



*Our New Logo is Revealed .....!*



**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 2023**

**Mid-Year Newsletter, May 2023**



**..... and Our New Website Goes Live!**

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



**The Trustees of Dr Graham's Home Kalimpong (UK) are delighted to announce the launch of their Charity's new website and logo.**

As you know, our Charity has recently changed its Constitution and been registered with the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) and with Company's House under a new name.

It is now known as **Dr Graham's Homes Kalimpong (UK)**.

A charity registered in Scotland SC050985, and a registered company SC684452.

Our new website and logo reflect these changes.

You can view the new website here [drgrahamshomes.co.uk](http://drgrahamshomes.co.uk)

We really hope you enjoy exploring the website and discovering more about our work. Do keep coming back to visit it as the News section will be updated regularly and will keep you informed about all the exciting things that are happening.

If you have any news about fundraising events, or have any other stories, such as family connections or visits to the Homes, etc, please get in touch with our Sponsorship Secretaries, Ian & Anji Russell, [sponsorship@drgrahamshomes.co.uk](mailto:sponsorship@drgrahamshomes.co.uk)

**Anne Hoggan, Chair of the DGHUK Committee**

## 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 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

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: [drgrahamsuksec@gmail.com](mailto:drgrahamsuksec@gmail.com) Tel: 01382 668700

Lunch cost £15 payable on the day



## **The Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel – Closed to All, 2011 until ... 2023?**



## Prologue to This May 2023 Edition of DGHUK's Annual Report and Newsletter



Many readers will recognise pictures of the Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel set on a hill overlooking the School campus. It is rightly regarded as the **Heart and Soul of the Homes** and reflects all that inspired The Homes' foundation in 1900. Badly damaged and closed by an earthquake almost twelve years ago, it is so important that the Chapel is restored to its former glory where worship can continue as the ongoing expression of everything upon which Dr. Graham's Homes was founded.

The School day begins with a short act of worship for staff and pupils, led by senior members of staff. The worship of the Chapel expresses itself in

formal education of the school classroom and in the nurture and care given in the Cottages, and all our pupils receive encouragement, strength and well-being through each day being grounded in that worship. The inspiring singing of the pupils further expresses these children's love for the Chapel and for The Homes – singing which never fails to amaze and inspire visitors!



The spirit of Dr Graham's Homes is encapsulated in the words emblazoned on the stonework behind the pulpit, "Love One Another", words so central to the life of the Homes.

All attend a formal Church Service each Sunday led by the chaplain. As part of the wider service the pupils from one of the cottages lovingly clean and prepare the Chapel throughout in readiness for the Sunday service in which they also play an active part in the worship.

On a personal note, when, with the family, I finally left the Homes the pupils were kind enough to ask what they could give us as a present. An easy and lasting choice! We asked all to assemble in the Chapel on the eve of our departure and for nearly an hour we experienced an act of worship expressed totally in praise.



May the Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel soon be restored to its established place in The Homes!

**John G Webster**

**Honorary Vice President**



## 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 2022–2023

<b>Chair</b>	Anne Hoggan 7 Robertson Road, Cupar KY15 5YR Tel. 01334 656992 e-mail: <a href="mailto:annehoggan2019@gmail.com">annehoggan2019@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	(Vacant)
<b>Committee Secretary</b>	Frances Dent 12 Glamis Drive, Dundee DD2 1QL Tel. 01382 668700 e-mail: <a href="mailto:drgrahamsuksec@gmail.com">drgrahamsuksec@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	James Gibson 44 Aytoun Road, Pollokshields, Glasgow G41 5HN Tel. 0141423 8290 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		Matthew Pears*	Margaretta Purtill
Ian Russell **		Jim Simpson	Pat Simpson
<i>*From November 2022; ** from February 2023</i>			

<b>Joint Sponsorship Secretaries</b>	Ian and Angela 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>
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## External Appointments

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

## From Anne Hoggan - Chair of DGHUK,



2023 has been a busy year so far with many meetings both of DGHUK and of our subgroups. All are committed to making life at the Homes even better for our children. Also, we aim to improve our Committee's efficiency.

The new Website has been received very favourably – it is bright, attractive, upbeat and above all informative – many thanks to Ian and Anji Russell, our Joint Sponsorship Secretaries, for masterminding the whole process.

The JIRC (Joint Independent Review Committee), formed to act on the recommendations made by the Review of the DGH operation, has made significant progress including co-operative working with the Board of Management and with GO, the official Alumni organisation. Esther Anne

Pears is leading the JIRC meetings – thanks to her and DGHUK representatives, Frank Dunn and Jim Gibson.

I will step down from the Chair at the AGM on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and wish to thank all Directors/Trustees for their commitment to the cause in giving so much time and dedication. A special mention must be made of Jim Gibson, our Treasurer, who not only cares for our finances but ensures that we are keeping within charity laws. Then there is Frances Dent – our extremely efficient Secretary - who is a constant support and encouragement to us all: thank you both.

**Safeguarding** continues to be one of our major priorities. Earlier this year we reviewed the Joint Safeguarding Policy and made a few additions and amendments. These refer to visits to the School ..... so, if **you** are planning a visit, please contact our Sponsorship Secretaries in the first instance. (This policy appears on the new Website). Sunirmal Chakravarthi, Safeguarding Chair on the Board of Management, participated in our Review meeting and gave us first-hand information about conditions in the School. There have been no major incidents reported in recent months.

Finally, to all you wonderful people who enable us to enrich the lives of so many children In India: Thank-you!



May I digress here and highlight one such child whom I have come to know well. She was placed in The Homes at the age of just 12 months, was a good pupil, finally emerging as one of the top students in West Bengal and is now doing a post graduate course in Delhi and about to enter the business world. I have had the pleasure of supporting her over the last few years – her School days were assured by funding from a Church in West Lothian. She is just one example of what can be achieved by following the vision of Dr Graham.



Again, thank you all!

**Anne Hoggan**

**Trustee – DGHUK Chair, and Chair of Safeguarding Committee**

## Our New Trustee Appointments

Over the last six months DGHUK has been pleased to have received applications for Trusteeship of the Charity from two established supporters already well known to many of us: Matthew Pears and Ian Russell. Both have since been voted on to DGHUK as Trustees and indeed are already contributing in that capacity to our work. We look to the Membership to confirm their appointments at our May AGM.

### Matthew Pears

Ensuring the ongoing vision and work of Dr Graham's Homes lies at the heart of my family's history and it's something I'm proud to continue. My grandfather, George McCabe, was The Homes' Farm Estate Manager in the 1950s; my mother and uncle were both born in India, in Darjeeling and Kalimpong respectively.

I made my first trip to India nearly twenty years ago and fell in love with the people and the place and have visited there many times since. These tours have enabled me to gain an appreciation and understanding of the variety of educational facilities and resources available in the country. My most recent trip to India was in the company of both family and sponsors and it was on that visit that I first encountered The Homes and the children whom the UK Committee support. These travels have enabled me to appreciate at first hand something of the need so clearly seen by Dr Graham over a hundred years ago.



