – please do have a look. We are also working on developing a social media presence via Instagram, through which we hope to attract another generation of supporters, so please keep an eye out for this. When it arrives, please point your relatives in that direction, especially the younger ones.

## **FUNDRAISING**

### **The Great DGHUK British Tea Party:**

Thank you so much to everyone who supported this event during February this year. Many people donated, organised events, or joined us for our weekly Zoom Party. Our aim was not just to raise money but was also to bring together some of the DGHUK family via Zoom. We heard some wonderful stories including an eye witness account of Dr Graham's funeral. This story will soon feature in the 'News' section of our website. The great news is that we will have raised over £5,500 once Gift Aid is applied. What can we say but, 'Thank you!'

### **The DGHUK Hope Run, Scotland – April 2024:**

This is to offer a huge thank you to everyone who was involved in organising and participating in the recent DGHUK Hope Run. The Hope Run was a three day, non-stop, relay run right across Scotland, starting in Cardross Church and ending at Stockbridge Church in Edinburgh. There is more information about this elsewhere in this magazine, but for our part, we wanted to thank everyone who took part because over £7000 was raised by the runners and their supporters, which will be added to our sponsorship fund. A very big WELL DONE!

## **AND FINALLY ....**



*Our youngest sponsored child.....*

**THANK YOU!** Thank you for all your ongoing support of DGHUK.

With your help we are able to make a difference to the lives of so many young people each year. Together we are breaking the cycle of poverty and giving them a future and a hope.

**Ian and Anji Russell**

**Joint Sponsorship Secretaries**

## **The DGHUK Sponsorship Secretaries' Journey and Visit to The Homes in March 2024.**

### **Our Thoughts and Observations in Free Verse.**



#### **A Journey to Kalimpong - A Rhythm of Chaos, Order and Beauty.**

Vibrant green bushes, and  
Colourful tea pickers  
Busy hands -  
Working alone yet together  
With just one purpose -  
Life.

Cows roaming  
Picking through rubbish,  
Dogs and goats following their lead  
Fill our eyes with surprise.  
Just one goal -  
To survive.

A dusty, meandering road takes us on  
Beside an overweight river.  
Monkeys sit contemplating life, and  
Piles of oranges glisten -  
Nature hand in hand together.

Colours bright as a rainbow  
Grow in pots, and  
Trees reaching to heaven  
Welcome travellers.  
Twisting bends, steep and sharp  
Work together  
To take us higher

And higher.  
Slogans on trucks  
And cars  
Tell of God's wonderful love -  
His provision  
His goodness.  
A history made of faith and hope.

The town  
High on the hill, gazes down  
Through clouds and sun,  
A sense of quiet chaos.  
A confluence of cultures  
A confluence of faiths  
Existing as one, welcoming, inviting.

Yet poverty shows itself in  
Abandoned rubbish,  
Broken paths, steep steps  
Going nowhere.  
Dogs roaming everywhere.  
Hidden eyes  
Hoping for more.

