



Going Home for Christmas



DR GRAHAM'S HOMES KALIMPONG (UK) - DGHUK

Charity Registered in Scotland SC 05985

Annual Newsletter

For the Year ending 31st December 2022

Homes Birthday and Founder's Day – 24th September 2022



**To Celebrate Homes' 122nd Birthday, Deolo Hill
presented itself as a "Birthday Cake"
on the very week of The Birthday ...**



... as, too, did Kanchenjunga ...

... whilst on 8th September 2022 ...



... Prayers were Offered on the 161st Anniversary of Dr Graham's Birth, ...



... all in Celebration of “The Homes”!

Dr Graham's Homes Kalimpong (UK) - DGHUK

Charity Registered in Scotland SC 05985

Registered Address: 44 Aytoun Road, Pollokshields, Glasgow G41 5HN

www.drgrahamshomes.co.uk

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AGM and Curry Lunch

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

(planned for) Wednesday 24th May 2023 (date tbc)

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 ahead of AGM at 11:00
Curry Lunch at 12:45

You are very welcome just to turn up for the AGM, but please reserve your place for the lunch which follows, through our Committee Secretary, Frances Dent.

e-mail: drgrahamsuksec@gmail.com Tel: 01382 668700

Lunch cost £15 payable on the day

Honorary Presidents

The Moderator of the General Assembly
The Church of Scotland

The Primus
Scottish Episcopal Church

Honorary Vice President Rev John G Webster

The Board of Trustees 2020–2021

Chair	Anne Hoggan 7 Robertson Road, Cupar KY15 5YR Tel. 01334 656992 e-mail: annehoggan2019@gmail.com
Vice-Chair	(Vacant)
Committee Secretary	Frances Dent 12 Glamis Drive, Dundee DD2 1QL Tel. 01382 668700 e-mail: drgrahamsuksec@gmail.com
Treasurer	James Gibson 44 Aytoun Road, Pollokshields, Glasgow G41 5HN Tel. 0141423 8290 e-mail: treasurer@drgrahamshomes.co.uk

Other Members of the Board of Trustees

John Ball*	Frank Dunn	Aileen Fraser	Shona Hume
Michael Jefferson	Esther Anne Pears	Diana Owen*	Margaretta Purtill
James WT Simpson**	James (Jim) TF Simpson	Pat Simpson	
* resigned August 2022		** resigned November 2022	

Committee Officers

Joint Sponsorship Secretaries	Ian and Anji Russell Hazelgrove, The Common, Cranleigh, Surrey, GU6 8NS Tel. 01483 272108 e-mail: sponsorship@drgrahamshomes.co.uk
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External Appointments

Independent Examiner	MILNE CRAIG Abercorn House 79 Renfrew Road Paisley PA3 4DA	Solicitors	BALFOUR & MANSON 54-66 Frederick Street Edinburgh EH2 1LS
Bankers	BANK OF SCOTLAND 75 George Street Edinburgh EH2 3EW		

Message from the Chair of DGHUK, Anne Hoggan



Colleagues, OGBs, Sponsors and Friends, I am pleased to report that, after a few years of major disruption, the Homes in Kalimpong has enjoyed a period of semi-stability.

The May Newsletter contained photographs of happy young people returning to school – and to bright, refurbished classrooms courtesy of the Global Organisation (GO) of former pupils.

Unfortunately, there has been unrest amongst the teachers and workers centred around on-going pay disputes to which the Board of Management is desperately trying to find a solution.

The UK Committee (DGHUK) and the Kolkata Board (BOM), with representation from GO, have instigated a Joint Independent Review Committee (JIRC), working cooperatively to act upon recommendations for improvement detailed in the Independent Review Report published following the major review of the School carried out earlier this year by an external Consultant. (More details in our next Newsletter). These joint meetings have been fruitful and DGHUK is offering major support on a number of the recommendations raised.

It was good to meet so many of you at St Columba's Church, Pont Street, on Tuesday 25th October after our annual DGHUK meeting in London. I am aware that several of you wished to ask questions, but, because of time constraints, I had to request that any questions or comments be sent to our Secretary. I can promise that a response will be made to each one.

DGHUK Meetings have been frequent, thanks to Zoom, and I wish to express appreciation to the Trustees/Directors, our Vice President, Reverend John Webster, and our Sponsorship Secretaries for their continued commitment to Dr Graham's Homes.

Two trustees resigned in August. Diana Owen had not been with us for very long, but she had been a member, and latterly Chair, of the Governance Working Group (GWG). Sir John Ball, who had been a trustee for nearly three years, also resigned. He had been on the GWG from its inception and was involved in our transition to a Charitable Company. He was also the lead trustee in organising the Independent Review. In addition, James Simpson, conservation architect, resigned as a Trustee in November, but has retained his connection to DGHUK, informally, in the capacity of consultant on heritage building matters. On behalf of the remaining trustees, I thank Diana, John, and James for their contributions to the work of Dr Graham's Homes.

As we draw near the Festive Season, may I wish you and your families a Happy Christmas and every blessing for 2023.

Anne Hoggan
Chairman, DGHUK

Message from Principal Neil Monteiro

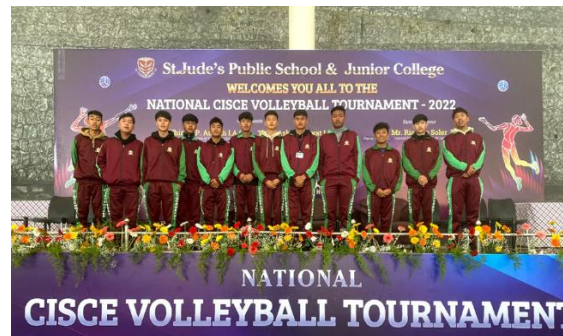


I am delighted to report once again that this year's "Icing on the Cake" for the school has been our customary success in the Class X ICSE 2nd Semester Examinations, as well as in the corresponding Class XII ISC Examinations, all of which were held over a six-week period across April/June 2022.

All 112 ICSE candidates gained their PCA certificates, and we particularly mention pupil Sheila Jain whose 95.4% topped the school results. A similar level of PCA success was enjoyed by all 191 ISC pupils, and congratulations are given to those boys and girls who did particularly well: in **Arts:** Menda Rawa Bhutia (98.25%); **Science:** Shreya Sharma (95.5%); **Commerce:** Ayush Bansal (92.5%). Shreya and Menda came top across all the ICSE schools of Kalimpong District.

Our children also excel at non-academic activities and this year both our Under Class X and Under Class XII football teams reached their respective finals, lifting both the Gardener Trophy and the Jack Coffey Trophy. Indeed, the teams together became double champions, a feat which our School has not experienced ever before! Sponsored boy, Andrew Thapa of Murray Cottage, was declared "Player of the Tournament."

Dr. Graham's Homes Senior Volleyball Team participated and advanced to the State Level whereby most of our team were selected to represent West Bengal and the Northeast at the National Level. In the end, the entire team was considered, and our boys gave a fantastic account of themselves at the National Level with three of them being selected to play at the Sports and Games Federation of India and Khelo.



Representatives from NHS-UK, led by Mr. Dennis Moss, visited Dr. Graham's Homes to provide First Aid training to the Students and Staff. We had forty students in total on the course under the guidance of a team of ten trainers. The programme was hugely successful, the scope of training including First Aid, resuscitation, cardiac arrest response, and defibrillation. Indeed, the visiting team was so impressed with the response both from pupils and staff that they provided us with the most sophisticated equipment to be housed in our care for further use in training or in real emergencies. Our grateful thanks are offered to Mr. Daniel Yonzon, a good friend of DGH, for arranging this extremely valuable training.

In November we were privileged to have the NDRF (National Disaster Rescue Force) visit the Homes to give emergency training to more than 200 of our children. The three-hour session covered response to earthquake and landslide situations to which we are prone in the Hills.

We intend to continue with such valuable programmes next year and in the years to come.

Neil Monteiro - Principal, Dr Graham's Homes

All Change at The Bursar's Office! Greetings From Mr Tashi Sherpa, Bursar

After some seven years of service to The Homes in the capacity of Bursar, Colonel Ashoke Gogoi handed over his desk and office to his successor, Mr Tashi Sherpa, at a short ceremony and reception held in the Principal's office in June this year. DGHUK Trustees welcome Mr Sherpa and, wishing him well, look forward to having a long and productive relationship with



him as he addresses the complicated role of Bursar to The Homes, resident on campus in Kalimpong.