Professionally, I specialise in Communications and Marketing. I received my MA in English Language from Edinburgh University ahead of gaining accreditation from the Institute of marketing. I now sit on the board of SkyParlour, a global communications agency operating in the Financial Technology sector.

### Ian Keith Russell



After a lifetime in education, including two primary headships, I took early retirement in 2006 when I took up a post as Middle School Principal in an international school in China. After returning from Asia in 2011, I became an Operations Manager, first of a charity, then of our daughter's business in Surrey. Another career change in 2020 has found my wife Anji and I working together as Joint Sponsorship Secretaries for DGHUK. It has been a challenging yet rewarding journey. It gives us both great joy to be working closely with all our supporters, and the staff in the Homes, to ensure that our sponsored children remain safe, well-educated and well cared for, and that they are fully supported after becoming students in further education and training.

I bring to my role as a trustee of DGHUK considerable experience of working within the charity sector, both through my time as Operations Manager of a large charity for homeless and vulnerable people in Bath, as well as for several years chairing a charity supporting Christian artists here in the UK. My career and voluntary positions have involved developing policies and ensuring compliance with Health and Safety and Human Resources legislation and charity law. I have also volunteered for, and been on the managing committees of, a variety of Christian community support groups, maintaining direct involvement with some of these to this day.

### Anne Hoggan

**Trustee - Chair, DGHUK**



## DGHUK Committee Secretary's Report



We have been pleased to welcome two new Trustees to the Board of DGHUK. Matthew Pears became a Trustee in November. Matt has a long connection with the Homes; his grandfather was the farm estate manager. His professional background includes PR, marketing and communications, all useful skills! Ian Russell became a Trustee in January. He and his skills are well known to us as he and Anji have been Joint Sponsorship Secretaries since May 2020. He will continue in his sponsorship role as before.

The Trustees met at the Royal Scots Club in February and will be meeting there again the day before the AGM. The staff at the RSC are always very helpful and they can cook a good curry too! We have also had a couple of virtual meetings and our various subgroups have also been meeting by virtual means. I'm pleased to say that the Joint Independent Review Committee has been making good progress in working with the Board of Management and GO to implement the recommendations of the Independent Review.

Now that Covid restrictions have been lifted, it's good that visits to Kalimpong are possible again; you will have read in the last Newsletter of the Sponsorship Secretaries' anticipation of their long-awaited first visit to The Homes. Margaretta Purtill, a trustee and former Chair of DGHUK, also visited the Homes last year and, although this was a private visit, she gave us a full report.



In the last few days, I have had the pleasure of visiting Pat Lomax, a DGHUK Friend who visited the Homes in February. Pat had enjoyed her stay in Ahava Guest House and was impressed by the friendliness and cheerfulness of the children. She has a lovely collection of photos - a couple of these are on this page.

More information, past, present and future, can be found on the brand new DGHUK website; I hope you will enjoy exploring it at [drgrahamshomes.co.uk](http://drgrahamshomes.co.uk). Many thanks to Ian and Anji Russell for all the work they have put into its development.



I'm looking forward to meeting many of you at the AGM and Curry Lunch.

**Frances Dent**

**Trustee - DGHUK Committee Secretary**

## ANNUAL ACCOUNTS for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023



**Jim Gibson**

**Trustee – DGHUK, Committee Treasurer**

Our accounts for the year ended 31 January 2023 show income of £500,426 and a surplus of £3,731. The audit has been completed and we reproduce below an extract of key sections of the accounts, namely a Summary 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 approved on 5 May 2023; 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. Copies of the full financial statements are available free of charge from the Treasurer, whose contact details are shown on page 5.

### Dr Graham's Homes Kalimpong (UK)

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#### *Extract Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 January 2023*

##### **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 governed by its Deed of Constitution. As a result of discussions in 2020 and with a view to bringing 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 on 23 December 2020 and registered as a charity with OSCR and with HMRC. The change from an unincorporated association to a company limited by guarantee was approved at an EGM of members on 12 May 2021.

The business formerly carried on by the unincorporated association UK Committee Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong, India is therefore now carried on under the auspices of DGHUK.

##### **Statement on Risk**

The Directors consider that the major risks which the Charity faces are continuity of income, fluctuations in foreign exchange, the continuing, but now receding, 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 reviews 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 and Activities**

The Charity is established for the following purposes:

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,*

- (a) 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.

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**

### **Transition to New Company**

The Directors met regularly during the year to consider how best to support the needs in India and to monitor progress on the transition to the new Company DGHUK. They also dealt with the administrative processes necessary to obtain recognition as a charity by OSCR and by HMRC.

These accounts have been prepared on the basis that a merger between the two Charities, UK Committee and DGHUK, took place during the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023. Due to the bank's delay in opening the Charity's bank account, financial transactions did not take place within DGHUK until April 2022, and financial transactions before then were routed through the UK Committee's bank account. Subsequently, in November 2022, the assets, consisting mainly of investments, and liabilities of the UK Committee were transferred to DGHUK.

The process of implementing the changeover to the new Company has therefore been completed; the new entity has been accepted as a charity by both OSCR and HMRC and the new bank account is fully operational. Supporters are now being invited to transfer their donations to Dr Graham's Homes Kalimpong (UK). The UK Committee will however remain in existence for the foreseeable future to act as a repository for any residual income.

Following the transition to DGHUK, we were delighted to welcome Matthew Pears and Ian Russell as new Trustees during the year; their skills and experience will add value to our deliberations. John Ball, Diana Owen and James WT Simpson resigned during the year; we are sorry to lose their experience after a relatively short period of service.

DGHUK has maintained continuous liaison by Zoom and other virtual means 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. The Covid pandemic has enabled the Directors to communicate remotely and efficiently, which reduces the need to be bound to a fixed schedule of meetings, allows the Directors to meet at short notice when circumstances so demand, and enables subcommittees to function effectively.

Following a prolonged period of deliberation within the UK Committee, an Independent Review of the Homes by an external international firm of consultants was commissioned by DGHUK in November 2021. Its report was received in March 2022; it was far reaching and made many recommendations,

which 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 £200,000 on commercially favourable terms to The Homes; the first instalment of the loan was paid to The Homes in early February 2023.

A major milestone during the year was our Joint Sponsorship Secretaries' first visit to The Homes in November 2022, after a three-year period during which visits from the UK were not possible because of the Covid pandemic. This visit was most successful and allowed Ian and Anji Russell to see The Homes at first hand, to meet the BOM, Homes staff, school pupils and college students and to return to UK with a most favourable impression of the valuable work being done in The Homes.

### **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 160, with a further 45 students at further education colleges. This compares with numbers supported in the previous year of 157 at school and 32 in colleges. Following on from the disruption caused by the Covid pandemic face-to-face teaching of the children has resumed, as has teaching in colleges.

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



Structural repairs and refurbishment work required to the Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel, which we hold to be the soul of the school, are at last under way. 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 JIRC has been working with GO, the Global OGB Association, to effect ongoing repairs to the cottages on the campus.

Sponsorship is our main source of income, but we also receive funds from a large variety of sources and are grateful to all those by whose loyalty and ingenuity it is generated. Legacy income of £11,425 in the year showed an increase compared with the previous year of £10,872, and we also received around £2,000 of "*In Memoriam*" gifts, for which we are very grateful. We continue to receive donations from church services and Guild meetings, all of which are much appreciated. We are particularly grateful for an extraordinarily generous gift of £250,000 received in January 2023 from a charitable trust.



