



***SCHOOL'S BACK!!!***



**UK COMMITTEE DR GRAHAM'S HOMES**

*Charity Registered in Scotland SC 050985*

**Annual Report and Summary Accounts**

**For the Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022**

**Mid-Year Newsletter, May 2022**

## **UK Committee Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong, India**

Charity Registered in Scotland SC 050985

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

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

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### **AGM and Curry Lunch**

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

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

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 10:00 a.m. ahead of our AGMs commencing at 10:30 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

## 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 2021–2022

<b>Acting 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>	<i>(Vacant)</i>
<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

John Ball      Frank Dunn      Aileen Fraser      Shona Hume  
Michael Jefferson      Esther Pears      Diana Owen  
Margaretta Purtill      James Simpson      Jim Simpson      Pat Simpson

<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 - Acting Chair of DGHUK,**



The last few months have been very busy for the UK Committee. The long anticipated Independent Review and Buildings Inspections commissioned by the UK Committee have all taken place and I am pleased to say that all on the campus and the Board of Management have co-operated fully in this exercise. All Reports have been published, albeit the Independent Review as yet still in draft form but expected to be finalised shortly. It will come as no surprise to those of you who have visited Dr Graham's Homes that many of the buildings need extensive renovation. Original building materials, lack of maintenance and climate have all contributed to their present condition. However, the whole reporting exercise has gone very smoothly, and the findings give the Board of Management and UK Committee a basis for drawing up Strategic Plans for future years.

It is a joy that we have been able to take on the sponsorship of fourteen new pupils this year. These new arrivals, along with the children returning after two years of disruption, are to be seen in the happy photographs to be found throughout this Newsletter.



On your behalf, I wish to thank Frank Dunn, a long-standing Trustee, for taking on the task of managing our changing status as a Committee. It has been a complicated process and Frank has been keeping us on the right track throughout. Indeed, I appreciate the hard work and dedication of all Trustees/Directors and Sponsorship Secretaries. Each one of them devotes much time to improving the lives of the children we look after. My personal thanks to them and to you all for your continued support of Dr Graham's Homes, and I look forward to seeing many of you at our AGMs on 18<sup>th</sup> May.

## **Safeguarding Report**

Now that the pupils have returned to school it is hoped that our new Safeguarding Policy will be fully implemented on the campus, including the requirement for training of staff.

In our Annual Review of the policy, the Safeguarding Committee (Sponsorship Secretaries, Aileen Fraser, Esther Pears, and myself) are making a few minor changes and adding procedures for dealing with cases of drug possession and substance misuse. This is in line with best practice here in the UK and the Board of Management is working on a School policy on the subject. We continue to monitor any serious safeguarding incidents reported by the School Principal; thankfully, these are rare.

In mid-April the UK Safeguarding subcommittee met via zoom with the School Safeguarding team to look at issues of immediate concern raised in the draft Independent Review report. It was a productive meeting, and these particular matters are being dealt with promptly.

**Anne Hoggan**

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



## DGHUK Committee Secretary's Report



The UK Committee now conducts most of its business under the name of our new charity, Dr Graham's Homes Kalimpong (UK) and we have become used to referring to ourselves as "DGHUK"! Financial matters, however, are still in the name of our original Charity, UK Committee Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong, India, as explained later in our Treasurer's Report which accompanies the Annual Accounts. Our AGM in May will, therefore, take the form of two separate AGMs. Details have been sent to all Members and Friends but do contact me (see page 3) if you need more information.

After the excitement of a face-to-face DGHUK Meeting in London last October, we reverted to Zoom for our February meeting and for a number of other meetings on specific topics. The Safeguarding Committee, the Governance Working Group, the Independent Review Committee, and a couple of short-term working groups have all found virtual meetings very useful. These save travel time and expense and also allow members of the Board of Management to participate from India.

There have been no changes to Trustees since my last report. Anne Hoggan has continued to serve the Committee as Acting Chair and we are very grateful to her.



A change within the Committee is that Frank Dunn has stepped down as Chair of the Governance Working Group. Many thanks must go to Frank for his diligence in leading the Group through the changes in our structure. Frank's role as Chair has been taken over by Diana Owen and we all wish her well in taking up this particular challenge.



We are, of course, delighted that all the children are now back at the Homes and settling into the familiar routine of face-to-face teaching – and seeing friends!

I do hope many of you will be able to join us at the AGM - in person or virtually - to hear how the children have settled back to school. We learn that

the Junior School, in particular, are really enjoying their refurbished classrooms!

**Frances Dent**

**Trustee - DGHUK Committee Secretary**

## ANNUAL ACCOUNTS for the year ended 31 January 2022



Our accounts for the year ended 31 January 2022 show income of £464,685 and a surplus of £322,428. The Independent Examination 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 20 April 2022; 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 4.

**Jim Gibson**

**Trustee - DGHUK Committee Treasurer**

### **UK Committee Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong, India**

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#### **Summary Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 January 2022**

##### **Charitable Objectives and Activities**

The objective of the Charity is to raise money for the education and welfare of children at Dr Graham's Homes in Kalimpong, India. The Homes give care, guidance, and education to deprived and disadvantaged children from West Bengal and the Darjeeling Hills country, usually, but not necessarily, of Christian Anglo-Indian descent.