Farewell Ceremony for Retiring Bursar

Members of Staff and of Kolkata and Local Boards

Mrs Jayshree Pradhan - Mrs Pauline Singh

Colonel Ashoke Gogoi

Induction of Our New Bursar

Mr Neil Monteiro

Mrs Pempa Hishey

Colonel Ashoke Gogoi

Mr Tashi Sherpa



Mr Sherpa told us: *"I am delighted to have been appointed as Bursar of Dr Graham's Homes, a respected institution which I have known of all of my life having been born and brought up in Kalimpong. I was educated at St Augustine's in the town, and at St Josephs in Darjeeling, graduating from there in 1986. Following a spell as a primary teacher in Nepal, I returned to Kalimpong, in due course graduating B.Com. from College there. In 1990 I started my working career as a cashier in a Government Bank but soon thereafter joined The Life Insurance Corporation of India, the start of a career spanning some twenty-two years in that industry. In 2014 I left the operational insurance world to work free-lance as a training and motivational consultant mentoring insurance salespersons.*



I am married to Poonam Rai who now works as a nurse in Teesta Hospital, whilst still bringing up our two children, Guru Palden and Tshering Lhazey who are both now in the upper echelons of the Senior School here at Dr Graham's. I am fond of music and sport, am a keen harmonica player and avidly follow European football

The whole family are greatly looking forward to being a part of Dr Graham's Homes."

Tashi Tshering Sherpa – Bursar, Dr Graham's Homes

Committee Secretary's Report



I was pleased to meet a number of our Members and Friends at the AGMs and lunch a few months ago in Edinburgh, and also at the recent Afternoon Reception in London. It's good putting faces to names!

Anne Hoggan was appointed as our Chair in May, after a period as Acting Chair. She continues to lead the trustees wisely and to demonstrate love for the children. Our Committee is continuing to make use of its new-found IT skills and have had many virtual meetings in the last few months as well as our quarterly meetings.

A Joint Independent Review Committee, the JIRC, has been established to help implement recommendations from the Independent Review and the Buildings Inspection, both of which reported earlier this year. The JIRC has three members from DGHUK and three from the Board of Management. A representative from GO (the international alumni body) has been invited to contribute to the meetings. We are looking forward to following the progress of this group.

A Surprise Visitor to Frances and John Dent's Open Garden Event!

One late afternoon in October there was a ring of our doorbell. Outside was an unknown figure, a lady of possibly Anglo-Indian origin, leaning on her walker and clutching a couple of books. Her introductory line was 'Are you connected with Dr Graham's Homes?' This made



our ears prick up! It turned out that we had been 'discovered' by an OGB who lives about half a mile away from us in Dundee. This was Barbara James, from the class of 1966. A friend of Barbara's had seen a Scotland's Gardens Scheme poster advertising our garden. She had noticed the word 'Kalimpong' and remembered that Barbara had spoken of her childhood there. Barbara told us she was quite overcome when she heard this mention of Dr Grahams. She had lost contact many years ago after coming to the

UK to study nursing. Happily, she took the initiative to drive round to our house to check our garden's accessibility. All was well!

Barbara and several friends visited our garden the following weekend. Margaretta Purtill was helping us that day and it turned out that her older sister Patsy had been a classmate and friend of Barbara. Barbara's parents had been cottage parents in Hart Cottage and I'm sure she and her parents will be remembered by many. She has happy memories of the Homes and shared a few anecdotes with us, including her meeting with Lady Mountbatten. She also lent us a couple of Kalimpong books; one has a handwritten message from James Minto.

With Best Wishes for Christmas and for 2023,

Frances Dent

Committee Secretary, DGHUK

Sponsorship Secretaries Report



'Making a difference'

As we write this report for the Newsletter and focus on how you as sponsors, correspondents, donors, members, and friends all make such a great difference to our DGH children and students, we are reminded once again of this moving story by Loren Eiseley which shows us that everyone can make a difference – even if that difference is for just one person.

The Starfish

One day a man was walking along the beach, when he noticed a boy hurriedly picking up and gently throwing things into the sea.

Approaching the boy, he asked, "Young man, what are you doing?"

The boy replied, "Throwing starfish back into the sea.

The tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die."

The man laughed to himself and said, "Don't you realise there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make any difference!"

*After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said,
"I made a difference to that one."*



THANK YOU!!

Thank-you to all of you who make a difference to our children and students! Maybe some of your help is visible as you give money to help them access an education, as you fund-raise, or as you write letters to encourage them. Some help is possibly not so visible as you pray for them or support DGH by your kind words. Whatever you do, seen or unseen, we are so grateful for your contribution.



2023 Calendar

Thank you also to everyone who purchased a 2023 calendar. We sold 160 and we hope that they will become a talking point in your homes that will raise the profile of Dr Graham's Homes.

How many children and students, at the Homes or in further education, are having a difference made to their lives, because of your generosity?

Currently there are **149 DGHUK sponsored children** at Dr Grahams Homes, ranging from 3 years of age to 22. They are distributed in the following classes:

Class	Boys	Girls	Total
LKG	4	1	5
UKG	5	2	7
I	8	3	11
II	5	3	8
III	2	5	7
IV	3	5	8
V	2	4	6
VI	7	7	14
VII	5	4	9
VIII	10	9	19
IX	8	5	13
ICSE	10	1	11
XI	8	5	13
ISC	5	13	18
TOTALS	82	67	149



There are also **43 sponsored students** who are former pupils of the Homes now studying in various colleges or training places in India: 35 undergraduates and 8 post-graduate students.

Undergraduates:

College – Undergraduates (2022)	1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year	Total
St Xavier's College, Kolkata	4	0	0	4
Loreto College, Kolkata	0	3	2	5
Scottish Church College, Kolkata	1	0	1	2
Bhawanipur College, Kolkata	8	1	0	9
St Paul's College, Kolkata	1	0	0	1
Kalimpong College	0	0	2	2
St Anne's, Hyderabad	0	1	0	1
Silesian College, Siliguri	0	0	1	1
Banwarilal Bhalotia College, Asansol	0	0	1	1
Loyola College, Chennai	0	1	0	1
Duncan Hospital Nursing School	0	3	0	3
International Institute of Hotel Management, Kolkata	3	1	0	4
Indian Institute of Hotel Management, Kolkata	0	1	0	1
Totals:	17	11	7	35

Post-Graduate Students:

Post Graduate Students (2022)	Course	
Symbiosis International College, Pune	Nursing degree	1
ASB College West Bengal University of Teachers Training, Kolkata	B.Ed.	1
Amity University, Delhi	MA in Public Administration	1
Mankundu B.Ed. College, Bhadreswar	B.Ed.	1
Vidyasagar School of Social Work, Kolkata	MA in Social Work	1
Alliance Française	French Language	1
Indigo Airlines	Cabin Crew Training	1
Kristu Jayanti College, Bangalore.	MSc in Clinical Psychology	1
Totals:		8

THE VITAL PART YOU PLAY IN THE LIVES OF OUR CHILDREN AND STUDENTS

DGHUK could not provide for, or support, any of these children and students without your help. We are so grateful to have sponsors for **106 of our children** and **23 of our students**. All the others are supported through the DGHUK financial reserves, which have been generously provided over the years by those of you who support, send donations, promise legacies, or take on a wide variety of fund-raising activities.

What does sponsoring a child at the Homes involve?

Some of you may not know exactly what it means to sponsor a child at Dr Graham's Homes. Equally, those of you who are long-time supporters may not know about changes that may have occurred recently, so we thought we would outline some details below.

In 2020 DGHUK, together with the Board of Management (BOM) and The Homes produced a new **Joint Safeguarding and Protecting People Policy**. This has been operating since October 2020 and has resulted in some changes to the way in which correspondence with children, and the way that visits to the Homes are managed. If you are interested in reading the policy, it can be found on the DGHUK website, www.dgrahamshomes.co.uk



Sponsoring children throughout their time at The Homes is a very personal and direct way of supporting some of the world's poorest children and is a positive way of improving their lives. Not only will your sponsorship give a child access to a good education but, in many cases, living at the Homes will provide the only proper home that your child will have until adulthood. These children are given life opportunities that surely would not have been possible but for your support.

Sponsorships can be long or short-term, full, or part-sponsorships. Currently a full sponsorship works out at £1500 per annum (£1200 if the donations are gift-aided). Payments can be made monthly, quarterly, or annually. Should a sponsor wish to part-sponsor a child, that is fine, too; the balance of sponsorship support is then found from DGHUK's financial reserves. Hopefully, in due course another part-sponsor will be found to make up the difference.

DGHUK commits to sponsoring between 12 and 20 new children each year. The children are selected from needy families who are interviewed by the BOM before a final list is sent to us here in the UK. We then find and match sponsors to as many of the new children as possible.



How does your money reach the children?

Sponsorship monies are sent to the Homes every quarter by the DGHUK Treasurer. These are used to cover an all-round education, full room and board, clothing, and pocket money. In addition, there is a monetary gift provided at holidays, birthdays and on other special occasions. Pocket money and money for presents is disbursed on your behalf by the Homes.



Can I write to my sponsored child?

Once matched with a child, sponsors are encouraged to correspond with their sponsored child. However, there may be a situation where the sponsor does not wish to do so. In this case another person (a correspondent) who may not be able to contribute financially, might take on that responsibility.