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

Despite being unable to visit The Homes during the year because of the Covid pandemic, we have continued to develop strong relationships with the Board of Management and the Senior Management Team at the Homes.

This has resulted in positive benefits including:

- working together on the continuing challenges presented by Covid.
- 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.
- setting up the above-mentioned JIRC to discuss the recommendations of the Independent Review of The Homes.
- continuing cooperation with the International Committees and the Global OGB's ("GO").

These developments have maintained the transparent relationship with the BOM and have enhanced 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 with The Homes Senior Management Team, thus ensuring that the children whom we sponsor are well cared for and safe.

Schools in India in general began to reopen after the pandemic early in 2022 and the support which, in conjunction with The Homes, we provided for our children throughout this crisis has continued without interruption. The Directors are continually seeking to ensure that the Senior Management Team at The Homes functions effectively for the good of the children whom we support.

Regarding our Extended Sponsorship students, the new arrangements whereby our Sponsorship Secretaries keep in touch directly 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, particularly church Guilds. We appreciate that both The Moderator and The Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church are Honorary Presidents. Contacts with potential supporters have been made at events such as the London Reception and by those supporters who have engaged in fundraising events.



Considerable work has been undertaken during the year to revamp our website and this went live in early March 2023.

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

### **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, and the portfolio is well diversified. As at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023, our portfolio was valued at £1,167,221 compared with £1,155,937 at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022. The current yield on the portfolio is 3.2%.

### **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.

### **Funds in deficit**

There were no funds in deficit at the year end.

### **Financial Review**

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 children. Over 70% of the funds required to meet our annual commitment to The Homes comes from these sources. In addition, funds are received from legacies, and the Committee acknowledges with grateful thanks the amount which has been received during the year, as stated in Note 5 to the accounts.

Ordinary donation and sponsorship income (excluding legacies) showed an increase of £69,777 to £445,164 much of the increase being due to an exceptionally generous gift from a charitable trust of £250,000, as well as by support from new and existing sponsors.

Legacy income in the year was £11,425 against £10,872 in the previous year.

In comparison to the increased donation income there were investment losses of £57,207 (2022 - gains of £115,112), which represent a fall caused by the geopolitical uncertainties following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

We have continued to draw down restricted funds in order to cover sponsorship costs. The results for the year enable us to maintain reserves which will be required to meet increasing costs at The Homes. The net assets at the year-end were £1,537,924.

### **Reserves Policy**

It is the policy of the Charity to maintain unrestricted reserves which have arisen from past operating results at a level which equates to no less than six months income. It is considered prudent to keep this level to allow for possible difficulties with funding or to provide finance for special projects. At the year end, Unrestricted funds amounted to £1,063,107, representing an amount well in excess of one year's ordinary income.

The Directors regard this as satisfactory.

### **Plans for Future Periods**

The ongoing effects of the Covid pandemic continue to present challenges for all businesses and charities, reducing income and causing major changes in their ways of working.

The immediate priority of the Charity is to maintain close liaison with the Board of Management to ensure that the welfare and protection of the children under our care is maintained.

The underlying political situation in India in general, particularly in the Kalimpong and Darjeeling districts, 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'*, and 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 to all its pupils, together with appropriate vocational training for less academic pupils.

The coming year will continue to present the Committee with significant challenges. There has been a gradual decline in sponsorship in recent years and there are many other charities with similar aims competing for public support. While the Homes has an excellent location in the Hills, a noble mission and a committed group of alumni, there is a need to rethink its overall management and strategy if it is to remain competitive and avoid future decline. The Directors will continue to work with the Board of Management to do all it can to support the School in its efforts to increase numbers of boarders and to upgrade facilities. Our expectation is that this will attract more sponsors, thus enabling us in the future to give the chance of a good education to many more children from underprivileged backgrounds.

### **On Behalf of the Trustees**

**Anne Hoggan, Trustee DGHUK, Chairman**



**Chapel Memories – A Vision of the Sanctuary Awaiting our Return .... in 2023 Perhaps?**

**UK Committee Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong, India****Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 January 2023**

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>2023 Total</b>	<b>2022 Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Income from</b>				
Donations and Legacies	285,838	171,326	457,164	386,834
Charitable activities	5,386	-	5,386	47,594
Investments	24,605	13,271	37,876	30,257
				30,257
<b>Total income</b>	<b>315,829</b>	<b>184,597</b>	<b>500,426</b>	<b>464,685</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Raising Funds	24,471	-	24,471	16,429
Charitable Activities	66,779	348,238	415,017	240,940
		222,832		
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>91,250</b>	<b>348,238</b>	<b>439,488</b>	<b>257,369</b>
Investment gains / (losses)	(57,207)	-	(57,207)	115,112
<b>Net Income/Expenditure</b>	<b>167,372</b>	<b>(163,641)</b>	<b>3,731</b>	<b>322,428</b>
<b>Transfers</b>				
Transfer to Sponsorship	(119,426)	119,426	-	-
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>	<b>47,946</b>	<b>(44,215)</b>	<b>3,731</b>	<b>322,428</b>
Balances brought forward at 1 February 2022	1,015,161	519,032	1,534,193	1,211,765
Balances carried forward at 31 January 2023	1,063,107	474,817	1,537,924	1,534,193



**UK Committee Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong, India****Balance Sheet** *as at 31 January 2023*

	<b>£</b>	<b>2023 £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Investments		1,167,221	<u>1,155,937</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	12,361		24,033
Cash at Bank	369,383		378,719
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	381,744		402,752
<b>Current Liabilities due within one year</b>			
Accruals and Deferred Income	<u>11,041</u>		<u>24,496</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		370,703	378,256
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Assets less Liabilities</b>		<u>1,537,924</u>	<u>1,534,193</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
Restricted Funds		474,817	519,032
Unrestricted Funds		1,063,107	1,015,161
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u>1,537,924</u>	<u>1,534,193</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf.

Anne Hoggan

Chairman

James N Gibson CA

Treasurer

5 May 2023

## Sponsorship Secretaries Report



When we wrote our last report in November 2022, we were just heading off on our first visit to India and to The Homes. You may have spotted some 'hot-off-the-press-photos' from our trip in the December Newsletter. What a wonderful time we had!

Below is a short diary of our visit. You can also read about the trip, in a slightly modified version, on our website [drgrahamshomes.co.uk](http://drgrahamshomes.co.uk). Just click on 'News' in the MENU.

### Our First Visit to India and The Homes!

**Wednesday 16th November 2022:** We arrived in Kolkata early in the morning! Having lived in China and South Korea we were not shocked (as had been suggested) by the numerous people filling the streets – in many ways it was a very familiar sight. What we did struggle with however was the pollution, but the blue sky and the 30 degrees temperature *partly* made up for that!