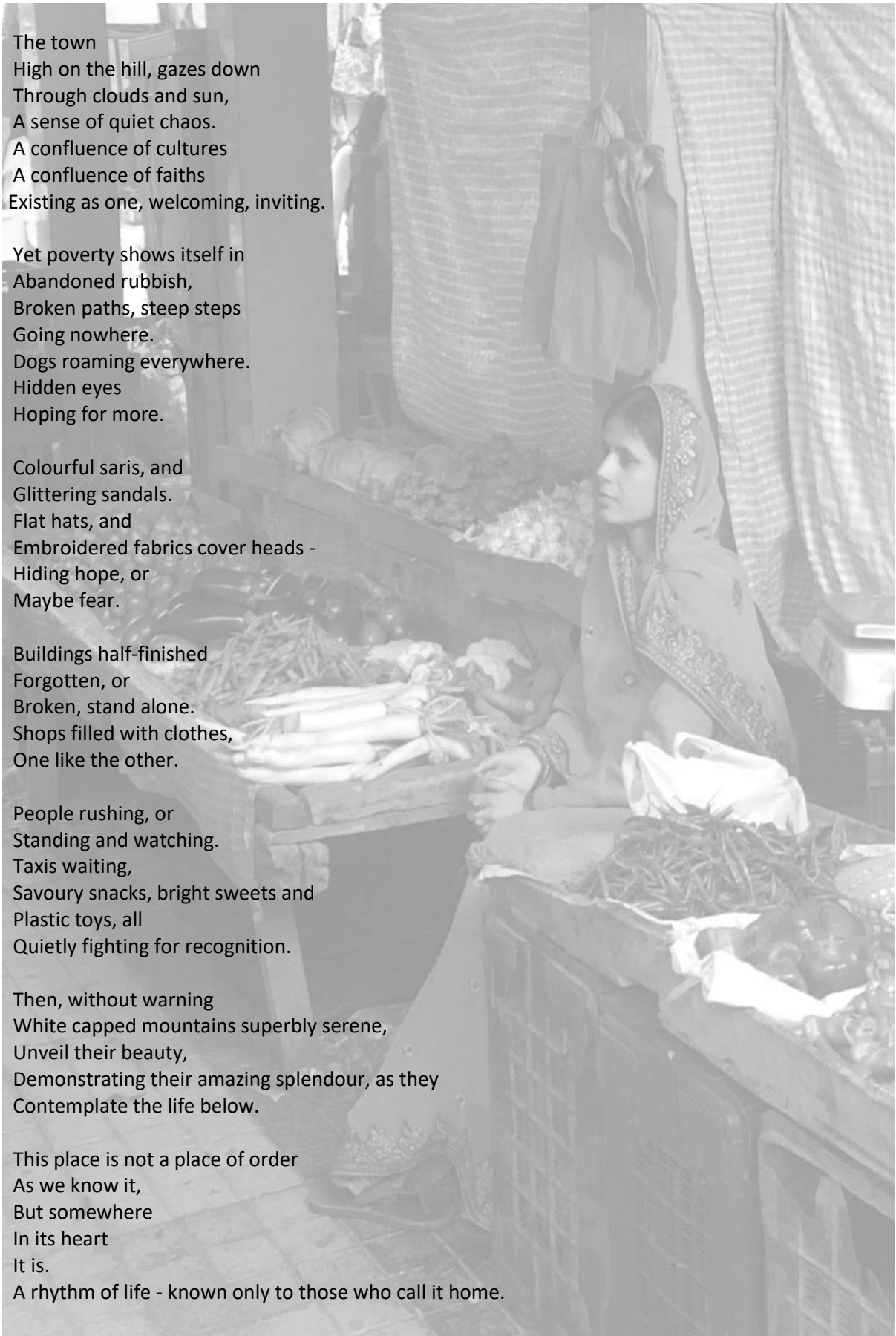
Colourful saris, and  
Glittering sandals.  
Flat hats, and  
Embroidered fabrics cover heads -  
Hiding hope, or  
Maybe fear.

Buildings half-finished  
Forgotten, or  
Broken, stand alone.  
Shops filled with clothes,  
One like the other.

People rushing, or  
Standing and watching.  
Taxis waiting,  
Savoury snacks, bright sweets and  
Plastic toys, all  
Quietly fighting for recognition.

Then, without warning  
White capped mountains superbly serene,  
Unveil their beauty,  
Demonstrating their amazing splendour, as they  
Contemplate the life below.

This place is not a place of order  
As we know it,  
But somewhere  
In its heart  
It is.  
A rhythm of life - known only to those who call it home.



Travelling further  
Children's voices ring out, heralding  
Happiness across this ridge -  
A joyful sound  
High above the town.  
Voices of the past  
Join those of today,  
Together with those yet to be welcomed  
In years to come.

Such beautiful sounds resonate with hope  
Of future lives -  
Future achievements.

This is Dr Graham's Homes.  
Where chaos turns to beauty –  
Not in the rubble or  
Careless abandonment, but in  
Children's lives, once unsure -  
Now transformed.  
Full of hope.  
Full of joy.

Meeting the need.  
Loving those who once had no hope.

*Anji Russell – March 2024*



*Sunday Service in the newly refurbished Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel.*

**In March we had a wonderful visit to the Homes in Kalimpong to meet all the children, later meeting the students at the Birkmyre Hostel in Kolkata, where we enjoyed lunch together.**



## JIRC Report

The **Joint Independent Review Committee (JIRC)** is represented by:

<b>DGHUK</b>	<b>Board of Management, India (BOM)</b>	<b>Global Alumni (GO)</b>
Esther Anne Pears	Shane Calvert	Dawn Van Steensel
Jim Gibson	Suchitra Guha	Arijit Mallick
Frank Dunn	Jayshree Pradhan	

The JIRC continues in its support for the BOM, India, as it progresses the implementation of the **45 Recommendations** of the Independent Review (IR). The Report lays out a recovery plan for the school and, along with the GO blueprint, provides the basis for all our discussions.