All correspondence with children at the Homes is carried out via the DGHUK Sponsorship Secretaries and the Homes Sponsorship Officer. We do not allow direct correspondence between child and sponsor for safeguarding reasons. However, once children leave school and start attending college, they may be in direct contact with sponsors as they are now adults.

Can I visit my sponsored child in the Homes?

The answer to this question is definitely yes. In fact, supporters who have visited the Homes have almost always found it to be a profoundly moving experience. Visits to the Homes now come under the Joint Safeguarding and Protecting People Policy (2020), so **if you are interested in a visit to the school, please contact the Sponsorship Secretaries in the first instance** so that the new processes can be fully explained. We recommend that you contact us well ahead of your planned trip so that you have plenty of time to prepare. Everything to do with these visits takes time - including the new Indian visa application system.

What does sponsoring a student in further education involve?

Some people who have sponsored children through their time at the Homes, continue to sponsor them when they leave the Homes and move on into further education or training. We call this '**Extended Sponsorship**' and by supporting the young people at this stage, we ensure that they have the best possible start in their independent adult life and are not just launched into the uncertain world of work at the tender age of 18. Some sponsors decide to cease their support when their child leaves the Homes, and so DGHUK financial reserves are used to continue to provide support. Sometimes new sponsors, who have never sponsored before, commit to supporting a student.

Unlike child sponsorship at the Homes, extended sponsors are able to be in touch with their student directly via email or WhatsApp - assuming both sponsor and student would like this. We, as Sponsorship Secretaries, will always act as a link if direct contact is not desired, or if the student does not have a personal sponsor. One thing we always ask the students is that they do not discuss any financial needs with their sponsor but come to us instead. This is to save embarrassment on both sides.

How much does it cost to sponsor a student?

College course and subsistence costs for each student vary, so it is not so easy to calculate the exact sponsorship support needed until the student has started their course. It will also depend a lot on whether they are living at home with their family or are in a hostel or student accommodation. **As a guide, we know that £1,500 per year would cover most student sponsorships.** However, the important thing is that any support given by a sponsor is a huge help. Any shortfall is always made up from DGHUK financial reserves.

The £1,500 covers:

- College tuition/other training fees.
- Accommodation & subsistence
- Travel costs
- Pocket money

In addition to the above, we also send a gift of money at Christmas as a combined Christmas and birthday present to each student. All money in support of a student is paid to the DGHUK account and then forwarded direct to the students by the Sponsorship Secretaries as and when required. Emergency expenses such as medical treatment costs can also be covered at the DGHUK Treasurer's discretion.



A Story of one Sponsor – Child/Student Relationship.



First from Sarah - the Sponsor:

"My parents lived in India from 1918-44. They returned to the UK after my sister contracted polio in Kalimpong aged two. When Bridget died in 2002 my mother, then a widow, sponsored a child in my sister's memory. Since then, my whole family has enjoyed their association with Dr Graham's Homes, receiving regular news, letters, and reports. The highlight for me was travelling with my husband to Kalimpong in 2019, and meeting Samantha whom the family continue to support and keep in contact with her during her tertiary education. Samantha is an enchanting young person who we feel sure will have a good future in life. She is certainly a credit to the school and someone whom we treasure."

..... and now from Samantha, currently studying at Loreto College, Kolkata:

"Grateful for everything that you all have done. I feel so privileged and humbled to have received this sponsorship. In my educational journey, Sarah and her mother have been a significant help to me. My journey from school to college is one that I will never forget because of all the love and support I've received every step of the way. In addition to supporting me since I joined Dr. Graham's Homes, Sarah has been supporting me since I entered college. Currently I am in my second year and am doing much better than I anticipated thanks to the support I have received. The support has been invaluable to me, and I am most grateful for the letters, parcels, and meetings, as well as updates on how they are doing. My deepest gratitude is sent out to her for all that she has done for me from Nursery to Second Year college. Because of all the support and guidance she has provided to me, I know I can succeed, and I will succeed because of their blessings and prayers. Everything is truly a blessing to me, and I am grateful for everything."



Another one of our Sponsors is Karen.

Karen's father and his brothers were pupils at the Homes in the 1930s and '40s, and she now sponsors two children there. In September this year Karen took part in a bike ride organised by GO to raise funds for the Homes and was able to meet the children whom she sponsors.

Karen writes: "Towards the end of September, eight enthusiastic cyclists gathered in Siliguri, West Bengal, for the start of the Bike DGH 2022 fundraiser in aid of The Homes. The group consisted of the school Chaplain, two OGBs from the US, one from Japan, plus four riders from the U.K., two of whom had family members who attended the Homes in the 1930s and '70s.

"The evening before the start of the ride we were welcomed by members of GO. They were there again the following morning to wave us off, and they followed us all the way from Siliguri through the tea gardens of Darjeeling to our first overnight stop in Gorubathan.

"Day Two saw some challenging climbing along the Old Silk Route to Lava, then onwards to Pedong. Upon leaving Pedong on the start of Day Three we had to navigate a twelve-mile stretch of mud, before crossing the border into Sikkim and then some more challenging climbs. That evening we were hosted by the Sikkim Grahamite Association at their annual DGH Birthday Celebration, where several OGBs pledged donations to our fund.

"Our final day's riding took us along the Teesta River, then up into Kalimpong. We were greeted and escorted up the hill by Homes staff, and on reaching the outskirts of Kalimpong we were met by the school pipe band. It was the most incredible experience being escorted through the town, then up to the school, with the band playing 'Scotland The Brave'.



"On reaching the school we were welcomed by children and staff, who lined the route, waving their flags and cheering us all the way to Lucia King Nursery. The band continued to play whilst we were presented with ceremonial scarves, then we were guests of honour at a dance show put on by the Homes children. This was truly the most amazing experience of my life, and I have so many very fond memories of the journey and of the very warm welcome at the Homes."

There are plans for another ride in 2024, possibly from Kathmandu to Kalimpong, so, if you are interested in joining us, please do get in touch with Tenzing Norsang, the event organiser at tenzing.norsang@gmail.com.

What do we do as Sponsorship Secretaries?

.... for you

As well as sending you all the information you need about your sponsored child or student and forwarding emails to you and your sponsored child, we also try to keep you up-to-date with all new, relevant information about DGHUK, the children, the Homes, and the students.

We maintain a secure database of contact details for all children, students, Sponsors, Correspondents, Members and Friends. It also records other information that we have been given or need - an extremely important and full document which is largely based on the GDPR forms that you have completed previously and on conversations we may have had with you. (**Note:** please don't hesitate to contact us should you wish to know what information we hold.)

We communicate regularly with the DGHUK Trustees, the Homes Principal, the Homes Sponsorship Officer, the Board of Management (BOM), Sponsors, Correspondents, Members and Friends about any needs that particular children or students may have, or anything we need to know to do our job. We also attend all DGHUK Trustee meetings (many by Zoom and some face-to-face) so that they, and we, are kept fully aware of all DGH matters.

We are visiting the Homes this November to meet the children in Kalimpong, and to visit the Birkmyre Hostel in Kolkata to meet and have lunch with the students based in that city. **So ...**

..... ***"Hold The Back Page"!***

.... for the children



We act as a go-between for children at the Homes and their sponsors as well as communicating with the Homes on any matters of need. We are not in direct contact with the children ourselves until the January of the year in which they take their Indian School Certificate (ISC) final examination. At this point we email each child via the Sponsorship Officer at the Homes and introduce ourselves. The children then reply to us with a little information about themselves and explain what they hope to do when they have graduated from the Homes. They also give us their contact details. This year we will meet them before we write to them!!

From then on, we are in direct contact with each of them as they take their exams, receive their results, graduate from the Homes, and start applying for colleges or further training. The college application process is very different from that in the UK. In India, young people apply to college AFTER they receive their exam results. This means that applications to, and acceptance from

colleges, as well as finding accommodation etc, is all squeezed into a very short space of time. (We learned when we lived in China to say, "it's not better or worse, it's just different".)

.... for the students

As Sponsorship Secretaries, we are in almost daily contact with all of our students (this can be seven days a week, 365 days a year!), to help them with any matters that may arise – whether financial or welfare-related. As India is several hours ahead of the UK, we often wake up to urgent WhatsApp messages - definitely the students' preferred method of communication. Their college fees and other needs do not come to us in a neat package three times a year!

Regardless of the many daily needs the students have, we love to be in touch with them all and to hear about their life in India and how they are carving out independent lives for themselves.



Finally

We feel very privileged to undertake this work on behalf of everyone in the DGH family and really do appreciate the amazing support that you all give.

Are you making a difference to a child by financial giving, letter writing, prayer, or by other means?

If you are not already making a difference but would like to do so, please contact us at sponsorship@drgrahamshomes.co.uk and we will provide you with the information you need. We would **love** more people to 'pick up a starfish' and make sure it gets into the water, either by becoming a sponsor, a correspondent, or a friend.

If you would like someone to visit your church, school, or any other group, to talk about the work of DGHUK or the Homes, please do contact us as well. If you have any further questions, please email, or call us.