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2023:** After two days trying to get over jetlag and acclimatising to other aspects of Indian life, we headed off to Kolkata Airport and flew up to Siliguri where we were met by a very helpful school driver. The three-hour journey was not as gruelling as we had been led to believe although it was much dustier! We were delighted by the baby monkeys clinging to their mothers, the many people selling their oranges by the side of the road, the beautiful sky, the distant mountains beckoning us on, and to our surprise the many, many lorries, vans and Land Rover style vehicles that had scripture verses and 'Praise the Lord' emblazoned on their windscreens. There clearly is a strong Christian presence in the area - testimony perhaps to faithful Christian missionaries in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries – Dr John Graham being but one. We arrived in Kalimpong, and unbeknown to us, discovered that the owner of our small guest house was an ex-Dr Graham's Homes (DGH) pupil. Links with DGH, we discovered, seem to pop up everywhere!

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2022:** Waking the next morning (and every subsequent morning) to a perfect view of Kanchenjunga (third highest mountain in the world), its snowy peak shining blissfully in the morning sun, was a pure delight! But the best thing was arriving at the school - we were thrilled to finally be there! Two and a half years had been a long time to wait to see DGH in person - Covid certainly has much to answer for! After a tour of the vast campus, we spent time with all the 160 sponsored children together (ages 6-18, not the youngest ones). It was wonderful to finally meet them and put faces to the names we know so well!



**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022:** On the Sunday morning we attended the chapel service led by the chaplain, where we heard all about the need to build our lives on the Rock NOT the sand, and also witnessed some joyful singing. After that we met the sponsored children again, this time in class groups – sometimes together and sometimes individually - Ian meeting with the boys and Anji with the girls. We met the children who were preparing for both their final exams and subsequently their journey next year into the wider world of college. Many topics were covered in each group, and we were delighted to hear how much the children all appreciate the Homes/School.

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022:** Kanchenjunga still beckoned us as we awoke! This time we spent the morning visiting most of the cottages where the children live in mixed age groups. Ian went to the boys' cottages with the boys' superintendent, and Anji to the girls' cottages with their superintendent - Ian was fortunate enough to get a lift on the back of a motorbike, while, sadly, Anji had to walk the distances between cottages!

For the last two years we have known that infra-structure improvements are needed. We were pleased to see that there are many upgrades currently happening, and being planned for the school, showing that improvement and maintenance is clearly underway. As with everything in life, it is one step at a time. Seeing the children's wonderful new lockers being installed in the cottages - provided with funding from DGHUK - the refurbished classrooms courtesy of GO (the alumni association), and the new lighting on the paths to all the cottages provided by a private donor, was a real encouragement. Change is happening!

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022:** On our last full day, we met with the school Safeguarding Team, a member of the Board of Management, and the Matron at the Steel Memorial Centre. It was great to talk face-to-face with them all, and especially to the Principal with whom we normally speak over the 'phone, on one of our regular liaison calls. Many questions were asked and answered, and many topics covered during our visit.

Afterwards we spent a special time outside with the sponsored children taking many photos, both formal and informal, all of which we treasure. We then met with two students (brothers), at our guest house, who live and study at college in Kalimpong.



**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022:** All too soon we had to leave and say goodbye to Kalimpong (and Kanchenjunga!) and make our way down the long, long road to Siliguri to board our plane to Kolkata. Our 'appointment' with all things DGH did not stop here though. On arriving at our hotel, we were approached by a young concierge who recognised the school driver as he dropped us off. "Are you from Dr Graham's Homes?" he asked enthusiastically. He was previously a pupil at the Homes and was on a work placement from the International Institute of Hotel Management where he is studying. He was so pleased to meet us that he took special care of us while we were there. As we said before, DGH links are everywhere!! Imagine our surprise again though when, on entering our room, we realised that a large picture in a black frame on the bedroom wall was a photo print of the Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel at the Homes.

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022:** We joined members of the Board of Management to help with interviews of the children who were hoping to join DGH as sponsored children for the next academic year – starting February 2023. This was a difficult job as we knew that our choices that day would mean that some children could have greater opportunities in the future, unlike those not chosen.

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2022:** We met most of our 44 students who were studying in or near Kolkata. One student travelled 4 hours by train just to attend. We had a wonderful lunch with them all at Birkmyre Hostel, the DGH student hostel, and had plenty of opportunities to chat about everything! We were also able to pray with some of them – a real privilege. It was great to put faces to the names we knew so well due to the almost daily WhatsApp calls and messages we have with them!



**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022:** Our final day had yet another DGH surprise! This was becoming a habit! One of the managers at the hotel where we were staying found out that we were working for the Homes (he was from Darjeeling – a town near Kalimpong). He came to our table and thanked us many times for what we did for the children at the Homes (we did explain that we didn't personally sponsor all the children). He brought us a plate of complimentary, and rather delicious, desserts. It wasn't the free desserts that impressed us, but rather the high regard with which DGH is held. What a special end to a special visit!

### Thoughts upon our return to UK

Meeting the children and the students and being privileged to see first-hand the 'outcomes' of lives well-lived at DGH, really encouraged us. Especially as many of these lives were lived whilst coping with two years of Covid away from the School, and with an education on-line, usually via just a small phone.

These children and students, despite their challenging backgrounds, are resilient, show a strong zest for life, a desire to better themselves, and a true love and appreciation for all that has been given to them at DGH and beyond.



### Current News from The Homes

As mentioned above we both attended the interviews for families who were hoping that their child would be selected to attend DGH. What difficult decisions! It was so hard to choose the twelve children whom DGHUK had agreed to sponsor, knowing that there would be many children left behind. We are delighted to report that the children selected have all settled happily into the Homes along with the children who are already pupils. Here are four of the new children.





## The DGH Cottages and Their Cottage Parents

Many aspects of The Homes change as each year ends and at times the children also move between cottages. Some, however, do stay in the same cottage for their whole time at DGH. Below is a table of the current cottages, the number of sponsored children in each and the names of the cottage parents.



Helen Macey



Aity Rai



Mr &amp; Mrs Wainwright



Nima Tamang

Cottage name	Gender	Number of sponsored children	Cottage parents
Mansfield	Girls	2	Pinky Gurung
Thorburn	Girls	6	Sami Suba
Woodburn	Girls	14	Namrata Mangrati
Bene	Girls	5	Helen Macey
Birissa	Girls	15	Nima Tamang
Elliot	Girls	11	Samikcha
McGregor	Girls	2	Monalisa Daring
Scottish Canadian	Boys	14	Mr and Mrs Bullock
Wales Lodge	Boys	17	Ms Michelle Evers
Wiston	Boys	13	Mr and Mrs Wainwright
Calcutta	Boys	6	Mr and Mrs Anthony
Grant	Boys	12	Mr and Mrs Belgard
Heathland	Boys	8	Mr and Mrs Holt
Lucia King (youngest children)	Girls	3	Aity Rai
	Boys	7	
Day scholars	Girls	2	
	Boys	3	
<b>Total:</b>		140	

### Children Currently at The Homes:

	Nur	LKG	UKG	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII
<b>133 No. Boarders</b>	2	3	5	8	12	7	7	8	7	14	5	20	12	10	13
<b>5 No. Day Scholars</b>					1	1				1			1	1	

### **Some of the Cottage Parents have Written about their Role at the Homes:**

**Mr and Mrs Holt, who joined the school on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2022, look after the children in Heathland:**

"Looking after 22 children is not an easy task, but we can assure you that it is a very enjoyable one. We recognise the needs of the children, especially the ones with no parents. We are here to share our love and affection which they miss so much from home. To them this is a 'home far away from home'. We never imagined a school to be so vastly spread out and well set up. Together we dedicate ourselves to the deserving children of DGH."