We have been honest and thorough in our approach to each Recommendation, researching the problem areas and working from the ground up, writing policies and guidelines and laying solid foundations on which to build a sustainable future for Dr Graham's Homes.

To date, a large number of the Recommendations in the IR have progressed, albeit, in many instances, at a pace slower than that set out in the time frame suggested by the Consultants.

Core Issue 1, Recommendation No. 3 asks for a review in Board Governance and a change in Board Structure, bringing in individuals with skill sets appropriate to our governance needs.

In response we have written a **Board Governance Policy** and a **Board Approval Policy** and we were pleased to see a new Board formed at the beginning of 2024. Incidentally I use the word 'we' loosely ....our excellent policy writers are Dawn Van Steensel and Arijit Mallick.

We have five new BOM members, all former pupils (OGBs), all elected by GO,

- Captain Prakash Pradhan
- Dr Bernard Lyngdoh
- Mr Jigme Tshering
- Ms Ratna Lekha Shetty
- Ms Yanki Tshering

A new representative of the International Committees, Arifin Graham of the Canadian Council, has been appointed to the BOM following the retiral of Margaretta Purtill. In addition, and at the request of GO, DGHUK is now represented on the India BOM by Esther Anne Pears.

Thus, there is a wealth of expertise on the BOM and I can see firsthand just how committed this Board is to provide the highest standards of welfare and education for the children of Dr Graham's Homes.

The three **Working Groups - Governance, Finance and Operations** - were a successful initiative of the JIRC set up in April 2023 to support the BOM in implementing the Independent Review Recommendations. Significantly, following the BOM restructure, these Working Groups now consist of purely Board Members who report progress to the JIRC.

Core Issue 10, Recommendation No. 36 highlights the Infrastructure issues around areas that are part of the decision-making process for parents seeking admissions for their children.

Core Issue 3, Recommendation No. 7 challenges us to adapt and adopt with changing times, suggesting that the cottages could be expanded vertically to create modern day hostels with proper facilities and efficient to run.

These are hugely difficult decisions to make; on the one hand there is a sentimental view of the cottage system; I understand that personally, but on the other hand, the cottage system is financially draining, high maintenance and we are simply not able to provide the facilities that modern day students and their families expect.



To illustrate the spirit of “getting involved”, I leave you with our youngest and newest member of the BOM, Jigme Tshering, getting to grips with some of the practical jobs around The Homes!

Jigme has been doing a huge amount of work with the maintenance team, as well as bringing fresh new ideas to the table, he can usually be found down a drain or up a tree or, lately, working with the local animal shelter to vaccinate the compound dogs against rabies!

I have noticed a recurring phrase in all of Jigme's replies to various requests....

*“No problem, as long as it helps our School”.*



**Esther Anne Pears**  
**Trustee - Convener JIRC**

## **"Hope Run, Scotland" – They're Off at Last!**

Regular readers of DGHUK's bi-annual Magazines may possibly have been wondering whether the much-heralded "Run For Hope" was ever going to take place! Certainly, in every edition since May 2022 news updates have been forth-coming – but runners and routes have always seemed to be still just that wee bit away! Readers should not have feared; eventually all obstacles to reaching the start line have been cast aside by our ardent supporter Michael Scott who has been organising similar Runs for Hope for some years now. In fact, it turns out that our cross-Scotland, "Hope Run, Scotland", is a relatively modest venture when set against the grand scheme of events of a Run For Hope nature! Shortly indeed, Michael and his organising team will be swinging into action yet again as they bring a Paris, France - St Andrews, Fife, venture together marking the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Eric Liddell's inspirational Olympian performance of 1924.

But now, back to DGH's venture, described for us below by the many participants who set off just a month or so ago in support of The Homes to re-trace Dr Graham's Scottish heritage.

**Pat Simpson**

**DGHUK Trustee**

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### **Hope Run, Scotland - 2024**

In November 2023, Michael Scott came to the Beech Grove Senior School to pitch an idea to the 42 high school students: a 220-mile relay run across Scotland to raise funds for Dr Graham's Homes and School in Kalimpong, India. Michael, a Christian who uses running to make a difference in the world, inspired Beech Grove students with stories of other runs he has organized such as raising funds for Operation Orphan in Sierra Leone during the Ebola outbreak. At the close of assembly, over half of the students came to the front to volunteer!