The Charity's principal activity is to encourage and provide sponsorship of children and to engage in fundraising ventures to meet the objective of raising money for The Homes in India. The UK Committee shares this task with other Committees in Ireland, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. The affairs of The Homes in India are determined and governed by a Board of Management (BOM) based in Kolkata. The UK Committee's principal source of income is funds raised from supporters.

##### **Achievements and Performance**

###### **Support for the Homes**

The Charity continued to provide a significant level of support to The Homes in India. The number of children supported was 157, with a further 32 students at further education colleges. This compares with numbers supported in the previous year of 160 at school and 30 in colleges. Face-to-face teaching of children and students has been interrupted by the Covid pandemic, but the teaching staff have made great efforts in providing on-line schooling. Colleges have also been providing on-line tuition. The Committee has also been working with GO, the Global OGB Association, to effect ongoing repairs to the cottages on the campus.

Sponsorship income is our main source of income, but we receive income from a large variety of sources, and we are grateful to all those by whose loyalty and ingenuity it is generated. We received legacy income of £10,872 and around £2,000 of "in memoriam" gifts. In addition to donations from church services and Guild meetings we are particularly grateful for a very generous gift of £154,164 from an anonymous supporter, which has been ringfenced for sponsorship and infrastructure repairs.

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

It has again not been possible to visit the Homes during the year because of the Covid pandemic. We have however continued to develop strong relationships with the Board of Management and the Senior Management Team at the Homes, through:

- 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 affecting the Homes
- embarking with the BOM on an independent review of the Homes, which is expected to report in late April 2022.

Ian and Anji Russell as our Joint Sponsorship Secretaries have continued to do a power of work in liaising with the Homes Senior Management Team despite the Covid pandemic, ensuring that the children whom we sponsor are safe and well cared for.

Because of the Covid pandemic all schools in India have again been closed for much of the year but we have continued to support our children, some of whom have stayed at the Homes, and we have endeavoured to maintain contact with sponsored children who have returned to their own homes, and to ensure that the Senior Management Team at the Homes functions effectively for the good of the children whom we support.

With regard to our Extended Sponsorship students, the arrangements being trialled last year for the support of our college students, through a partnership with Mission of Mercy India (MOMI), were terminated as we did not feel that our students were being satisfactorily managed and cared for. Our Sponsorship Secretaries rose to the challenge and have been particularly busy keeping in touch with our students and engaging with them in the management of their academic progress and offering them pastoral support.

### **Committee Management and Constitutional Changes**

The Trustees met regularly during the year to review progress on the transition to a company limited by guarantee and to consider how best to support the needs in India. A recommendation that the Charity should change from being an unincorporated association to become a Company limited by guarantee was accepted by the Trustees. Accordingly, a new company was incorporated on 23 December 2020 under the name of Dr Graham's Homes Kalimpong (UK) and approval was granted at an Extraordinary General Meeting of members of the existing association held on 12 May 2021 to effect the transfer of assets to the new limited company. We believe that this will bring us into line with modern charity practice and will help make us fit for purpose for the coming years. Progress on implementing the changeover has, however, been slow, but at last the process of setting up the new bank account has been completed. Shortly, the new entity will be fully operational, the assets of the UK Committee transferred over to DGHUK, and supporters will be invited to transfer their donations to Dr Graham's Homes Kalimpong (UK). The old association will however remain in existence for the foreseeable future to act as a repository for any residual income.

The year has seen some changes in the composition of the UK Committee (now to be known as the UK Board). We were delighted to welcome three new trustees during the year; their skills and experience will add value to our deliberations. Margaretta Purtill resigned as chair and Anne Hoggan kindly agreed to act as Chair on a short-term basis. Rev John Webster ceased to be a Trustee on accepting the offer of the post as Honorary Vice President in recognition of his service to the Homes over many years.

There has been frequent liaison by Zoom and other virtual means with the Board of Management and Homes staff, concerning specific needs and priorities at Kalimpong. Trustees are thus enabled to communicate remotely and efficiently, reducing the need to be bound to a fixed schedule of meetings and able to meet at short notice when circumstances so demand.

The Covid pandemic has brought about a greater use of subcommittees within the UK Board, and this continues to bring benefits, including ongoing cooperation with the BOM over finance and work on the Chapel, interaction by the Sponsorship Secretaries with students, progress on the change over to a limited company structure, and an upgrading of safeguarding documents and procedures.

### **Outreach**

The committee retains strong links with the Church of Scotland family, in particular with church Guilds. We appreciate the fact that the Moderator and the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church are both Honorary Presidents.

### **Investment Policy**

Our policy is to ensure a good level of income consistent with security of capital and accessibility of funds. 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. The portfolio is well diversified, with a yield of 2.7%. As at 31 January 2022 it was valued at £1,155,937 compared with £1,045,550 at 31 January 2021.

### **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 particular children. Over 70% of the funds required to meet our annual commitment to The Homes comes from these sources.

Ordinary donation and sponsorship income (excluding legacies) showed a substantial increase of £191,103 to £386,834 the increase being due to a very generous anonymous gift of £154,164 and increased support from new and existing sponsors. Although fewer fundraising events took place in the year due to Covid, we did adapt to the situation by going on-line and holding a major event in February 2021, a virtual Tea Party, in which many supporters participated. It was a huge success and raised the astonishing total of £46,007.