**Mr and Mrs Anthony, who were previously working in Grant Cottage, are now working in Calcutta Cottage:**

"We are from Calcutta and have been married for 12 years with two healthy sons by God's grace. Now we are looking after 30 children. It has been a very different experience for us here at DGH and we send our very best to the UK Committee and all involved in Dr Graham's Homes."



**Mr and Mrs Belgard write from Grant Cottage:**

"Grant Cottage is a lovely Cottage where you can see the whole town and wonderful view."



**Mr and Mrs Bullock introduce themselves from Scottish Canadian:**



"We come from a different industry as our experience is in Customer Service. Due to the sudden recession we had to change our expertise. When an offer came to us to work as cottage parents at DGH, we took up the challenge! At first, we were a bit hesitant about how we would cope, but we started to 'get into the groove'! It took us some time to understand the characteristics of the children of different ages. Now we are doing much better."



### Some Stories from Former Pupils

**Starina is a 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Undergraduate studying for a BA Economics at St Xavier's College, Kolkata. She volunteered at the International Kolkata Book Fair during her studies. Well done, Starina!**



"I volunteered at the International Kolkata Bookfair for the British Council from the 31<sup>st</sup> January to the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023. I got to know about this job opportunity from a mutual friend through social media and I was really excited. I sent in my resume, and I got through the interview. I was so happy to be selected to volunteer for them.

"From my experience working here I learnt a lot. My job role for those 13 days was to engage and talk to the many customers who were coming to our stall to find out about the organisation and the library facilities that the British Council has to offer. There were ten of us, and our target was to get the maximum number of customers to take out a library membership and enrol for the English, teaching and IELTS courses that the British Council was offering. It was quite a tiring job because we had to stand on our feet for long hours talking to customers.

"In the beginning I was really nervous! I didn't know if the customers would listen to me as I didn't have confidence in myself. But after speaking to three or four customers it just got easier. I was able to convince quite a lot of customers to get a membership at the British Council. We were working there from 11:00am to 8:00pm – so glad they had provided us with transport to reach home safely!

"For me it was a really good experience working under the British Council, the librarian manager and the other senior mentors who guided us throughout and encouraged us in all ways. I am so grateful for this opportunity as it helped me gain the self-confidence which I lacked, by motivating and pushing me out of my comfort zone. I learnt how to communicate and put forward my viewpoints effectively.



"Looking back at these few days I feel proud of myself for doing my best, and I will always cherish these memories."

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### Louise is an Ex-Pupil; this is Her Story

**One of our sponsors who was a child at The Homes is Louise Laws, who lived firstly in Elliot Cottage and then in Birissa. Louise describes the views from Birissa as being 'absolutely stunning with the Himalayan range in the background'. As well as a description of this incredible view, Louise also writes about her time in the Homes:**

"My time at DGH spans 10 years 1953-1963. We lived in Assam. When my elder sister was 8 years old, and us twins Mary and I were 5 years old, we joined Mt Hermon School, Darjeeling. We were only there a few months when mum removed us from the school. Dad had sadly passed away and mum couldn't afford the school fees. She then enrolled us in a Convent boarding school. Whilst there Mary and I fell very ill with polio and sadly Mary passed away at 5 years of age. Mum was distraught having lost a husband and then a child and so we were then removed from the Convent school. I don't remember these sad events – I am sure a guardian angel was watching over us.

"Mum's executor suggested that she send me and my older sister to DGH and so in 1953 that is where we went. One special teacher there was Miss Bonnington, who taught PE. As I was disabled with polio, Miss Bonnington carried me on her back down the steep steps to the school compound every morning. The school's resident doctor Dr Margaret Patterson was concerned about my condition and so she asked Dr Paul Brand at Christian Medical College, Vellore, to see if he could do anything about my leg. A few months later I found myself on a train bound for Vellore with Dr Patterson.

"Considering my disability, I don't think I did too badly in exams. My school reports, which I still have, showed that I did quite well. I enjoyed going to church and Sunday school each week despite the early start, and I had the privilege of playing Mary in one of the Nativity plays. One other special memory was when Lady Edwina Mountbatten admired the paper flowers I was making in our arts and crafts class. I also really enjoyed the plays performed by a visiting theatre group, "Shakespeare Wallah". They visited every year – Felicity Kendal and Madhur Jaffrey were among the actors!

"As well as being a good pupil I did get into some terrible scrapes! One bright sunny afternoon I was caught with a friend helping ourselves to delicious peaches and as a result we had to miss a film that was being shown that evening. On another occasion I was in trouble for accepting a ride into town with Prince Peter of Greece!

"The Christmas holidays were very much enjoyed with mum in Assam – I was very happy to do this as it was freezing cold in Kalimpong! During the summer holidays we had great fun camping in the valley near the Teesta River. Towards the end of my time at DGH I was invited to lunch with Mr Brooks, the Principal, and his lovely family. I remember the joy of that occasion very well.

"I left DGH in September 1963 to join my sister Helen in London. I had learned secretarial skills, so it wasn't hard to find a job. As you can see, I have very fond memories of DGH and owe an unending debt of love and loyalty to the Homes."

**Whether you left the school in 1963 like Louise, or more recently like Starina, you remain always very much a part of the DGH family!**

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**Help a Child or a Student!** Many of our children at the Homes and students at college still need sponsors. Please let us know if you would be willing to help a child or a student in this way. Or maybe you know someone else who would like to sponsor, or part-sponsor. **Do let us know!**

**Help Spread the Word!** If you belong to a church or know of a school or any other institution who would like a visit from a trustee or the Sponsorship Secretaries, to talk about the work of Dr Graham's Homes, please do get in touch with us at [sponsorship@drgrahamshomes.co.uk](mailto:sponsorship@drgrahamshomes.co.uk)

**New Web Site!** If you haven't already done so, please do have a look at the new website! There will be up-to-date news posted regularly so please keep looking at [drgrahamshomes.co.uk](http://drgrahamshomes.co.uk) !



**Ian and Anji Russell**  
**Joint Sponsorship Secretaries**



## Report from The Homes Principal, Neil Monteiro



I am pleased to bring my half-year Activity Report to the attention of UK Committee and its supporters.

The School closed for winter vacation on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022, staff and pupils returning in time for commencement of the 2023 academic year on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

During the winter holiday period, however, and although The Homes campus was officially closed, we acted as host to the Annual Training Camp of the Bengal Battalion of the NCC (Schools Cadet Corps). Almost 250 cadets from the Hill towns – Kurseong, Kalimpong and Darjeeling carried out a full programme of military training. Ten cadets from DGH attended.