We were excited at the prospect of running through the stunning landscape of Scotland, but we wanted to know more. Who are the children of Dr. Graham's Homes, and how would a run across Scotland help them? To answer our questions, Michael arranged for Ian and Anji Russell from Dr. Graham's Homes UK to come speak at our school. What we got was more than just answers: we heard an inspiring story about a man who followed his dreams to establish a whole "children's village" to provide a home and an education for underprivileged children. Ian and Anji told us about The Homes today as they, along with the DGHUK Committee, promote the vision and legacy of Dr. Graham. This story increased our inspiration to run.

We filled the following months with training for the run and with fundraising. We organised a bake sale in the nearby village, several Beech Grove Senior School boarding houses spent many hours landscaping in the locality, and others worked at pubs and did other jobs – all to raise funds for The Homes. Two of the runners are aspiring musicians and together they produced a string concert which resulted in many donations. Throughout all the fund-raising efforts, training continued apace. Students participated in early morning group runs and hard-core personal training sessions, with some students running up to 30 kilometres in a day!

At last, the day before the Hope Run arrived, and runners and staff drove up to the starting line in Cardross, a small Scottish town on the North bank of the River Clyde. Cardross had been the boyhood hometown of John Anderson Graham, back in the late 1800s. Cardross Parish



Church kindly provided food, lodging, and donations. At the church service in the evening, runners and organisers told their stories and that of the inspiration for the run: Dr. Graham's Homes.

We woke early Friday morning with excitement running high. After a nourishing breakfast provided by the church, we cleared our sleeping bags and gathered our wits and belongings in preparation for the next two days and nights of continuous running. We were off!



*The Beech Grove runners setting off from Cardross Parish Church*

*[Photo: John Young Media]*

Running across Scotland proved difficult, but after the months of intense training we were well prepared to battle the physical and mental fatigue, drizzling rain, and chilly temperatures. We soon fell into the rhythm of running, eating, and resting - day into night and back into day again! Despite the exhaustion, we enjoyed the awe-inspiring mountainous Scottish countryside ("mountains" even though they are "mole hills" compared to Kangchenjunga!). To run alongside the iconic Loch Lomond and up into the real mountains to the aptly named 'Rest and Be Thankful' lookout is incomparable!



An unexpected member of the run, the only one to complete every step of the run, was our treasured baton—a cherry stick, just the perfect size, picked up from the yard of the church as we set off. It was carefully and deliberately passed from one runner to the next all the way from Cardross to Edinburgh. It will have a treasured place in our school's trophy cabinet!



Along the way our good friend Sam Thompson kept us well fed and rested in his camper van which he made available to the runners along the route. In the evening of our first day of running we passed 'The Wee Butcher's Shop' and purchased some haggis which Sam fried up for us in his camper van for a

delicious evening feast.

After crossing the River Clyde on the ferry, we again headed up into the hills above Gourrock and on into our first night of running. To everyone's amazement, we were well ahead of schedule and arrived at our Day 1 destination, Troon in Ayrshire, three hours early!

At 9:00 am Saturday morning, with a gusty gale coming in off the Firth of Clyde, we all participated in the Troon Park Run, adding another 5K onto our mileage before pushing on through sun and downpours to Glasgow and the Forth and Clyde Canal towpath which led us to the amazing Falkirk Wheel.

Now 36 hours into our adventure and with our second night coming on, we set off on our Day 2 leg - to Edinburgh, first along the Union Canal, before adding another detour of 12 miles out to the historic Forth Bridge. At 3:07 am, again hours ahead of schedule, we reached our goal, central Edinburgh, with only the final short run to Stockbridge Parish Church still ahead of us.



Sunday dawned crystal clear and sunny, so we took advantage of that to visit the historic Edinburgh Castle before running to our final destination in the heart of Edinburgh—Stockbridge Parish Church. Members of the church welcomed us with incredible hospitality, after cheering us on as we crossed the finish line! After nearly 48 hours of relay runs covering 235 miles we had reached Stockbridge Parish Church, Dr Graham's own kirk when he was a student and trainee minister.

We were invited to the Sunday service where we told the congregation about our Hope Run and our inspiration – **Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong!**

The Hope Run brought us together as a team with a goal: to **Give To Others**. We will never forget the experience and fun of **Hope Run, Scotland** or the inspiring story and legacy of **Dr. Graham and his Homes in Kalimpong**.