In addition to the increased donation income, there were investment gains of £115,112 (2021 - gains of £89,332), which represent a further substantial recovery from the depressed value of the portfolio at the start of the Covid pandemic in March 2020.

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 £1,534,193. The purpose of the Restricted funds has been to provide money for sponsoring children at The Homes, and it is our intention to use these funds over a period of years to supplement funds received from individual supporters which do not cover the full cost of the sponsorships provided.

### **Statement on Risk**

The Trustees consider that the major risks which the charity faces are continuity of income, fluctuations in foreign exchange, the continuing impact of the Covid pandemic, threats to the quality of care for its beneficiaries, political uncertainty in India and local factors affecting the management



of the Homes in Kalimpong. The potential impact of these risks is minimised by regular correspondence with supporters and monthly review of sponsorship funds received; sending remittances to India on a quarterly basis in order to even out exchange fluctuations; and regular contact with and visits by Trustees to the Homes to discuss operational issues.

### **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 £1,015,161, representing an amount well in excess of one year's ordinary income. The Trustees regard this as satisfactory.

### **Plans for Future Periods**

The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic is bound to be significant for all businesses and charities, reducing income and causing major changes in their ways of working. The immediate priority of the UK Committee will be 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 and in the Kalimpong and Darjeeling districts in particular remains volatile, and there are threats to the continuing existence of the school as an institution for disadvantaged children. Inflationary pressures continue to affect the Indian economy, and these will inevitably affect the funds which we are required to send to India. It is also the case that the Homes' accounts in recent years have shown significant losses. We are therefore working with the Homes to ensure that measures are taken to reduce losses and 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 Committee 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 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 - Acting Chair**

## ***School's In!!***



***Class V Enjoying Their New Classroom!***

### **UK Committee Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong, India**

#### **Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 January 2022**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Income from</b>				
Donations and legacies	40,047	346,787	386,834	195,731
Charitable activities	47,452	142	47,594	14,346
Investments	21,595	8,662	30,257	26,747
				26,747
<b>Total income</b>	<u>109,094</u>	<u>355,591</u>	<u>464,685</u>	<u>236,824</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Raising Funds	16,429	-	16,429	20,969
Charitable Activities	18,108	222,832	240,940	301,589
		222,832		
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<u>34,537</u>	<u>222,832</u>	<u>257,369</u>	<u>322,558</u>
Investment gains / (losses)	<u>115,112</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>115,112</u>	<u>89,322</u>
<b>Net income / expenditure</b>	<u>189,669</u>	<u>132,759</u>	<u>322,428</u>	<u>3,588</u>
<b>Transfers</b>				
Transfer to sponsorship	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<u>189,669</u>	<u>132,759</u>	<u>322,428</u>	<u>3,588</u>
Balances brought forward at 1 February 2021	<u>825,492</u>	<u>386,273</u>	<u>1,211,765</u>	<u>1,208,207</u>
Balances carried forward at 31 January 2022	<u>1,015,161</u>	<u>519,032</u>	<u>1,534,193</u>	<u>1,211,795</u>

**UK Committee Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong, India**

**Balance Sheet as at 31 January 2022**

	£	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Investments		1,155,937	<u>1,045,550</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	24,033		9,950
Cash at bank	378,719		174,640
		<u>402,752</u>	<u>184,590</u>
<b>Current Liabilities due within one year</b>			
Accruals and deferred income		<u>24,496</u>	<u>18,375</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		378,256	166,215
<b>Total Assets less Liabilities</b>		<u>1,534,193</u>	<u>1,211,765</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
Restricted funds		519,032	386,273
Unrestricted funds		1,015,161	825,492
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u>1,534,193</u>	<u>1,211,765</u>

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

Anne Hoggan

Acting Chair

James N Gibson CA

Treasurer

20 April 2021

***Junior School's In!!***



## Sponsorship Secretaries Report

*"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."  
Chinese Proverb*



**The youngest children getting ready in Kolkata for their journey back to the Homes.**

As we write this newsletter, we are so thrilled that finally all the children are back at the Homes - a journey that many of them have been looking forward to for almost two years! Most of the students are also back studying at their various colleges and institutions, rather than on-line. These are the places where they belong, but sadly for the past two years the Covid virus has robbed the children and the students of the life that they were previously enjoying. Face masks, lateral flow tests and quarantine are words used now, more than ever before!

Nothing has been 'normal' since we took on this role as Sponsorship Secretaries in May 2020 – not for the children, the students, the school staff, or for us. Most of our work during the past two years has been constantly amending the databases, using words such as 'returned home', 'back at school' or 'studying remotely', as we made sure that the whereabouts of all children and students were always recorded and known.

The education journey which our children and students have undertaken over the past two years, as Covid has affected them all, has been filled with unusual and unexpected challenges. For the children the journey home to Kolkata or elsewhere, and then back up to Kalimpong, has been unlike previous more normal times and inevitably more frequent. Sometimes, the arrival at Kalimpong was followed all too quickly by another journey home as Covid increased and schools closed again. Some of the photographs included in this article show the children as they begin the journey back to school and some after they have arrived back at the Homes.

The theme of 'journeys' seems very relevant at the moment, which is why we are focusing on it in this newsletter. We often refer to life as a journey which starts even before we are born. There are many twists and turns in life – some good, some less so. Journeys are an important aspect as we travel through life, and they are especially poignant at the moment as we hear stories and see photos of Ukrainian refugees who are forced to make urgent journeys to safety, away from their homes and previous lives.