Thank you for reading all this! We hope that it has highlighted some new, as well as some 'already known', information and encouraged you in what you already do.

The man said as he laughed:

*"Don't you realise there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish?
You can't make any difference!"*

..... but you can!

Treasurer's Report, December 2022



New structure but the same aims

The UK Committee has now completed the transition to the new charitable company Dr Graham's Homes Kalimpong (UK) (abbreviated to DGHUK). Our supporters will be advised about the practical implications of this in the New Year but rest assured that our aims are the same; to provide help and support to children at the Homes. As the Homes come out of lockdown and the campus buzzes with activity, the Board of Management is making strenuous efforts to ensure that children suffer no long-term disadvantage to their education.

Until now, visits from DGHUK to the Homes have once again not been possible, however we are delighted that our Sponsorship Secretaries managed to do so last month, their very first visit to The Homes! Nevertheless we are pleased to have been able to conduct business and keep in touch with each other on our Committee and with colleagues in India by Zoom and other virtual platforms; these meetings have been most helpful in focussing our efforts.

Maida and I continue to enjoy the interaction with our supporters, and we have greatly appreciated the support and generosity of so many people towards the Homes, as well as liaising with Ian and Anji Russell, our Sponsorship Secretaries, as together we seek to keep our finances on a sound footing.

No special events this year

Our income for the 9 months to 31 October 2022 is £167,000 consisting of:

Donations plus tax recovery - £41,000

Income from sponsorship - £98,000

Legacies - £11,000

Investment income - £17,000

This is £60,000 less than the corresponding total last year of £227,000, almost entirely because last year's income included large sums of money in respect of Ian and Anji's highly successful Big Tea Party in February 2021 and John Webster's Birthday Appeal in the autumn. General donations and sponsorship income is holding up well and fundraising income is starting to pick up. I am aware that our sponsorship income reflects an ageing demographic and am profoundly grateful for donations from whatever source, many of which reflect sacrificial giving from committed supporters.

As before, I remind supporters that the sponsor payments which we make to the Homes include an allowance for pocket money for the children. Any additional sums which we receive in respect of pocket money are treated as general donations rather than being attributed to any specific child.

Support for the Homes increased, and annual deficit expected

Our ordinary expenditure for the nine months to October has been £278,000, compared with £194,000 last year. The main reasons for this are a greater and more effective level of support for Extended Sponsorship, timing differences in advancing funds due to the Homes in order to assist their cash flow, an increase in pupil fees charged by the Homes, and a drop in the exchange rate to around INR 93 rupees to the UK£1, compared with INR 98 rupees last year.

Our support for Extended Sponsorship students continues to be well targeted; after the pandemic there are more students in college, and we are more in touch with their needs. Our Sponsorship Secretaries are able to access funds from our foreign exchange brokers and send money direct to students or their colleges. The great benefit here is in developing a much closer relationship with the students, ensuring that they receive the support that they need.

We have also provided £50,000 for the cost of the Independent Review of the Homes. This we regard as a necessary and vital investment for the future benefit of the Homes. As with any building project, there is bound to be a time lag between starting the refurbishment work and seeing the finished project, and our new Joint Independent Review Committee (JIRC) will be working assiduously to monitor the progress being made on implementing the plans.

As a charity our income is relatively fixed, and predicting income is tricky; we expect to end the year to January 2023 with a deficit of around £170,000. This is manageable in the short term given the size of our reserves, but since we are in the business of providing long term support for the Homes and the children whom we sponsor, we do wish to reverse the trend.

Investments – steady as she goes

Despite stock-market volatility in the light of geopolitical uncertainties, our investments have performed well. On the advice of our stockbrokers, Killik & Co, purchases were made in May to further diversify the portfolio. As at 16th November the portfolio was valued at £1,147,000 (31st January 2022, £1,156,000), having shown much fluctuation in the intervening months. The portfolio is of good quality, and we adopt a prudent approach to investment. Its current yield is 3.2%, and our investment policy is to achieve a balance of income and capital growth.

Your support is vital

The amount we ask of our sponsors for full sponsorship of a child is £1,500 per annum (£1,200 per annum or £100 per month, plus Gift Aid). We fully accept that for some this amount will not be possible or appropriate, and our present level of reserves is able to top up the finance required to fulfil our commitment to the Homes.

Keeping the Homes running from day to day remains challenging; the combined effect of worldwide inflationary pressures, the political situation in India in general and Kalimpong in particular, as well as poor infrastructure in the Hills, prevents “quick fixes”. We continue to work constructively with the Board of Management and the Homes Senior Management Team to ensure that our sponsored children receive the best education possible, our primary aim being to care for children at The Homes who would otherwise have little chance in life. Thus the key element of our strategy is your support in increasing our sponsorship income!

Jim Gibson – Treasurer DGHUK

Fund-Raising and Events in 2022-2023

With Covid and lockdowns behind us all, thankfully, as too is our additional administrative burden of UK Committee's necessary, but resource-consuming, pre-occupation with Constitution and legislation, at long last Fund-Raising is gradually becoming ever more the focus of Trustee attention as we've moved through 2022. As we've stated many times in our Newsletters, Fund-Raising for our current supported children and, even more so, for those needy children whom we hope will continue to benefit from our future support at Dr Graham's Homes, remains our *raison d'être*.

Below we review, briefly, our 2022 Fund-Raising activity to date as well as that now in planning for the near future. Do try and catch up with us at some of the events; indeed why not bring your own inventive genius to bear with new and innovative ideas? We'd be glad to help you!

2022 Fund-Raising Events Completed Up Until Our May 2022 Annual Report

Cardross Parish Church:

Musical Evening featuring Alistair McDonald and Erskine Community Choir

Arran Friends of DGH:

Virtual Raffle, a new concept in raffle organisation!

DGH AGM Lunch and Raffle:

Raffle and Donations – a great opportunity to renew DGH friendships

Together these events raised some £3,100; our thanks to all who gave their support!

2022 Fund-Raising Events Completed Since Our May 2022 Annual Report

Arran Friends of DGH: £1,100

Coffee Morning

Troon Friends of DGH: £460

Coffee Morning

Garden Open Days, Dundee: £650

Garden Visit

Dundee High, Arts Festival: £125

Indian Art Exhibition

DGH Calendar: £1,600

Sale of Calendars

St Boswells Post Office: £200

Book Sales

Cupar Friends: £500

Craft Fair

We are indebted to those kind supporters who have taken the time and trouble to organise these events. We also realise that your event may have been omitted from the lists above; neither deliberately nor forgetfully, we assure you - possibly just not linked directly to a specific fund-raising event when remitted to our Treasurer; gratefully recognised all the same. So, don't forget to let us know whenever you hold a fund-raiser for Dr Graham's Homes!

Global OGB Association (GO) - Bike-For-DGH Fundraiser, 2022

On Sunday 18th September 2022, after three years of planning, navigating Covid lockdowns and consequent travel restrictions, our Bike-for-DGH Fundraiser finally arrived at its start line in Siliguri! Reverend John G Webster of Scotland, the trailblazer who started these Biking Fundraisers had pulled me aside at the conclusion of the 2017 Bhutan Birthday Bike Ride and suggested it was time for an OGB to take over these events! Fast forward five years and there I was, with no real experience but already dealing with route-change decisions brought about by ever-changing Covid-related travel bans both in Nepal and Bhutan. With less than a month to go, caution directed that we confine our adventure to within India!

Our Team



Karen and Carol



Naincee and Tenzing

Our multi-national team of eight riders included two riders from USA, one from Japan, four from UK/France as well as our Homes' Chaplain, Reverend Henry Simon.



Janet

Each of our Team members was cycling for one of two projects. GO riders had the aim of raising funds for the next phase of building renovations - the Cottages. On the other hand, whilst 50% of their funds were for the same cause, riders from UK were also cycling to raise funds for specific DGHUK child sponsorships.



Shyam, Billy, and Henry

At the Start Line in Siliguri Our Eight Intrepid Bikers wait to be Flagged Off and, ...



.... at the Finish Line outside Kindergarten, in due course receive their Khadar Scarves!

Our Route



Day 1 saw us head 50 miles towards the tea plantations of The Dooars to Gorubathan from the plains of Siliguri. On Day 2, after cycling some 43 miles and climbing 8,000ft, we reached Pedong in the Himalayan foothills. But by far the most arduous was Day 3, the riders battling along roads awash with monsoon mudslides – road bikes dealing with off-road conditions! The never-ending climbs as we inched towards Pakyong in Sikkim got the better of most of us at some point but, 48 miles and some 7,500 ft later,

eventually we all arrived safely in Gangtok. Arriving at Gangtok we were welcomed by Dr. Shiva Rai an OGB, Board Member and Chairman of Sikkim Grahamites, who entertained us to a memorable dinner with other Grahamites. The four days had seen us cover 210 miles and climbing about 26,000 ft. Small wonder that Day 4 was designated a “rest day”, much enjoyed both by riders and by our Heat Travel back-up crew. Our Final Day in the saddle took us back down to Kalimpong where we were paraded through the centre of town before completing our mission outside the Kindergarten Building on campus surrounded by cheering children, staff, and Homes personnel, not forgetting the pipe band who continued to fete us! Truly a memorable experience for each one of us!