### **The Runners For Hope!**

**Beech Grove School, Kent**



*Stockbridge in Sight!*

### **Run For Hope - 2024: Funds Raised for Dr Graham's Homes - £7,000+!**

The Chairman and Trustees of DGHUK Committee, together, thank Michael Scott and his Supporters and Organisers of the 2024 "Run For Hope", for the huge team effort put in to make the event happen. Thanks too, to the wonderful runners from Beech Grove School and their Supporters for the enthusiasm and spirit with which all involved tackled the event. Know that some more children can now be brought into the Dr Graham fold!

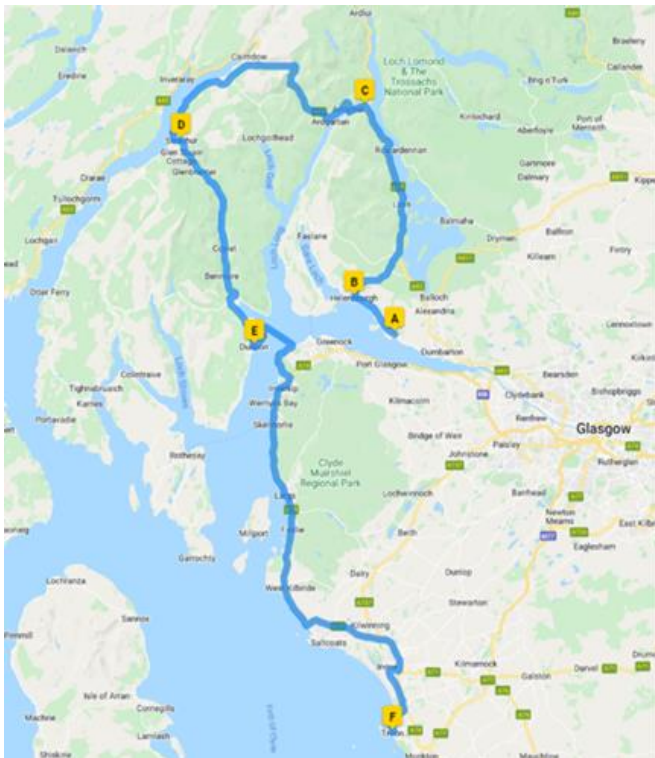
**Run Again Next Year? Why Not Contact Michael on: [michaelscott.msa@outlook.com](mailto:michaelscott.msa@outlook.com)**