John Graham made a journey from Scotland to India over a century ago to start a new life. We don't know whether he understood the challenges that came with moving to another country, be it chosen or forced. One thing is certain though, when he set out from Scotland in 1889, he had no idea of the impact that his journey would have on the lives of so many people – an impact that is still very much alive today. John Graham especially recognised the plight of children, some who were unwanted, some who were orphans, some who came from India and some who came from other nearby countries. With open hands and an open heart, he welcomed these children unreservedly into the Homes.

Former Principal, Bernard T. Brooks, in his book 'Footprints of the First One Hundred Years – The Kalimpong Homes', tells us of the many children from Tibet who journeyed to the Homes. He states:

*"With the invasion of Tibet in the mid-50s, Tibetan refugees poured into the district with children needing education."*

In the same book there is a wonderful photograph (courtesy of Ken Hammond) of 'children from the first decade' being carried in baskets as they enjoyed their journey to the Homes from the train terminus at Gaelkhola.



**What an exciting journey this must have been!**



**The Current Situation:**  
**Children:**



There are currently 154 children, sponsored by the UK Committee, who have journeyed back to the Homes in the last few months, after two years of disruption. The fourteen new children recently accepted by the Homes and by the UK Committee, have also made their first journey to Kalimpong and are now settling into their new life in the hills.

**Some of the new intake of children ready to make their very first journey to the Homes.**

Nineteen sponsored children will complete their Indian School Certificate Examination (ISC) in the next few weeks and will graduate from the Homes. They will then face the wider world, some ready for the challenge of this journey and some possibly not so ready. Some will be unsure and some supremely confident about facing the unknown. We will support them all as they find their next steps on this journey.



**Back together again!**

**Students:**



**Scottish Church College, Kolkata**

There are 31 students currently being sponsored through the UK Committee. These students are studying in Kolkata and elsewhere, both in colleges and other institutions such as hospitals whilst training to be nurses.

Ten sponsored students will leave their colleges and places of study in the next few months, having completed their studying or training. Some will look for employment and others will hope to further their education journey by beginning a B.Ed. or M.A. course.

**When the children returned to the Homes, we asked them to describe their journey during the past two years - some of their poignant thoughts are shared below.**

**Ricardo:**

"Considering I've been in this school for almost my complete student life, having it suddenly stop was a shock to me. It was difficult getting accustomed to staying at home. Things weren't easy in the beginning at all. Now though that school has begun again, it is only normal that I wasn't ready to resume my life from years ago. But the minute I stood on the familiar wooden floor the wave of nostalgia and the dusty memories, good and bad, came back to me as if I had never left. The first day of school was amazing, getting to reunite with my friends. If it wasn't for the masks, I would have forgotten there was ever a pandemic."

**Children happy to be back!**



**Britney:**

"It was a devastating time for my batch as we didn't do our exams. We missed out on activities in school as well as two years of my school life. But at the same time, I got to spend quality time with my family. We bonded a lot during this period. Now school has re-opened I plan to make the best out of it as this is my last year and I will miss this beautiful place - a place which is home to me for the past nine years."

**Rudy:**

"When I heard the school was re-opening, I was so happy."

**Pearl:**

"In 2020 the pandemic messed a lot of things up. Everyone was panicking about their classes. On-line classes were the best thing. They were fun but they made me lose my concentration and made me very lazy. The most difficult thing was the technical problems. Being back at school makes me

energetic and happy. When I got the news about returning to school, I was excited as I would get to meet my friends again."

**Maegan:**

"I am a new student. Coming to boarding school after two years of online school was shocking but exciting as well. The minute I reached here I was overwhelmed and sad. However, after a few days I found myself getting used to it. The teachers here are honestly very understanding. I am getting used to my new life where each day makes me a better person. I am so proud to finally be able to say I am a student of Dr Graham's Homes."





### **The Whole School is Back – Sponsored and Private Children!**

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Our prayer for all the children is that the strong Christian ethos of Dr Graham's Homes, which influences every child, will remain with them all as they navigate their personal journey supported by those whom God provides to be their companion and guide.

Your generosity enables the children to make their journey through life with an abundance of love and support, and we are so grateful to you all for your incredible care. We do however still need more sponsors for some of the children. **Please do let us know if you or anyone you know would like to sponsor or part-sponsor a child.**



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

## **"School's In!" - Homes' Principal, Neil Monteiro**



After almost two years of prolonged pandemic closedown, just when people's patience began to wear thin, teachers, children and parents heaved a great sigh of relief when the Government finally took the very bold step of allowing schools to function offline, face-to-face, albeit in a phased and staggered manner. The decision to reopen schools is possibly one of the most awaited and truly appreciated decisions ever taken! Prior to March 2020, nobody ever imagined that thousands of schools across India would spend the best part of two years educating on-line!

Now "The Homes Battles On, Once Again!" It was with great joy that we watched taxis, private vehicles, our school buses, and chartered buses bring the children **BACK TO SCHOOL**, literally by the hundred. Over the two months of February and March, practically all the pupils were back, other than those few who had sought admission elsewhere. We hope that they too will return in the not-too-distant future. Heads of schools in Kalimpong lost no time in strategising and planning the way ahead and important meetings were held whereby events for the current academic year were put together, albeit giving academics priority over all else.