Funds Raised

Through the tireless efforts of all the participants, collectively this ride raised almost US \$18,500. Of that total some \$14,000 has been allocated to buildings renovations whilst the balance of around US \$4,500 goes towards DGHUK child sponsorships. Over 250 individuals from all over the world - to all of whom we are extremely grateful - donated via our Just Giving and GoFundMe pages.

The Next DGH Bike Fundraiser

Although I am still recovering from this year's event, I can't wait for 2024 to do it all over again - hopefully with many riders from years past as well as many new recruits! I can guarantee that it will be fun and culturally immersive taking you through breathtaking landscapes of Northeast India and remote Indian and Nepali towns best seen from a bicycle. Nor will it be as grueling as this year's run, and it will be one of the most rewarding things you will ever experience! It's never too early to state you interest so do email me at bikefordgh@gmail.com and I will keep you informed.

Tenzing Norsang, Minnesota
Member of GO, and Bike Ride Organiser

2023 Fund-Raising Events Now in Planning

DGH Cross-Scotland Run For Hope – Early Summer 2023

Under the direction of staunch supporter Michael Scott, whom we introduced in our May Newsletter, planning is progressing for our summer 2023 Cross-Scotland Run For Hope.

Most of the administrative matters are in hand – posters, publicity, Tee-shirts are all in design, corporate sponsors are being approached - all that really remains is to recruit our team of runners - key, of course, to the entire venture! In that connection, a promotional flyer is



Cross-Scotland Run for Hope



This is not a race. It's a 48hr relay set up to make a difference to the lives of children in India.

8 runners, 6 support crew, 2 vehicles, 220 miles.

Are YOU up for the challenge?

Cost: £110 per runner

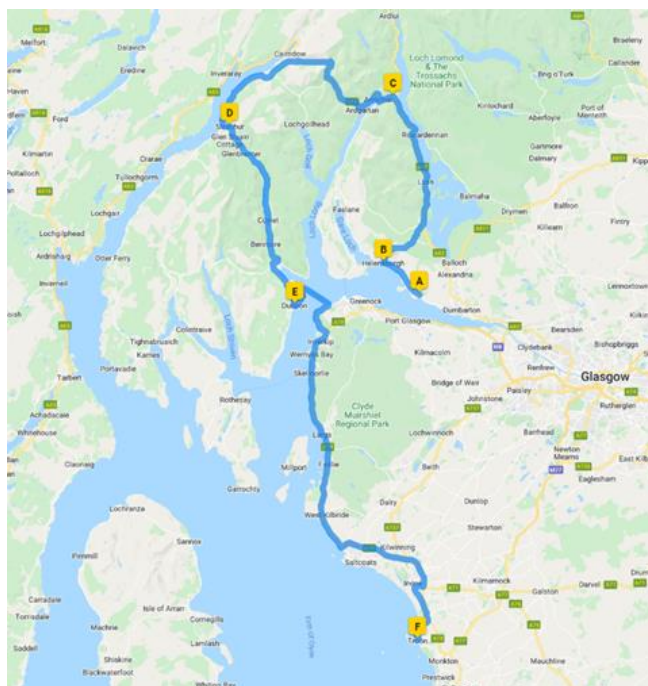
Date: Summer 2023 (TBC)

*Contact Michael Scott for more information:
michael@maslandg.co.uk*

enclosed with this Newsletter should you or your family feel motivated to participate! Please note that this is a FUN RUN and takes the form of a continuous relay of eight runners taking on half-hour/three-mile stages throughout the two days of the event. A back-up camper-van, complete with sleeping, cooking and toilets facilities, as well as a safety vehicle accompany the runners at all stages of road running.

The Run starts off on Day 1 from Cardross Parish Church where the runners will have been provided with overnight accommodation and entertained to breakfast by the minister, Reverend Maggie McArthur, and her congregation. The route is shown in the accompanying map, this first day including the key target of reaching the Dunoon Ferry ahead of its last sailing of the day!

Proposed Route and Timetable for Fun Run



Day 1 – 120 miles/24 hours running:

Start 9:00a.m. Friday

from Cardross PC
to Helensburgh
Tarbet
Arrochar
Strachur
then via Dunoon (Ferry) to Gourock
and onwards to Troon

Finish approx. 8:00a.m. Saturday

at Troon Old PC

After a short break on arrival in Troon in the small hours of Day 2, all our runners take part in Troon's Saturday morning Park Run, also enjoying a light breakfast courtesy of Troon Old Parish Church. Next, we're Edinburgh-bound via the West End of Glasgow where we join the Forth and Clyde Canal trail. Sixty or so miles later we reach the Edinburgh Finish Line early Sunday morning - Stockbridge Parish Church, a church most closely linked with Dr Graham throughout his time in India. A welcome awaits the runners, their families, and supporters there, with bacon rolls and coffee provided courtesy of Reverend John Munro and his congregation.

Day 2 – 100 miles/20 hours running:

Saturday 9:00a.m. Runners take part in Troon Park Run, followed by our own Run For Hope:

Starting 11:30a.m. Saturday

from Troon Old PC

to Glasgow, Maryhill

then via

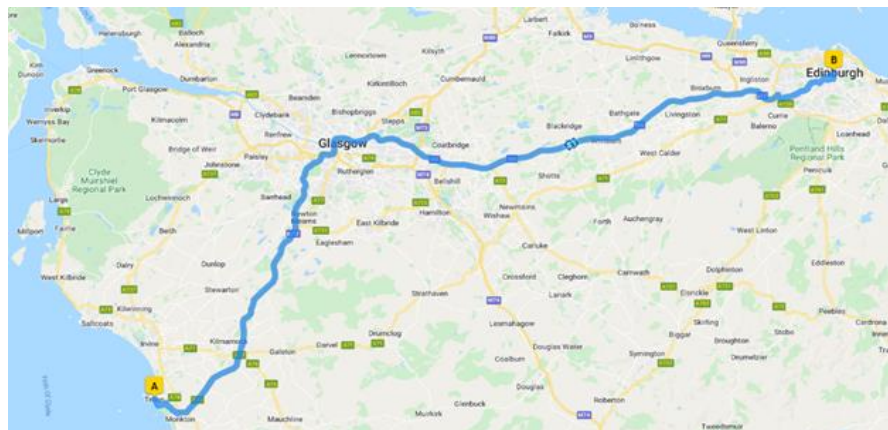
Forth and Clyde Canal

to Edinburgh City

Finish approx. 9:00a.m.

Sunday

at Stockbridge PC



Then, home to rest, recuperate, and reflect upon a **Fun Run Full of Friendship and Fellowship**, not **Forgetting a Further Run in the Future** - next year!?

A precise date has yet to be fixed but at present we have our eye set on late April 2023.

All we need now is our team of runners, their supporters, and sponsors – and a cool wind with some pleasant early-summer weather for our DGH Run For Hope! Do, please, support this “DGH First”! A flyer is included to pass on to any of your friends and family who might wish to support, or even run (!), in this new event.

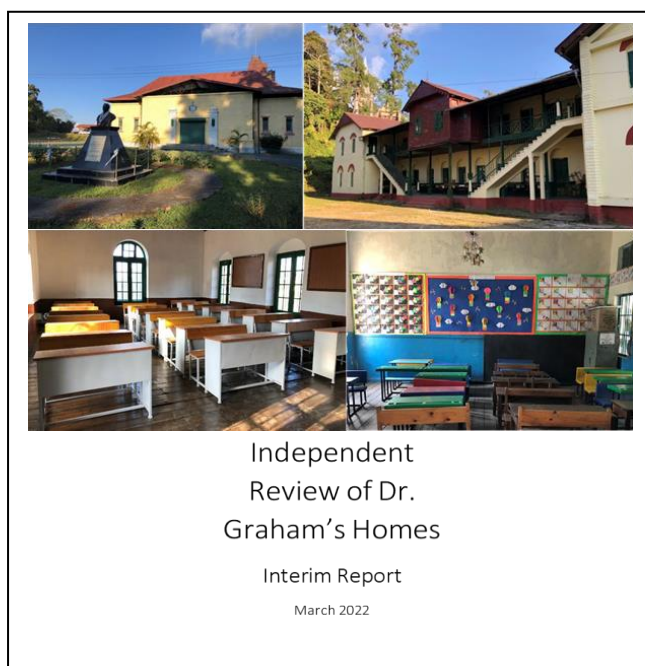
Michael Scott [michael@maslandg.co.uk]
Organiser, Run for Hope

Jim Simpson
Trustee DGHUK

Stop Press: *Just as we went to press, we heard of another possible Scotland-centred Bike Run being planned and developed around a Dr Graham's Homes theme. Five days of cycling through those parts of Central Scotland which relate both to our Founder and to the main centres of local support for our Charity. Watch out for more information on this possible event, another that could possibly go towards 2023 becoming a bumper Fund-Raising year for us all!*

The Independent Review of Dr Graham's Homes

In October 2021, the Trustees of DGHUK – with the express agreement, and co-operation, of the Kolkata Board of Management - passed a Resolution to commission an India-based consultant to carry out a Review of the entire operation of Dr Graham's Homes. Over the next few months a structured series of field studies were carried out on campus in Kalimpong and in Kolkata. Individuals and groups were interviewed both at home and overseas; systems, management methods and procedures were examined in detail - these and many other such issue-focussed studies all led to the publication of an Independent Review Report in May of this year. Input to the Report was gleaned from across the total spectrum of Dr Graham's Homes: from pupils and teachers, from staff and workers, from sponsors and correspondents, from Board Members and International Committee Trustees, from college students and former pupils, from OGB organisations both local and international. Every group was included, and their private observations encouraged. Supporting Reports were produced to ensure that all possible factors were considered: a Buildings Condition Report, a Structural Integrity Report, a Financial Systems Audit; we cannot think of any stone that went unturned!