***Day 1: Cardross to Troon!***



*Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond*



*Soon We'll "Rest and Be Thankful"!*



*Sailing into the Sunset – The Greenock Ferry*



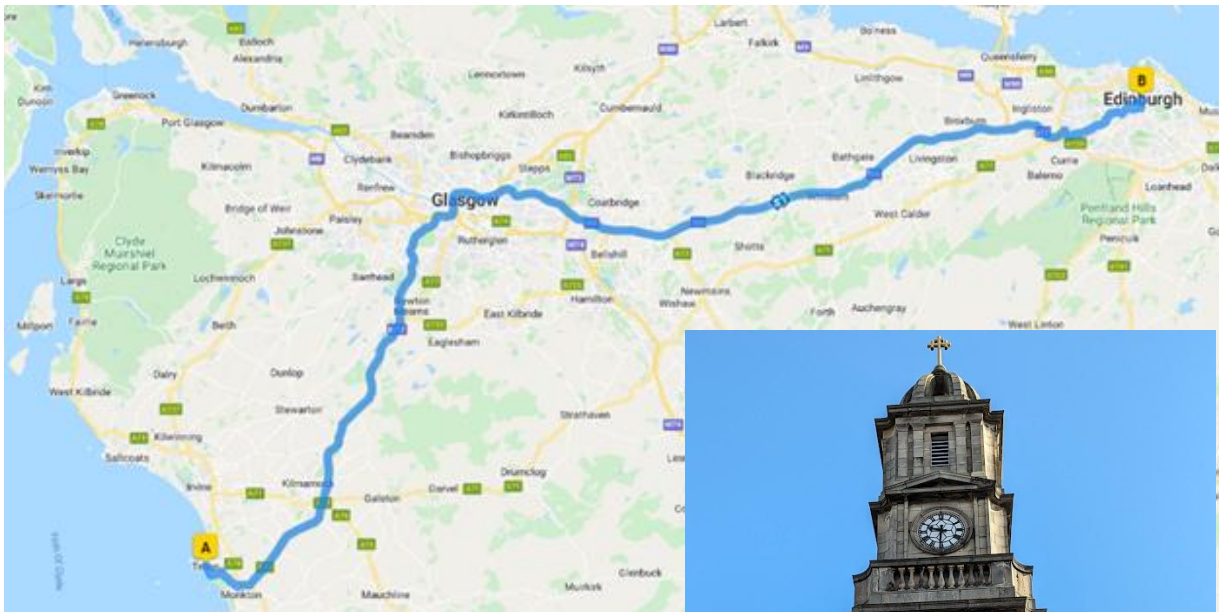
## ***Day 2: Troon to Edinburgh!***



*Troon Park Run*



*Forth and Clyde Canal*



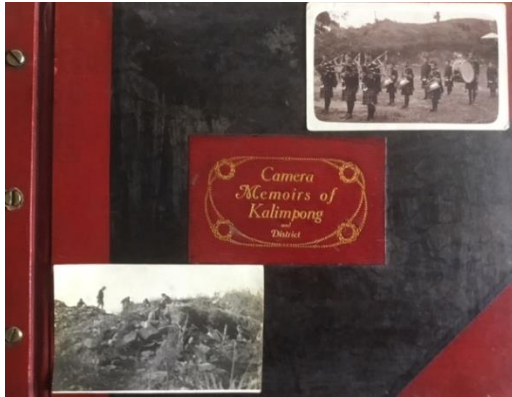
*Falkirk Wheel*



*Finish Line – Stockbridge Parish Church*

## From The Archives – There Are More Records Out There Than We'd Imagined!

Our Committee Secretary's Report on page 9 tells of the surprise gifting to DGHUK of an historic, and weighty, photograph album, a collection of photos and postcards recalling the very many years spent in Kalimpong by a nurse from Airdrie in Lanarkshire. Miss Christina MacKie was inspired by her church to go out to India in support of the church in NE India. Whilst she did not work at St Andrew's Colonial Homes *per se*, she was part of the Kalimpong Mission, an organisation established there by the Church of Scotland and thus closely associated with The Homes.



Trawling through the many 'photos we have come across some interesting finds! The Homes' Pipes and Drums on parade in 1913. Reverend Graham with the 1922 Everest party who stopped off in Kalimpong whilst on their first recce of possible routes to the summit. Photographs of cottages as they were in the 1920s and, even more nostalgic – and never seen before – workers quarrying and dressing sandstone straight out of the hillside ready for building the next cottage! All of these add to our understanding of the history of The Homes and help

us appreciate the difficulties faced, and overcome, by Graham and his team.

**Pat Simpson - Trustee DGHUK**

## Editorial – Return to The Chapel – Symbol of a New Future?



In the Editorial to our 2023 DGHUK Annual Report and Newsletter, published last May, we highlighted there the “...joy and celebration ....” that a start to the restoration of the Chapel “... brought to every corner of the DGH globe”! Happily, today everything is in a sufficiently safe and internally complete condition to allow the building to be used for services and ceremonies. Hence one year on we are delighted that this Newsletter can tell of a restored Chapel being brought back into the “**Heart of the Homes**” once again, an inaugural service for the whole School being held as the current academic year commenced on 11<sup>th</sup> February this year! Not that the works have been

completed just yet – there is still much to be done to the western gable and its historic stained-glass, not to mention permanent stabilisation of that same elevation. But structural completion and remedial craftsmanship is in planning, and funds are being negotiated - hopefully with West Bengal Heritage willing to prime the funding pumps. This time next year will we be recording that the Chapel is, once again, fully restored and totally back at the “**Heart of The Homes**”? Let's hope so!





The Homes are ever-changing as you can read every year in this and other new bulletins, both paper and electronic. From the point of view of our UK involvement, sponsorship is becoming harder and harder as those with past associations with The Homes or with the days of the British in India reduce in number. It's not as if the numbers of needy children in India is diminishing; far from it – we could easily fill all twenty or so of the cottages on campus many times over. You can read elsewhere of our drive to turn the ebbing tide of sponsored children.