Already we have concluded a few Inter-School activities and our children have once again risen to the occasion! In the Inter School Anglo-Indian Chess Tournament held at Victoria Boys School, Kurseong, one of our senior girls emerged as the winner in the Classes IX/X category, with Team DGH lifting the overall championship! Also, in the Classes VII/VIII category DGH was placed second. The icing on the cake, however, was in the Class XII category with DGH taking both winner and runner up places, our Homes lifting the overall team championship trophy!



In the Anglo-Indian Basketball Tournament our Senior Girls (ISC) finished as worthy runners-up, whilst the boys in our Classes X and Below Team reached the semi-finals, losing by just one basket after playing what was surely the "Match of the Tournament"! All credit to the children who participated and the staff members who coached and trained them.

We firmly believe that our children will continue to do well both academically as well as on the field. The second semester for the Board Examinations (ICSE and ISC) is just around the corner and we wish the candidates the very best. We pray that this near-normal schooling continues and thank the UK Committee for all the support it continues to give to our Homes.

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

## FUND-RAISING IN 2022 and Beyond!

### PUTTING THE FUN INTO FUND-RAISING!

From time to time within DGHUK, and with the ever-increasing and understandable demands both of 21<sup>st</sup> Century society and of our Charity Regulators, frequently we find ourselves, quite rightly, driven to focusing our attention more upon management and administrative matters than upon maintaining all aspects of our support for our needy children. Not that we ever forget the children – but reality sometimes takes our attention away from those immediate responsibilities. One such area can be Fund-Raising in the name of Dr Graham's Homes. Covid lockdowns and constraints, too, have all played their parts in exacerbating the problem. Recently, however, we reminded ourselves of the risk of neglecting fund-raising at our peril so now we are seeking to reinforce its importance and, hopefully, do better at keeping that aspect of our support for The Homes ever in focus. Let's have a look at our historical efforts.

Our past Fund-Raising has tended to fall into three categories:

1. **On-going, Locally-Driven, Routine, Support** - organised by Trustees, Members and Friends of the Charity. Coffee Mornings, Soup and Sandwich Lunches, Jars For Change, Musical Evenings, Curry Lunches, Fashion Shows, "Heart & Soul", etc. All particularly, and additionally, valued for keeping The Homes' profile to the fore.
2. **Larger, One-Off, Support** - usually organised by Trustees in conjunction with a particular occasion, for example the visit of the Homes Choir (that was a long time ago!). More recently, our Great British Tea Party,
3. **Sponsored Events** – usually organised by the Charity as external Fund-Raisers. "Bike Bengal" and "Bhutan-Bengal Birthday Bonanza Bike Ride" are typical of these larger-scale activities.

All of these are well-tried and tested and our Members and Friends are very familiar with the task of arranging such events. Moreover, each is of equal significance and importance, not only raising much-needed funds but also through keeping the Charity in the eye of the public. We estimate that over the last twelve years, or thereby, the combined total funds raised through active fund-raising across all of these categories has been of the order of £500,000; a great deal of fund-raising, indeed! But ... today, as the competition is so fierce – even cut-throat – somehow, we "must do better" (as the children's School Reports so often tell us!).

4. **Others?** ..... where new ideas might come in!

But, before we look at that, let us briefly consider how the funds raised continue to be deployed for the benefit of The Homes.

Across the years there have been between 160 and 240 sponsored children in the Homes at any one time, the numbers varying year on year, not always conforming to a recognisable pattern - the latter for a variety of extraneous reasons. The larger scale intakes of yesteryear now graduating at the top end of The School suddenly being replaced by the much lower intake numbers which now has to be the norm, for example.



Whilst very many of our children are fully supported financially by their sponsors, some are not so; these sponsorships have to be topped up from DGHUK's central funds. The numbers seeking entrance to the Homes is always high and generally well out-paces the availability of sponsors. So, for example, we respond with specific bike ride funds being deployed to support some new children – but that number is necessarily small as the funds required per child - currently around £1,800 per annum - can span twelve or more years!

Welfare of our children – indeed, of course, of all of the children throughout the school - is paramount and, sadly, lack of income generated in India and held by The Homes leaves some of the conditions in cottages less than we'd like. For example, recently the pandemic has brought about a shortfall in revenue at The Homes as the parents of many private pupils are not meeting their obligations, arguing that on-line schooling from the family home does not merit full fees! Covid strikes again! So, where in the eyes of the Trustees there is a genuine need, or at least a need as we see it, we will grant funds for say, improved conditions in a particular cottage where something has gone wrong in the fabric or infrastructure. Another such example has been our support for the refurbishment of the Central Kitchen when it was realised that it was still suffering from the after-effects of the 2011 earthquake. But such funding will always be secondary to sponsorship support for our pupils, and we will only ever draw upon those reserves which have accumulated through non-sponsorship sources.

Back to the question – How? Some new ideas are forth-coming, and you will read elsewhere in this Newsletter of another Bhutan-Bengal Bike Ride planned for this autumn, as well as of a cross-Scotland road run being championed by an external organisation which has approached DGHUK with a specific offer of fund-raising help through this particular initiative.

Other methods, tried and tested across recent years, have included marking the Homes' Birthday, 24<sup>th</sup> September, with a local party/present/event shared with supporters; establishing a regional "Friends of Kalimpong" Group who, together, arrange local events (successful in Arran, Troon, Sunderland, Harrogate); form a link with a local School (Barassie Primary in Troon has supported DGH for over forty years!) or Guild. On the grander scale could be the re-introduction of the annual 3-Ks Tour to India and the Homes (Any volunteers?).