To organise, manage and oversee the process as well as the production of the Independent Review and supporting Reports, DGHUK assembled a managing group

made up of DGHUK Trustees (3) and

Kolkata Board Members (3) who met regularly with the directors and key staff of the IR consultant team: the Independent Review Committee (IRC). After an extended iterative process of drafting, the Final Independent Review Report was tabled and distributed. Forty-Five Recommendations were put forward directing attention to the key issues of concern, offering suggestions and costs for implementation. Now under consideration is the next step in the process – Implementation of the Recommendations. Some of these are of immediate concern and thus are already in hand - Safeguarding issues in particular. Others are clearly medium to long-term projects; not surprisingly, almost all require funding! A draft strategy programme and document interpreted from the IR Report indicates that a five-year period and an as-yet undefined cost schedule, doubtless of significant proportion, will be involved!

The original IRC moved forward to address the Recommendations, its members morphing into a Joint Independent Review Committee (JIRC) to address this task, at the same time seeking involvement across the Homes community to better address the implementation process. Regrettably this proved difficult, Trustees, BOM and OGBs of this JIRC unable to move forward as a cohesive group. DGHUK, therefore, took the decision to review the approach internally, in the process disbanding the original IRC/JIRC and reconvening a fresh JIRC "Under New Management". The achievements of the IRC are gratefully recognised, however. This matter highlights an important Recommendation of the Independent Review - seeking common ground across all of the "DGH Family", an issue that must be addressed by the JIRC.

Jim Simpson - Trustee, DGHUK

Joint Independent Review Committee Progress Report

The newly reformed Joint Independent Review Committee (JIRC) met for the first time on 5th



September 2022. The new JIRC is made up of three members of UK Committee (DGHUK), three members of the Board of Management in India (BoM) and a member of the Global OGB Association (GO). Our remit is to develop and implement a recovery plan for the school following recommendations of the Independent Review (IR) published in May 2022.

It became clear at our first meeting that Dr Grahams' Homes was in considerable financial crisis not least due to the previous two years of Covid pandemic where there was little to no income. Teachers were on reduced salaries and clearly their action was somewhat disruptive, directly affecting the education of the children.

DGHUK has now offered a generous, interest-free, loan to cover the shortfall in salaries of teachers and other staff thereby heading off possible School closure. Thereby, The Homes would go into 2023 debt-free enabling the new JIRC to focus upon the recommendations of the Independent Review, dealing initially with two priorities: Management and Infrastructure.

GO has already been doing a fantastic job particularly in classroom renovation, pictured above, having recently refurbished 22 classrooms; before and after pictures are to be found on their website www.dghogbs.com. GO has a plan, too, for the cottages based upon the detailed recommendations provided in the two Building Reports supporting the IR and we look forward to working with them. Further updates will follow in the next Newsletter.

As always, the motivation is that Dr Grahams' Homes exists for the neediest of children, regardless of administrative difficulties and sometimes divisive viewpoints.

Esther Anne Pears

Trustee DGHUK – Convenor, Joint Independent Review Committee

Religious Education Across The Homes

Reverend Henry Simon, Chaplain at Dr Graham's Homes since 2006, has written of the strong Christian ethos under-pinning the conduct of all activity at The Homes and School.

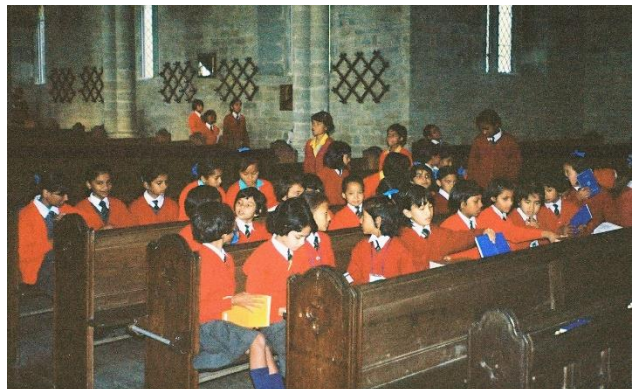
*The person who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence indeed is the LORD, is blessed (v7). He will be like a tree planted by water: it sends its roots out toward a stream, it doesn't fear when heat comes, and its foliage remains green. It will not worry in a year of drought or cease producing fruit (v8). **Jeremiah 17:7-8 CSB***



Reflecting upon the words of Jeremiah, the creation and accomplishments of Dr Graham's Homes as a School and Home, is praise-worthy. God has been faithful to His servants John and Katherine Graham, our Founders, pioneers in establishing a **"Children's City in The Hills"**! A vision that continues to this day, generously supported by Overseas Committees and especially by the world-wide community of former pupils and supporters.

Alongside a vocational and English-based education, a Christian upbringing was adopted for the needy Eurasian children who were brought to The Homes in the 1900s. They were to receive a **"Thorough"** understanding of, and preparation for, life together with an education that would stand them in good stead for the future. I would not be wrong in saying that "The children were to be prepared to go out into the world as 'Thoroughbred' individuals who would succeed and make the most of the opportunities that would come their way "

Today, we have a mixed population of Indian, Thai, Manipuri, Khasi, Anglo-Indian, Tibetan, Nepali and various other tribal communities all of whom live, study, compete and worship together – just as planned by our Founders 122 years ago. The children although they are from different religious beliefs and backgrounds, they all worship and participate together, thus realising our Founders' vision of a wholesome education. The compound is one big community that prays together and stays together – in the majority of cases, and most tellingly, Friendships for Life.

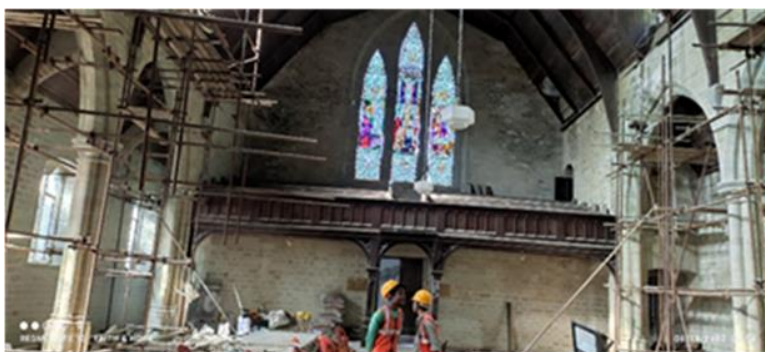


As Homes Chaplain, I have the task of overseeing the spiritual upbringing on campus of some 1300+ pupils of all ages. However, I am also fortunate in that amongst the many visitors to The Homes are former Chaplains all willing to take an active part in our fellowship! This year, we were visited by Dr. Kerry Huston and Reverend Steve Brunn of the Irish Committee, as well as by Reverend Stuart Filly and his wife Joyce, the latter herself having trained at Lucia King, and who together played a key role in the 1970's after Reverend John Webster returned to UK. This year, too, Reverend Elizabeth Price, an "honorary member" of my family, visited again in September. Homes is ever-grateful to John Webster, active to this day in the vital field of raising funds for The Homes, supporting us tirelessly with his prayers, presence, and patience!

The school year begins in February with a Church Service, and these continue until the end of the session. On the Sunday nearest 15th May each year we hold our Flower Service - a day on which we remember our Founders, who, remarkably, were both called home on that very day, exactly 23 years apart. The service culminates with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Garden Of Remembrance. The Chapel also serves the local Christian community conducting funerals, baptisms, marriages, and confirmations.



The Sunday before the Homes Birthday, 24th September, is Rededication Day when we remember the contribution of former staff, whilst the present-day staff rededicate their own service to The Homes. On that date also, we celebrate The Homes Birthday with a service when we thank God for the vision of our Founders. Then the children enjoy traditional "Buns and Jalebies" – and a day's holiday!