Another area of change has been that of the number of Trustees serving on DGHUK's Committee. We've seen a drop in those numbers – virtually halved over the last ten years - to the extent that we are, on occasion, not always as effective "on the ground" as we would like to be. On recent occasions it has even proved difficult to have sufficient DGHUK representation at events organised both internally and externally by enthusiastic supporters. Hence the Notice below seeking new enthusiasts to help run our Charity. Should you feel that you could give Dr Graham's Homes some time by becoming a UK Trustee, do get in touch!

Working together is the key to the future of The Homes as we look forward to however The Homes may develop in the future. More and more, DGHUK is working with the Board of Management in Kolkata, and with GO, the former pupils' alumni association. From time to time, we come up against – an unfortunate expression – other former pupil groups who see themselves working for The Homes equally enthusiastically albeit sometimes in conflict with those recognised as the official supporters of The Homes. We forever look to these groups to join with us in our common cause - the support of that common cause, **Dr Graham's Homes**.

**Jim and Pat Simpson – Editors - Trustees DGHUK**

**BECOME A TRUSTEE OF DR GRAHAM'S HOMES UK - TODAY!**

Perhaps you have been supporting Dr Graham's Homes for very many years; perhaps for just a few! Whatever, perhaps you feel that your particular skills, added to those of the established UK Board of Directors, could make a difference? So, why not apply to become a Trustee of DGHUK and help The Homes and The School to continue the task started almost 125 years ago by our Founder, Dr John Anderson Graham. The Children whom we support today in this 21<sup>st</sup> Century World are just as needy as those for whom he "Saw the Need" in the very late 19<sup>th</sup> Century! Being a Trustee of DGH is a wonderful role helping to guide the work of our Charity as we support those children in need in India. Supporting the work of the Charity as a Trustee also provides the opportunity to develop skills and experiences that are transferable to other professional and charitable roles.

**Michael Jefferson – Trustee, DGHUK**

Given DGH's Mission and Heritage, specifically there are opportunities for those looking to develop their experience in the field of an international educational charity, fundraising, accounts, secretarial and safeguarding responsibilities. We hope that some of our supporters may be interested and invite them to contact in the first instance our Committee Secretary, Frances Dent, on [dghsecretary@drgrahamshomes.co.uk](mailto:dghsecretary@drgrahamshomes.co.uk) for application information.

**Frances Dent - Trustee - DGHUK Committee Secretary**

## OUR NEXT EVENTS

### Garden Opening in Dundee

Saturday & Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> October 2024

3pm – 7 pm



**12 Glamis Drive, Dundee DD2 1QL**

*Lighting*

*Refreshments*

*Plant Stall*

*Children's Activities*



an open garden supporting

**Dr Graham's Homes**

Frances and John Dent will be opening their garden under Scotland's Gardens Scheme and in aid of Dr Graham's Homes.

A half-acre, south facing, garden overlooking the River Tay and Fife hills. Wander among shady trees and shrubs and discover water features and hidden areas in a variety of garden styles, all enhanced by vibrant autumn colours and a variety of floodlighting. Torches recommended.

**Admission by Donation**

### London Reception

Friends and supporters are invited to an evening of hospitality

An opportunity to gather and discuss all things Dr Graham's Homes!



**St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD**

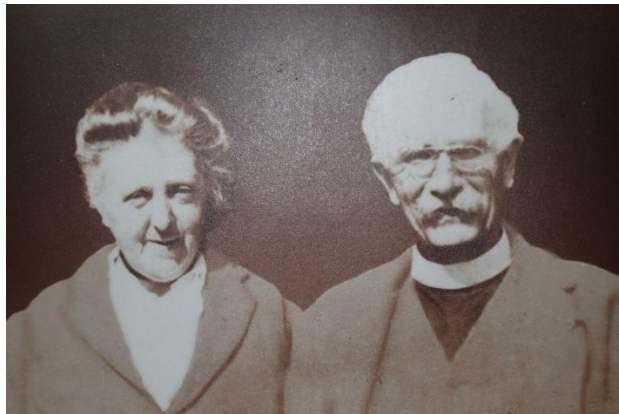
**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024 5.30–7.30pm** *(provisional date)*

More details nearer the time.

Please Come and Bring a Friend!

Further information can be obtained from our website [drgrahamshomes.co.uk](http://drgrahamshomes.co.uk)





**DR GRAHAM'S HOMES, KALIMPONG, INDIA**

**1900 - 2024**

**OVER A CENTURY OF CARING FOR CHILDREN**

Founder: the Very Reverend John Anderson Graham DD, LL.B, CIE

The Moderator of The General Assembly of The Church of Scotland, 1931