Whatever, a new, stronger, and more structured approach to fund-raising must be on the cards and our Charity must broaden its horizons. **Corporate Funding** is possibly the number four in our earlier list above, and as yet is almost untried. Is that the next step? In itself that may well just have come a bit closer through our recent contact and investigation of The Homes as a whole in the form of an external consultant's Independent Review which hopefully adds some gravitas to the overall case for enhanced financial support.

We have not yet exhausted our ideas, but, equally, we welcome new ones; so, anyone out there who might like to throw an idea into the pot – without necessarily even getting involved, personally - we'd be most interested. Whilst all of this may be part of the key strategy of our DGHUK operations, we must never lose sight of the **FUN** element of our **Fund-Raising**. Supporting a charity is not supposed to be work – it's all about enjoyment through caring!

**Jim Simpson DGHUK, Trustee**

## Fund-Raising and Events in 2022 - and Beyond

The following position statement was set out in our Annual Newsletter of December 2021. It is worth revisiting in the light of the article above – **“Putting The Fun Into Fund-Raising!”**

*During the past two years the U.K. Committee has been obliged to spend much time in bringing its ways of functioning up to date in accordance with current charity legislation. However, our Constitution clearly states – and as written and approved by our Trustees - that Fund-Raising must remain a principal route towards our raison d'etre, so fulfilling our mission to provide support for needy children, largely from the most deprived areas of Kolkata. Despite the constraints placed upon us during the last however many months, the Fund-Raising efforts – not to mention the ingenuity – of our supporters has continued unabated!*

### An Arran Raffle for Dr Graham's Homes – March 2022

Due to the Covid Pandemic the Arran Friends of DGH have been unable to hold their Annual Fundraising Events in support of Dr Graham's Homes. This bothered me so I started looking at alternative ways to raise funds. A friend recommended [Raffall.com](https://www.raffall.com), a company she had used to raise funds for the nursery her children attended. Basically, this company sets up an online raffle using the information you give them. Initially I was quite suspicious and had a lot of questions: was it secure, was it reliable, what control did I have, costs etc? She reassured me it was safe, so I decided to go ahead.

Firstly, I had to attract big prizes - ones I could post; a bottle of wine just wouldn't cut it! I emailed friends and family asking them to use their connections in sourcing vouchers from hotels, restaurants, retail, sports, etc. They came up trumps and I received some superb prizes, twelve in total. Next, I navigated my way through the complexities of the Raffall site, logging the necessary information and photos. I vigorously advertised it using social media, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and email.

My online friends shared my posts and so the word spread. The tickets sold at home and abroad, and towards the closing date I started an online count down: 5 days to go, 4 days etc. This encouraged people to buy and surprisingly many people bought despite having no connection either to me or with DGH. They just wanted a flutter with a chance of winning a fantastic prize. Amazingly, £1,372 was raised - much more than I had anticipated, so, definitely a worthwhile exercise!

Now I am contacting the winners, posting vouchers, and making sure they accept their prize online. Only then will the money be released to DGH. Commiserations to those who didn't win; Congratulations to those who did - some wonderful prizes are on their way to you!

**Janice Small - Sponsor**

## Cardross Concert – April 2022



**Cardross Parish Church**  
**150th Anniversary Concert**

A musical extravaganza  
featuring the **Erskine Community Choir**  
& guest artiste **Alistair McDonald**

In aid of: **DR GRAHAM'S HOMES**  
KALIMPONG INDIA

**Friday 8th April**  
**7PM in the Church**  
**Tickets: £10.00**  
**Children: £3.00**  
price includes refreshments at the interval

Also streamed live on YouTube  
See our Facebook page for details  
[www.facebook.com/CardrossParishChurch](https://www.facebook.com/CardrossParishChurch)

**CARDROSS 150**

**f YouTube**

This year sees the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the Parish Church of Cardross, a village on the banks of the River Clyde just to the West of Glasgow. The congregation is marking this milestone with a series of events relevant to the community. Thus, on an evening in mid-April, the church hosted a musical evening in support of their chosen charity, Dr Graham's Homes - relevant, of course, as Cardross was the childhood village and home of the boy who would become Reverend John Anderson Graham, our Founder!

The concert featured the ladies of Erskine Community Choir in the company of the well-known Scottish folk singer, Alistair McDonald, who together entertained their listeners with a broad range of musical genres – from Musicals to Scottish Ballads, from Glasgow Street Songs to Community Singing. Something for everyone!

The choir sees itself very much as a “family” group, both amongst the members as well as for the musical director, Elizabeth, her own family all being stalwart participants! Indeed, daughter Rebecca performed an exquisite violin solo with “Ashokan Farewell” with Dad



providing the piano accompaniment. An interlude in which ‘photos of the 2005 visit to Kalimpong of supporter and former sponsor Sheila McGown gave the audience a taste of The Homes. A welcome addition to the evening was the opportunity for those unable to attend in person the chance to enjoy a live streaming of

this fund-raiser.

The evening was much enjoyed by all and raised the magnificent total of £600, which Cardross hopes will go towards the sponsorship of a pupil at The Homes.