Sadly, since 18th September 2011, our beautiful Chapel has been out of use, badly damaged by a devastatingly severe earthquake. So now we hold Morning Assembly at 8.10 a.m. for pupils and staff, either outside on the playing field or indoors in Jarvie Hall. We read a

passage from The Bible, sing a hymn followed by a prayer customarily led by a pupil, and say The Lord's Prayer. We close with the School Song: *"Forward, O Youth, forever advancing ..."*

On Fridays, we have a special assembly conducted by the Chaplain when the Hymns for Sunday are sung, and a Lesson is briefly explained. We end with the blessing or the singing of The Grace with everyone holding hands. Then that Sunday, staff and pupils attend Church service, everyone longing for the day we can return once again to services in the Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel!

Throughout the year Cottages in turn take on responsibility for cleaning and preparing the Jarvie Hall for Sunday Worship. The duty cottage also takes on responsibility for taking up the offering and singing a special Gospel Song, besides giving readings and leading intercessions. We celebrate Communion on the first Sunday of every month, generally attended by most of our present 56 communicant members. This year, on 8th May, we conducted a service of confirmation for twenty-four of our children, 14 girls and 10 boys.

The children of The Homes are generally from the age groups of 5-18 years. Both boys and girls participate with great enthusiasm and dedication; the singing of the children is a treat. Should you happen to visit the Homes and be there for Sunday Worship you will hear what I mean. If you witness this, it's because of our great Cottage Parents who prepare their children so well; for that I thank them for their dedication and service to The Homes.



On Thursdays we enjoy **"Cottage Fellowship"** in the early evening, held alternately in a girls' cottage then in a boys' cottage, thereby visiting each cottage twice during the year. We have a wonderful time singing hymns, choruses, and contemporary Gospel songs. It's a time of prayer and sharing, followed

by fellowship tea. I must add here that each cottage goes out of its way to serve the best tea!

We end the school year with the Carol Service at which our school leavers, Class XII, receive a Bible, a custom dating back to our Founder, Dr John Anderson Graham. Thus our children have received the Word each day of their school lives and now take a copy of God's Word with them when they leave school - made possible, I might say, through the generosity of the Irish Committee.

We are grateful to God for showing His Mercy on this great institution for all these 122 years.

We look forward to His continuing protection of, and provision for, our **"Children's City in The Hills"** for years to come!



Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel

– at the Heart of The Homes Since Inauguration Day – 24th September 1924

Reverend Henry Simon - Chaplain to Dr Graham's Homes

Restoration Works Under Way at Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel!

Reverend Simon's concern at the eleven-year absence of our Chapel from our lives on campus comes over in his article above; the community is still without its iconic building, generally regarded as the beating heart of The Homes. Happily long-overdue "heart surgery" started earlier this year, funded by, and under the direction of, West Bengal Heritage Department. Remedial design is in the hands of Jadavpur University Civil Engineering Faculty in Kolkata, whilst structural and restoration works are being supervised by Kalimpong Public Works Department. Displaced masonry and structural cracks in arches are being addressed and preparations are under way to install permanent steel framing to brace the perimeter walls. Externally, extensive roof timber and cladding repairs and improved rainwater control measures are required before the building-wide repairs scheduled for flooring, balcony support and pew reinstatement can be carried out.



Of great concern in terms of Scottish heritage are the historic stained-glass windows of the western screen wall and the risk of further, irreparable, damage occurring to these during the remediation works to the building. Former Trustee and conservation architect, James WT Simpson, writes of the windows and DGHUK is seeking a professional report on their repair.

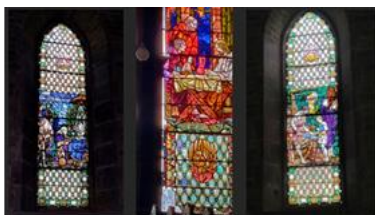


Chapel repair operations are scheduled to take some two years to complete; we shall keep you updated through our bi-annual Newsletters. **We Look Forward to a Return to Chapel Worship!**

Pat Simpson - Trustee DGHUK

The Historic Stained Glass of The Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel

Some may recall that the beautiful Chapel at the Homes, designed by Henry Lennox Anderson, a pupil of Sir Aston Webb, was built in 1925 to the memory of Dr Graham's late wife, Katherine Graham. From that time, it has been at the heart of daily Christian life at the Homes -- until in September 2011 it was seriously damaged by an earthquake centred in Nepal. I happened to be in Calcutta in June 2012, with a structural engineer experienced in earthquake damage from work in Christchurch, New Zealand. At Jim Simpson's exhortation, we travelled to Kalimpong together to inspect the damage. We carried out a detailed survey of the Chapel in the company of local engineer Ashok Pradhan. In our report, submitted to the Board at the time, we advised that the damage was not so serious that temporary work could not be undertaken, and the Chapel brought back into use, whilst funds were being raised for full repairs. Unfortunately, neither that advice nor a 2014 report by Calcutta conservation architects Alleya & Associates were accepted. The Chapel remained out of use for a full decade and the work now being supervised by Jadavpur University for the West Bengal Heritage Commission is regarded by many engineers with experience in traditional construction as being excessive.



The particularly fine stained glass in the Chapel was designed by one of the best known artists of the period, Douglas Strachan. It is boldly coloured, set in heavy leads in his characteristic late 'arts & crafts' manner and in many respects similar to the young carpenter in his 'fisherman's window' in the North Transept of Edinburgh's St Giles. Strachan charged only half his fee and made a personal donation to his Homes project.

Some or all of the panels were damaged by the earthquake, particularly those in the West windows, where the mullions and arches containing them had moved. Some or all of the panels now need be taken out, conserved, altered to fit the new shape of the openings and re-set. This is a specialised task and expertise in India is limited to a small team led by Swati Chandkadgar, who trained with one of the UK's best stained-glass conservators, Glasgow's Mark Bambrough, on the restoration of windows in the University of Bombay.

Major works are now being undertaken on the stone structure of the Chapel during which it is hoped that the fragile glass will be suitably protected to reduce the risk of further damage and to facilitate workshop conservation where necessary. Agreement to this in principle has now been reached with the Principal and with Board Member Praful Rao; discussions with the Public Works Department engineer in charge will shortly begin. A visit to inspect the glass *in situ* is being arranged with Swati Chandkadgar from Bombay, the scale of the task will then be assessed and, all being well, sound decisions taken.

James WT Simpson, OBE

Conservation Architect

OBITUARY - William Grierson

January 2, 1934 – August 1, 2022



It is with great sadness that we learn of the passing of former Homes Boy, William Grierson, on Monday, August 1, 2022. He passed away peacefully in Chester, Nova Scotia, Canada at the age of 88. A pupil of The Homes from 1939 to 1950 where he was a resident of Wiston Cottage. William is survived by his wife, Joline and children Aleena and Alex, and also by his sister Isobel and brother Archy who were both pupils with him at The Homes. His children - whom he so loved to take camping, encourage in sport, and foster their appreciation of nature – remember him with love.

William gained a Science Degree at La Martiniere College in Calcutta before moving to England and taking up employment with British Aircraft Corporation in Bristol as an Aeronautical and Mechanical Engineer. He moved to Canada in 1964, continuing in the aircraft industry in Montreal until his retirement.

Bill and Joline retired to their home in Chester, Nova Scotia, where Bill took up pottery and painting, inspired by his beachcombing hobby which not only influenced his art but brought about the creation of the most amazing garden inspired by his beach wanderings! He and Joline enjoyed travelling, one of the highlights being his return to his birthplace, Darjeeling, and onwards to Kalimpong - his childhood home from the age of five.



Bill enjoyed a long and happy retirement in Nova Scotia although, sadly, he did not enjoy good health in the last few years of his life. He passed away at home on 1st August 2022.

To his close friends, although Bill appeared to be a man of few words, he spoke thoughtfully and could be counted on to inject humour whenever a conversation was getting too serious. Amongst the many messages and tributes, typical - and echoed by many in the Book of Condolences - reads:

"We consider ourselves fortunate to have had a friend like Bill in our lives; we lament his loss".