The 2023 session opened with the ISC Examination for Class XII leavers, followed shortly thereafter by the ICSE Examination for our Class X graduates en route to continuing at school through until Class XII. Candidate numbers were 140 for ISCs and 102 for ICSEs, the results of which have a significant bearing on the futures of the candidates. The results for both sets of exams are expected any day now.

To date DGH has enjoyed some successes in various school competitions including lifting trophies for both winner and runner up in the Inter-School Chess Competition hosted by Victoria School, Kurseong. We have also been doing well in our basketball fixtures: our Under Class VII Boys came runners-up in the Inter-Schools meeting held recently at St Augustine's School, Kalimpong, whilst closer to home the boys of Grant Cottage beat Heathland and the girls of Elliot Cottage beat Bene in the Inter-Cottage Basketball Competition.



*Cottage Captains and Vice Captains – 2023*



*School Captains and Vice Captains - 2023*

School Captains and Prefects were invested in Jarvie Hall at a ceremony hosted by the Principal in mid-April as too had been Cottage Captains and Vice Captains some two weeks earlier. Included amongst the twelve new School Captains and Prefects are sponsored pupils **Josiah** and **Solomon** for the Boys, and **Glenda** and **Christina** for the Girls.

Now pupils and teachers alike are turning their attention to the First Unit Tests which will be upon us within the next month or so!

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



## FUND-RAISING IN 2023 and Beyond!

### An Arran Coffee Morning for Dr Graham's Homes – February 2023

With the word “pandemic” becoming ever more an echo from the past, Arran Friends of DGH were able to return to the fun task of organising their Annual Coffee Morning in Brodick Church Hall, Isle of Arran. Under the leadership of Trustees Shona Hume and Bike (“Arran Belles”) Rider *extraordinaire* Janice Small, the event raised a grand total of £929; well done the Arran Friends Team! The ladies were delighted to welcome our Honorary Vice President, Reverend John Webster, to the hall and even more delighted to have John's wife Jennifer join us despite her ill health. For those who don't know John and Jennifer, they spent some nine years in the Sixties/Seventies on campus at The Homes combining the roles of Homes Chaplain, Farm Manager and Cottage Parents.

Pictures tell a thousand words so what better way to illustrate the on-goings of the morning!



The Regulars



The Repast



The Reverend



The Raffle

### A Troon Coffee Morning for Dr Graham's Homes – October 2023

Not wanting to be outdone by those across the water, Trustee Aileen Fraser of Troon Friends of DGH has announced that their next Coffee Morning will be held at Troon Old Parish Church on **Saturday morning, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023**. Come along and meet some DGH Friends, enjoy a chat, eat lots of cake, drink lots of coffee! You heard it here first!

**Note from Arran Friends: “Our Next Coffee Morning is ALSO in October! Watch Out, Troon!”**

## Hope Alive Tour – Getting Ready for The OFF!

The day for the “Off” still seems some way ahead, but Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 is looming large already! The plan is that after an overnight stay hosted by Cardross Parish Church – boyhood kirk of John Graham – our team of runners sets off on the first leg of their journey, to Troon. Taking it in turn, pairs of runners cover ten-mile legs throughout the days and nights ahead. Eventually they arrive at Stockbridge Parish Church, Edinburgh – Dr Graham's home church - on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September to be greeted by their supporters and doubtless to enjoy a bacon roll or two. Perhaps see you sometime that weekend?

**Michael Scott - Organiser** [ [michael@maslandg.co.uk](mailto:michael@maslandg.co.uk) ]



**The START Line**

**Cardross Old Parish Church**



**Loch Lomond's**

**Bonnie Banks**



**Rest and Be Thankful!**

*(once at the top!)*



*onwards*     **A83 – 1:5 Uphill!**



*to*     **The FINISH Line**

**Stockbridge Church, Edinburgh**

*The route taking in much of the West Coast of Central Scotland leading on to a run across the Central Belt has been reconnoitred; all is set for our Fun Run! Do visit our new website to see where you might offer bit of vocal encouragement!*

## Bike Ride – Central Scotland

*Another Fund-raiser coming up - this time a five-day cycle event taking in many of those parts of Central Scotland which relate both to our Founder and to the main centres of local support for our Charity. Dates planned are in July 2023. For more information contact the organiser Carol on [carolthecoach@gmail.com](mailto:carolthecoach@gmail.com)*

## Restoration of Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel Has Started!

### Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel – The Global Heart and Soul of Dr Graham's Homes

**Earthquake!** At precisely 6:18p.m. on the evening of 18<sup>th</sup> September 2011 an ever-deafening sound, akin to that of falling steel girders, shattered the Sunday evening peace of Jubilee House on the campus of Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong. Cracks zig-zagged across plastered walls, ceilings fell, pictures tumbled to the floor, doors jammed in their frames and the power failed leaving everyone in total darkness. A split-second of silence. Then chaos as the occupants struggled to get under the coffee table - only to discover that the clearance was too low – better to do the sensible thing: get out! Lamps were quickly provided by Cham and Amos, the cooks, but dinner was forgotten as adrenalin took over and checking on the children became priority. By 3:00a.m. all had been secured – but dinner spoiled. The 6.8 Richter Scale earthquake had done its damage across the campus as it tremored across the hilltops from Gangtok to the north. Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel was now off-limits - an unstable structure!



**Chapel Damage.** That the devastation wreaked on the Chapel was extensive is an understatement. Over its ninety-year life, the Chapel has suffered general deterioration under the effect of monsoons, previous earthquakes, wood infestation, not least as consequence of a general lack of routine maintenance and weather protection.



Cracks in walls, displaced keystones in arches, water penetration at roof level have been accepted as common place; always there. Now that damage had been compounded: cracks in masonry widened considerably, walls moved out of plumb, stained glass windows showing much damage and, possibly worst of all, the west façade which houses the main windows had virtually separated from the adjacent walls, causing the gallery to move from its seatings. Although in the grand scheme of things perhaps not of priority importance, to Scottish Heritage the stained-glass throughout the Chapel is of special concern being the work of renowned artist, Douglas Strachan, whose work is to be found in St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh, and St Magnus Cathedral, Orkney.

**Preface.** Today, as 2023's spring merges into early summer, anyone with even the faintest connection to Dr Graham's Homes must be delighted to learn that remedial work on the Chapel is at last under way, a mere twelve years or thereby after the need was so violently brought about! Those twelve years have seen a chain of disparate events evolving, each a small step (not always in a forward direction) towards today's on-site activity. Inevitably the Million Rupee Question was going to be "Who's Paying" and "Wherefrom cometh those Million (Sixty Million more like it) Rupees!? Certainly not a cost that Homes could bear; even building insurance could not look at such costs! Salvation came in 2013 when West Bengal Heritage Commission included our Chapel in a list of newly designated WB Heritage sites. Now all that remained was the problem of securing the funds and commissioning both the design and the reconstruction. Happily, not an operational problem for The Homes as the entire project was deemed to be a hands-off matter; stand back DGH and keep out of the notional ring-fenced area around the Chapel. A sigh of relief from the DGH Board of Management, albeit tempered with the alien idea of standing back from a matter of great concern to The Homes; the Chapel, after all, is the very heart and soul of The Homes! But at least things were now moving forward, albeit very slowly.