**Jim and Pat Simpson**  
**Trustees DGHUK**

## Bhutan – Bengal Bike Ride – 2022; (Second time around!)



Following on from the very successful **Bhutan-Bengal Birthday Bonanza Bike Ride** of September 2017 – eleven bikers raised over **Forty-Thousand pounds** – as one of the veterans of that adventure I feel the time is ripe for a second bite at this cherry! An extraordinary experience marked by passion, inspiration, determination, and fun. Here is the opportunity to feel, once again, the electricity at the starting line and to experience the remarkable support throughout the journey as we unite in our mission to further the vision of Dr Graham "who so loved the children that he founded these Homes".

So, why not join this fundraiser for DGH from September 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022, cycling from Thimphu in Bhutan to Kalimpong, West Bengal. Supporters and cyclists from around the world will be challenging themselves physically and mentally to prepare for the ride of their lives to raise much needed funds for DGH. If you think you are an adventurer, something of a cyclist and have the heart and determination to do more for DGH, join us for this epic ride! We do have a Plan B in place starting from Kathmandu in Nepal in the event that, under local Covid precautions, Bhutan is not open to tourists at the time of our ride.

To state your interest or to raise questions with the organisers, please email – [bikefordgh@gmail.com](mailto:bikefordgh@gmail.com). The ride is open to everyone; you don't have to be an alumni or affiliate of Dr Graham's Homes.

All cyclists from the U.K. will have the option to share the funds they raise between the U.K Committee, sponsoring children - and Global OGBs (GO), the alumni organization of Dr. Grahams Homes, supporting the Homes.



*Our intrepid Bikers making ready to leave Mal Bazaar Game Reserve - the last leg of the 2017 Bike Ride!*

We are heartened to learn that, already, four riders are in the process of oiling their chains in readiness for the off, just as were these veterans of an earlier venture, pictured above! Look carefully and you'll see much grey hair amongst the mid-section of the group – not to mention one rider returning to pedalling after some fifty years on foot!

So, why not sign up now – it's not a race, just a fun way of having an active holiday in an unusual location, meeting local people, and enjoying good, like-minded, company. All for a good cause! What could be better?

**Tenzing Norsang**  
**OGB Minneapolis, USA**



## New Fund-Raising Venture – Hope Alive Tour

DGHUK is delighted to have been approached recently by a new friend for our Charity, Michael Scott, who, back in 2017, set up a run called Hope Alive Tour to support an Operation Orphan project in Africa. That Tour was a long-distance relay starting in Hull, running to Cambridge via Liverpool; [Hope Alive Tour Film - YouTube](#). A team of volunteer runners, the sort of folk who get a buzz out of such pastimes (!), are recruited to raise funds through high-profile tours. The vision is one of bringing Hope to others through the efforts of a few. During Covid, Michael set up a company as a vehicle to deliver running events to support a small number of personally-selected charities through his organisation. Dr Graham's Homes has been added to his "portfolio" of charities, remembering his personal connections with St Andrew's Colonial Homes of the 1920's when an aunt was on the care staff in Kalimpong.



Recently a number of DGHUK Trustees gathered to meet Michael to develop some ideas about how we might work together. The basic concept brought to us by Michael was that of a West-to-East cross-Scotland relay run – definitely not a “race” – in which a group of runners would follow a route which ideally would have some relevance to The Homes. Cardross, the boyhood home of John Graham, to Edinburgh - his starting off point for his passage to India - was initially seen as ideal. However, practicality soon kicked in and the group have settled for a run from Troon in Ayrshire – a centre of support for The Homes – to Graham's own Church, Stockbridge PC, or, perhaps to Church of Scotland HQ in George St, both in Edinburgh. In practical terms, there is a network of canal towpaths between Glasgow City and Edinburgh that make ideal, safe, running tracks, leaving just the initial leg from Troon to Glasgow to be worked out.

The event would take place at week-end, perhaps commencing with a “Park Run” along the beach in Troon and finishing at a suitable venue in the East on the Sunday where supporters could gather.

So, all you runners out there, its training time! However, worry not, such a venture takes considerable time to organise, and we are unlikely to be calling upon your support before the spring of 2023! Plenty of time for getting run-fit!

Already, we are setting about publicising this Tour of Hope amongst our many supporters. Planning and working out routes, arranging start and finish venues, preparing banners and posters, designing Tee-shirts; all are getting under way. It will surely be worth the effort!

Watch this space for further news; meantime, do encourage all your running friends to join us in 2023!

**Jim Simpson**  
Trustee DGHUK



## Independent Review of Dr Graham's Homes

DGHUK has commissioned and funded an independent review of all aspects of Dr Graham's Homes, conducted by a leading firm of India-based management consultants with expertise



in management in an educational context. The review commenced at the beginning of December 2021 and is due to have delivered its final report by the time of publication of this Newsletter. In fact an interim report has been received, and it is already clear that there will need to be fundamental changes in order that DGH regains its position as a leading school serving the

needs of disadvantaged children.

The review was carried out with the full cooperation of the Board of Management (BOM) and was steered by a small Independent Review Committee with joint membership from DGHUK and the BOM. The review team interviewed numerous stakeholders both at the school and remotely and has evidently done an extremely thorough job. It was complemented by Condition and Structural Foundations Surveys of all the buildings on the campus.