A kind and generous man who will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

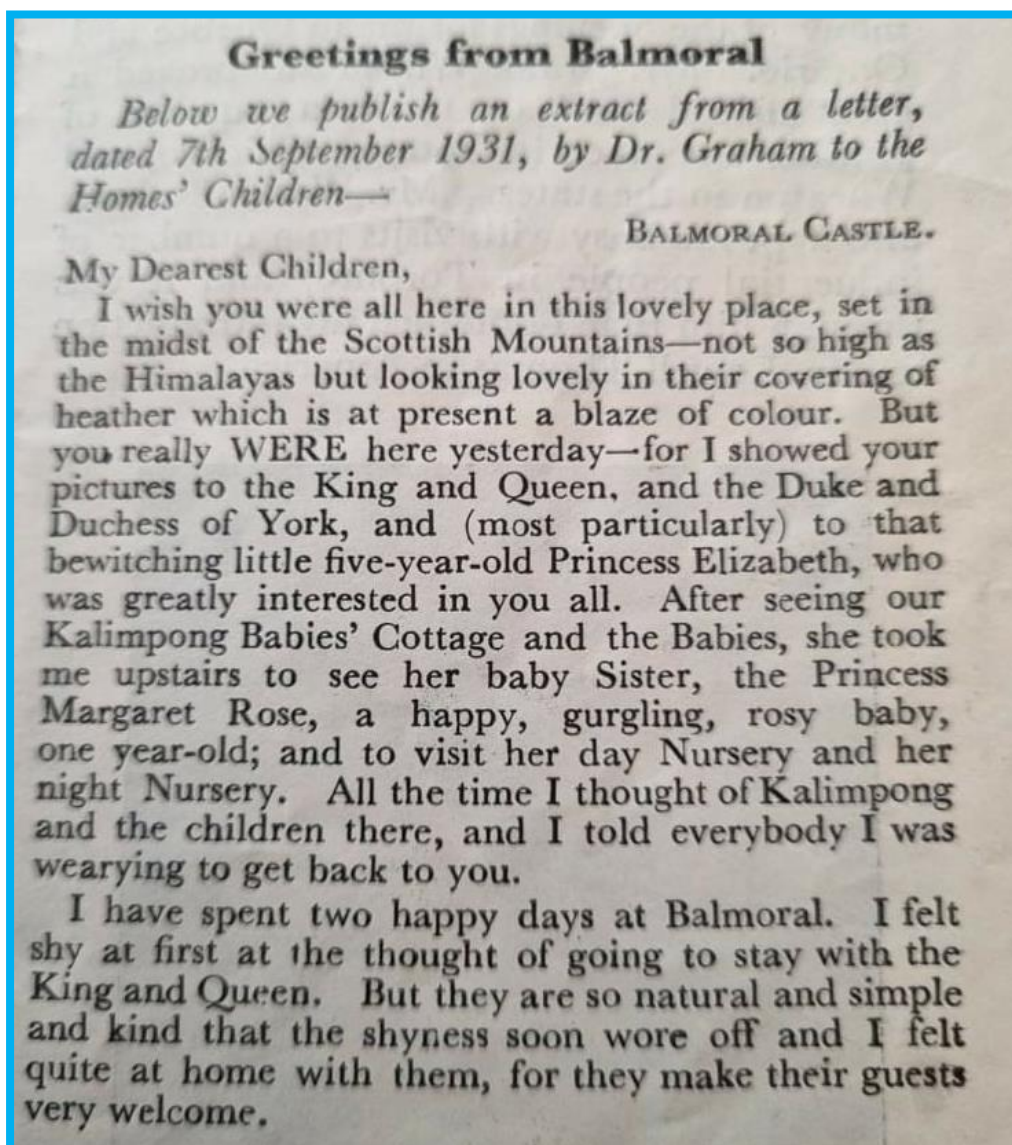
Isobel Grierson - OGB

From the Archives



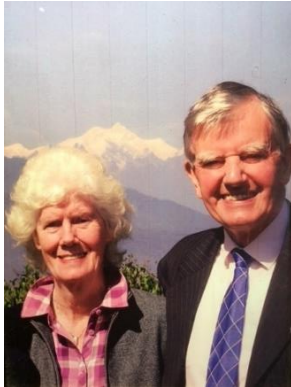
This September, after a reign of over seventy years, our beloved Monarch, Queen Elizabeth II passed away; the UK, the Commonwealth, and indeed the entire World, mourns her passing. There has been a multitude of personal memories aired across global and national media throughout this sad time. Few, however, will know of this particular story reported to the children of St Andrew's Colonial Homes by Dr Graham himself. As 1931 Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, our Founder had been invited to spend a week-end with the Royal Family at Balmoral. A very early record of our late Queen.

Saint Andrew's Colonial Homes Magazine – January 1932



Jim Simpson – Trustee DGHUK

Editorial – Over-Coming Concerns; Looking to The Future!



As has been mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter, Dr Graham's Homes is facing difficult times at the moment across almost every aspect of its operations. Everything one can think of seems to be conspiring against a smooth and settled existence; the aftermath of pandemics and lockdowns, pay disputes amongst teachers and other staff, decaying buildings and infrastructure, lack of funds denying resources to manage difficult issues – all are hampering our Homes. But good news is always to be found if one can only look more closely. Good news is telling us that Chapel restoration is, at long last, under way; that many classrooms have been refurbished; that cottages restoration is now near the top of the "to-do list". So, there is hope – hence our **Fun Run For Hope** planned for next year! Time now to move forward from all those negative issues.

That hope, we feel, is encapsulated in the long-overdue restoration of the Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel. Today's Newsletter includes an article written by the Chaplain of The Homes, Reverend Henry Simon, emphasising the religious ethos and education which underscores every aspect of Homes life – embraced by all of the many religions and faiths represented by the children, cottage parents, and teachers across the campus. Surely a lesson in religious tolerance and understanding that so many are happy to worship side-by-side.

There is one area which does give many of us much concern, however, albeit possibly through our own inexperience or lack of understanding of India. The former pupil communities of OGBs are really quite amazing in the universal admiration and loyalty they demonstrate towards The Homes; DGH is a life-long passion for most! But inevitably there are differences in perception and approach which leads to ill-feeling between the different groups and, worse still, conflicts between parties each loyal to The Homes in their own way albeit doggedly pulling in different directions! Even Overseas Committees find themselves embroiled on the fringes! In fact our efforts in DGHUK to bring about change by involving former pupil organisations led to jeopardising some of the activities of our original JIRC, post-production of the Independent Review Report. Hence the new JIRC being convened and now tasked with implementing the findings of the Independent Review. We wish them every success.

Inevitably there are other concerns closer to home, one of these being our own high turnover of DGHUK Trustees seen over the last three years; indeed, even across the last six months. Sadly there has been three resignations in that time, albeit in every case with due reluctance but with personal reasons prevailing. Hence DGHUK would like to invite others with relevant experience, skills, commitment and possibly, but not necessarily, with some empathy with India. So, we are turning to our many Sponsors, Members and Friends who might offer skills in fund-raising, marketing, social media, finance, legal, IT for new support.

Now it is almost Christmas, so we are delighted to greet all supporters of Dr Graham's Homes to wish you and your loved ones a personal Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

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 over 120 years ago by our Founder, Dr John Anderson Graham. The Children whom we support today in this 21st Century world are just as needy as those for whom "He Saw the Need" so many years ago!

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 drgrahamuksec@gmail.com for an application form and information.

A Short Glossary of Homes Jargon!

Organisations frequently develop their own jargon, so too the global community of Dr Graham's Homes. From time-to-time our supporters seek translations! Below, are some of the acronyms often used in our DGHUK Newsletters!

DGH	Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong
SACH	St Andrew's Colonial Homes – Homes' official title until 1942
JAG	Dr John Anderson Graham, our Founder; "Daddy Graham"
BOM	Kolkata Board of Management
SMC	Senior Management Committee: a local Sub-Committee of the BOM, based in Kalimpong and tasked with overseeing the Homes' management – <i>but only distinguished by context from ...</i>
SMC	Steel Medical Centre, Homes' on-campus medical facility!
GWG	Governance Working Group, within DGHUK
OGB	Term for former pupil of The Homes; "Old Girl", "Old Boy"
GO	Global OGB Association –official alumni association of OGBs
"Thorough"	Motto, or Watchword, adopted by Dr Graham to define the characteristic he sought as the standard for all SACH activity
IR	Independent Review conducted by DGHUK
JIRC	Joint Independent Review Committee

In addition, Homes' children – and former pupils, too - have a unique vocabulary of their own used in Class and in Cottage, and often, also, within their OGB community. The book, **"A Century of Children"** by former staff member, Simon Mainwaring, includes a glossary of that vocabulary! Worth reading ahead of meeting pupils or OGBs on visits to Kalimpong!

HOLD THE BACK PAGE

As you will have read elsewhere (p.18), our Sponsorship Secretaries, Ian and Anji, have at long last made it to Kolkata and Kalimpong where they have been meeting their charges for the first time! Whilst enjoying the company of the sponsored pupils and students they took many 'photographs and below we bring you a selection of these – some familiar faces, perhaps!?

In Kalimpong:



Sponsorship Secretaries Meet Their Pupil Charges Outside Jarvie Hall!



Happiness is Hands in V-Love Symbols!

Happiness is Hands in Pockets!



In Kolkata:



Sponsorship Secretaries Meet Their Student Charges at Our Birkmyre Hostel!



Our First Year Students

Our Second Year Students



Our Third Year Students

Our Post-Graduates



Smiling Happy Faces Everywhere – Exactly What Our Homes Are All About!



**DR GRAHAM'S HOMES, KALIMPONG, INDIA
1900 - 2020**

OVER A CENTURY OF CARING FOR CHILDREN

Founder -The Very Reverend John Anderson Graham DD, LL.B, CIE
Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 1931