**Procuring the Project.** West Bengal Heritage set about the task of devising a procurement route to having the damage assessed, identifying a suitably experienced design agency, planning the works and, in due course, appointing a specialist contractor to carry out the works. Securing the funds from Government was the nightmare anticipated, what with Central and State elections getting in the way and annual budgets being protected. The re-designation of local Districts leading to the separation of Kalimpong from its parent Darjeeling District didn't help progress either; who now was responsible for the funds coming down from West Bengal Government?! Not surprisingly, at least a couple of years passed by before any funds would be released by the Heritage Commission; project matters of any form remained on hold until that hurdle had been overcome.

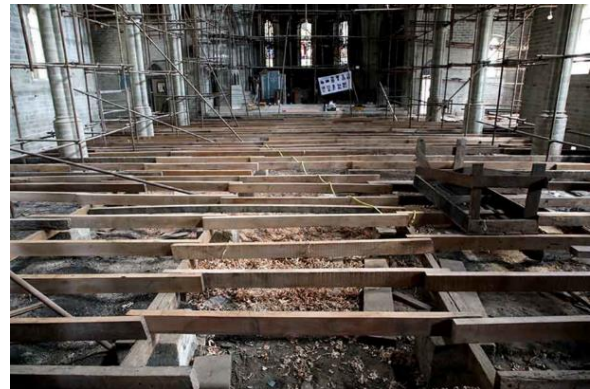
**Project Management.** Whilst securing funding was proceeding, West Bengal Heritage appointed the engineering consultancy arm of Jadavpur University, Kolkata, under the direction of Professor



Bandopadhyaya to develop an appropriate design to both stabilise then secure the masonry shell of the building, taking due account of the susceptibility of the Hills country to earthquakes. Jadavpur University Civil Engineering Department has a track record in design of stabilising measures for masonry buildings in a similar predicament. West Bengal Public Works Department was

appointed to project manage the works including procuring a contractor and supervising the conduct of the works. But thereby lay a problem as WB procurement rules dictated that a contract of this magnitude must be competitively tendered between a minimum of three contractors. Not surprisingly, with experience in these sorts of specialist operations being in short supply, that stipulation caused the process to take some three years to achieve.

**Phase 1 Project – Preliminary Enabling Works.** Not all that time was lost however, as PWD was able to restructure the project into a Phase 1 and Phase 2 brief, the former being by way of Preliminary Enabling Works. These included ground condition investigations, removal of pews and salvaging of precious timber flooring enabling installation of access scaffolding both inside and out to proceed to facilitate engineering inspections and investigatory works.



Importantly too, raking shoring was erected to the west façade securing for the moment that vulnerable elevation and its precious stained-glass windows. Only now could the Chapel be deemed



to be as structurally secure as practical against further earthquake damage. PWD Darjeeling let the Phase 1 works to contractor Sanjog Rai of Mungpoo and this work was completed by the end of 2017/early 2018. Meantime the procurement difficulties of Phase 2 continued, to be further compounded by the onset of the Covid pandemic. Eventually, but not until early 2022, were the works let to specialist contractor Caltech Engineering. The project was on the move at long last!



**Phase 2 Project.** The solution to the problem devised between Jadavpur and Caltech Engineering involves firstly tying together the masonry blocks either side of the open cracks with high tensile steel



u-bars securely drilled and epoxy resin “glued” into solid masonry, thereby spanning the cracks. The cracks themselves are raked clean of all loose lime mortar and replaced with a modern expanding mortar compound. These operations are completed elevation-by-elevation thereby enabling high-tensile steel strapping to

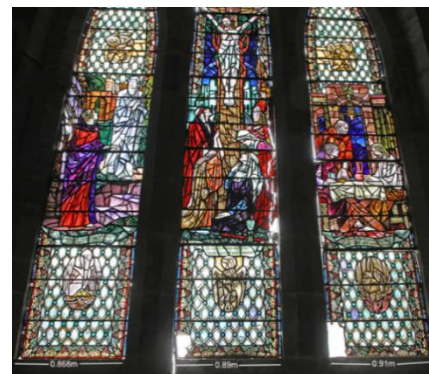
be bolted to the external wall-face both at critical wall junctions and, importantly, at three different levels up the height of each wall: literally, a sort of “belt and braces” arrangement.

That such a solution would be aesthetically intrusive to the familiar appearance of the Chapel walls was a major concern to outside observers. However, having seen the first of the finished areas of this work, the Board are happy that its appearance has minimal impact upon the casual eye.

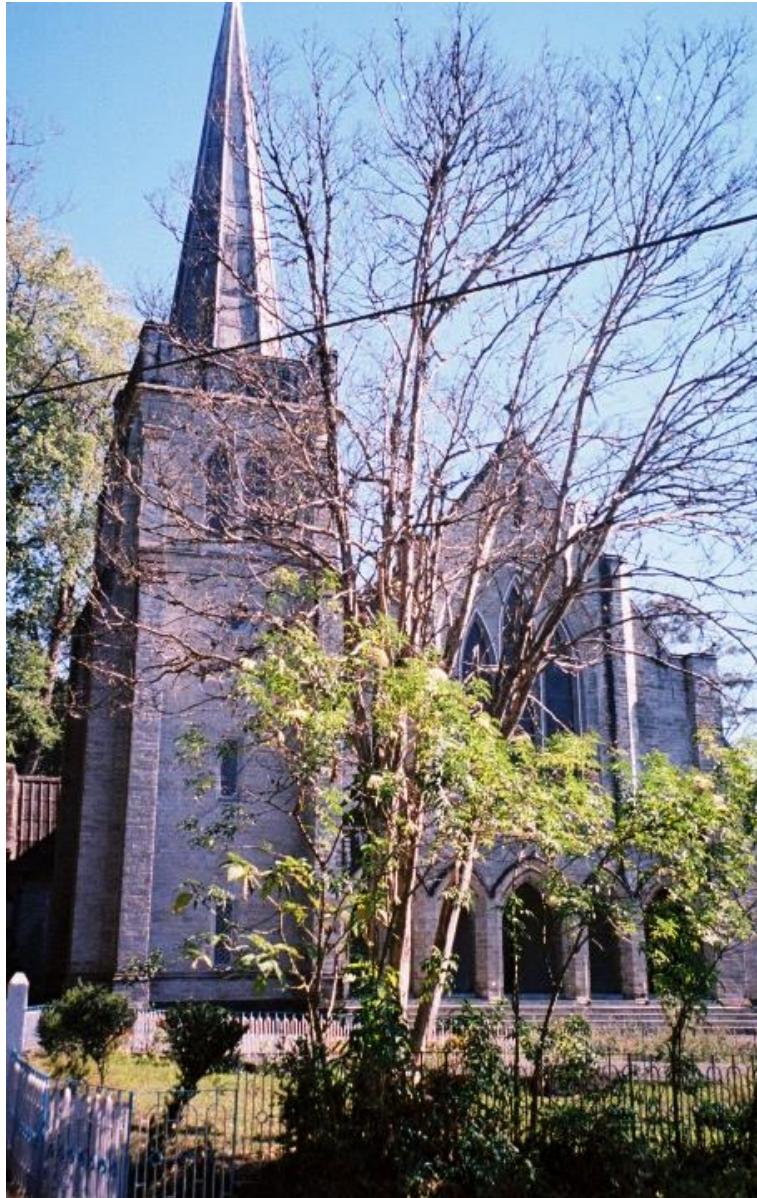


Meantime, the vital task of weatherproofing the building once and for all has been forging ahead and roof repairs including removal of asbestos tiles, renewal of timber roof sarking and over-cladding with profiled zinc alloy sheeting is expected to be completed before the arrival of the next monsoons this coming June. Meanwhile, with timber flooring removed to storage and the building generally closed in against the weather, the way ahead is open for floor joist repairs and renewal to proceed in preparation for the reinstatement of pews and Chapel furnishings. Other areas of timber damage are being addressed such as the reinstatement of the timber staircase leading to the steeple and within the steeple structure itself.

**Stained Glass.** Not included so far within either the project budget or the design is the issue of securing and repairing the three iconic windows housed in the West Façade. Such work being out-with the expertise of the Project Managers consequently was omitted from the budget. However, it remains an essential element of the project and must be addressed at some point. To progress the matter DGHUK has offered to fund an on-site expert's inspection of the problem as a starter for the works at the very least to be considered. At the same time West Bengal Heritage has been approached by the Board of Management to consider funding this essential element of the whole restoration project. Decisions are anxiously awaited; whatever happens without these delicate window structures being expertly secured the project will not be fully complete. Securing and repairing the windows cannot be undertaken other than by skilled stain-glass window artists familiar with the medium.



**Programme.** Clearly any forecast of project completion dates is entirely dependent not only upon having a complete understanding of all technical aspects of the project but also of the external factors that could affect construction progress. With that in mind, the Project Manager and the Contractor have both staked their reputations on reassuring the Homes' Board of Management that the Chapel will be back in operation before the end of the current academic year. Perhaps, therefore, we shall see the Christmas Carol Service once again being celebrated in The Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel!



### **The Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel – Tomorrow!**

**Praful Rao – Vice Chair, Board of Management,**

*and*

**Other On-the-Spot Witnesses!**



## From The Archives – The Role of The Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel

The Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel was dedicated on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1924 in the presence of Lord Lytton, Governor of Bengal. It had been designed and built in a remarkably



short time using local materials and employing local labour – the latter being trained in stonemasonry and carpentry skills “on the job” by the Homes’ Estate Manager of the time, a Mr Hugh Maclean. What is particularly remarkable is that the masons were trained entirely from scratch by Mr Maclean, as it was reported at the time that “... *for once, Dr Graham failed in his attempt to get people from the Plains to train them*”. Nevertheless, the Chapel materialised!

Dr Graham regarded The Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel as the spiritual heart of The (“*St Andrew’s Colonial*”) Homes, a sentiment shared to this day by all supporters of The Homes. We read below one such view from a Mr Thomas McMorran, a Trustee of a Committee established to fundraise for the building of the Chapel. Written in 1925, there remained a shortfall of some Rs 60,000/- still required to complete the project. That was soon resolved!

### **The Chapel's Invaluable Function.**

In Calcutta, Mr. McMorran further said:—

“He must be strangely lacking in imagination who fails to see how profoundly influential on the minds of successive generations of children, ‘service’ in the beautiful Memorial Church may be. Utilitarians may think that a service in the School building as at present might suffice. I venture to think that this is a mistaken idea, and that service in the Chapel with its sacred associations will bite deeper into young minds and furnish a more lasting influence. One may envy the preacher the opportunity which will there present itself for impressing on these young people the ideals of *Duty* and *Character* which are so necessary to fit them adequately to engage in the battle of life when they emerge from the School and enter on their various careers in the world.”

**Pat Simpson - Trustee DGHUK**

## Editorial – Our Return to a New Future continues ...



This time last year it was the post-pandemic return of the children to The Homes which was being celebrated in our Mid-Year Newsletter; one year on it is the start to the restoration of the Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel that is bringing similar joy and celebration to every corner of the DGH globe! **Chapel will be Back - soon!!** We make no apology for the theme of this Newsletter being well and truly focused upon the Chapel; twelve years is a long time for our Homes to be without its iconic heart! As you will read from our “Archives” piece, the Chapel was very much the iconic heart of The Homes from the very earliest days. Similarly, funds and their source was also at the heart of the running of St Andrew's Colonial Homes. Nothing changes!

That iconic role of the Chapel really does impact upon the pupils of today, particularly those who are sponsored. But it is sad to stop and think about the situation we now have of a school career's worth of children who arrived at The Homes the very year of the earthquake and, today, some twelve years later have travelled right through the school without ever enjoying worship in the Chapel! These children have missed a bit of the DGH experience enjoyed by some twelve thousand or so of their predecessors! That is sad!

We've mentioned already that the focus of news in this May 2023 issue of the Newsletter is very much upon the Chapel in celebration of this year's start to its restoration. In our next issue, in December 2023, we hope to be able to report on other big steps forward at The Homes, this time in the implementation of the “Recommendations” set out in the recent Independent Review of The Homes. In that matter, the JIRC is working closely with the Board and with GO and the early shoots of change for the good can already be seen across the campus. Full details must wait until then but in the meantime examples of improvement on finite Recommendations can be seen in cottages and classrooms upgrades, in the installation of new lockers in cottage changing rooms, in improved street lighting, in security measures and in road traffic management.

But perhaps the most pleasing change for the moment is that of improved management of the Farm including animal husbandry and increased outputs of dairy and vegetable products, now supplying both campus and local community.



We are moving forward at last!

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



**We close this Newsletter with an “Epilogue” - to balance the “Prologue” penned by Reverend John Webster – and leave you with this ‘photograph from pre-earthquake days. It projects the calm and peace to be found within the Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel; an Auditorium for Worship yet a Haven of Tranquillity for Prayer and Contemplation for All.**



**The Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel**

## OUR NEXT EVENTS

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

### Garden Opening in Dundee

Saturday & Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2023

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**

**Refreshments £3**

**Children Free**

### London Reception

Friends and supporters are invited to an evening of wine and canapes

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

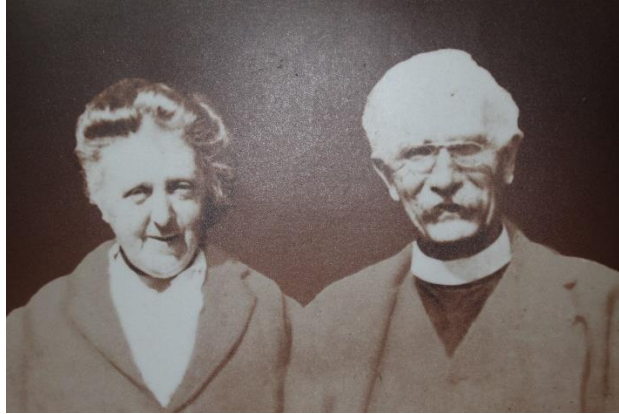


**St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD**

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 5.30–7.30pm** (*provisional date*)

This is a 'drop-in' event. No reservation required.

Please Come and Bring a Friend!



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

**1900 - 2023**

**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