Now comes the difficult task of putting the recommendations of the review into practice, and the DGHUK Trustees hope to be able to work closely with the BOM to this end. We will report back on progress in the next Newsletter as well as on our website.

**Sir John Ball**

**Trustee DGHUK – Convenor, Independent Review Committee**

### Buildings Surveys

An important input to the Independent Review investigations was that of both fabric condition and structural integrity of the campus buildings and infrastructure. This type of work was deemed to be out-with the normal scope of such an investigation, thus the decision was taken to put this part of the information-gathering process in the hands of professionals experienced in the fields of building conservation - both Architectural and Structural. Accordingly, two such studies were competitively tendered and commissioned: a **Buildings Condition Survey**, and, a **Buildings Sub-Structures Survey**. The brief for each was not only to assess immediate conditions but to provide information in such a manner that it would establish a benchmark against which future improvements could be measured. Both surveys were carried out on campus during February and March 2022.

## Building Condition Survey

**Manish Chakraborty, Conservation Architect, Kolkata.**

Realising the need for information to be submitted within a short timescale, a brief for an inspection of all the buildings on the campus was sent to a number of suitably qualified architects early in the year. Of those who submitted proposals, that by Professor Manish Chakraborty, an experienced conservation architect in Calcutta with a master's degree from the University of York, was the proposal selected.

Professor Chakraborty was instructed, and he began work at Kalimpong at the end of January. After completing his visual inspection of all the buildings, he submitted an urgently-required short paper on estimated costs to the investigating consultant in mid-February followed by his Report at the end of March.

**1963** **CALCUTTA COTTAGE** **01**

**DESCRIPTION**

The Calcutta Cottage is a two storied masonry construction with wooden flooring and the GCI sheet roof. It has an 2 x 4 wide entrance and rear verandah covered in GCI sheets supported on wooden pillars and six columns. Each floor is roughly 300 sqm area. The ground floor has a guest room, a dining cum study room, storage rooms for books and belongings, a kitchen with pantry and store and the toilets and wash room at the rear end of the building. The upper floor has two dormitories, with single U/O, two parents room and a teachers/staff room and a right toilet.

**CONDITION ASSESSMENT**

**walls/external masonry**

The condition of the walls are in place and there is no visible signs of distress or cracks. The masonry frames and joints are in relatively good condition while the glass panes are broken in some.

**Flooring**

wooden floor planks are discoloured and portions are damaged on ground floor while the wooden flooring of the first floor are in good condition. The current flooring of verandah needs repair.

**Roofing**

The GCI roofing system above the first floor needs minimal changes at the parapets while the roofing system above the verandah needs re-roofing and renewal including the supporting system, the gutters and the down pipes.

**C/GI work**

**Plumbing**

**Cooking**

**Gutters**

The toilets are ill ventilated, unhygienic and separated from both ends. The internal plumbing, soil & waste pipes and down pipes from roof gutters, made of PVC are damaged in broken. Toilet fixtures needs replacement and floor tiles to be considered.

**Toilets / plumbing**

**Pit/s protection/surface drainage**

**Furniture / electricals**

**OVERALL CONDITION**

POOR / MODERATE / GOOD

**PRIORITY / PHASING**

IMMEDIATE / NECESSARY / DESIRABLE

The Report contains an illustrated information sheet for each building, which includes plans, photographs, details of materials and construction and an overall assessment of the building's external and internal condition. This includes information on the toilets and other facilities,

several of which are in an unacceptably poor state.

The overall condition of each building has been evaluated as being 'good', 'moderate' or 'poor' and work needed categorised as being 'urgent', 'necessary/required' or 'desirable'. Approximate cost estimates in Lakhs are included for each building and a detailed budget spreadsheet was attached at the end with cost estimates in Lakhs and Pounds Sterling. This information has informed the management consultants for their overall Review and offers the Homes Board important information upon which future plans for the estate can be based.

**James Simpson OBE Hon DSc FRIAS FSA Scot**

**Trustee DGHUK**

## Buildings Sub-Structures Survey

**Ashok K Pradhan, Consulting Civil Engineer, Kalimpong**

Our concern for the continued integrity of building foundations across the campus was triggered through learning of the damage caused throughout the Hills by the particularly severe monsoons of 2021. As a consequence, landslips had occurred throughout the Region, including across and on the approaches to the Homes' campus. The concern was not so much for the stability of the building structures – that had already been thoroughly reviewed and reinforced following the earthquake of 2011 – more for the potential disturbance of building foundations brought about by under-cutting as a consequence of severe rainfall run-off.

DR GRAHAM'S HOMES, KALIMPONG – BUILDINGS CONDITION SURVEY – January 2022

CALCUTTA COTTAGE – ENGINEERING OBSERVATIONS



It proved difficult to find a sufficient number of Civil Engineering consultants in the Hills from whom to invite competitive tenders for such a study. However, recalling working on campus alongside local Civil Consultant, Ashok Pradhan, throughout the aftermath of the earthquake of 2011, on behalf of DGHUK, I approached Mr Pradhan for advice. He in turn immediately deployed, *pro bono*, some of his own staff on to the task.



Rear of Calcutta Cottage overlooking road to Murray Cottage – 8 metres to landslip;

Action required re Drainage Issues



Again all buildings, and the local ground conditions, were inspected and assessed. The final report identified twelve buildings at which there existed, to varying degrees of severity, potential risk of sub-structure damage and for which additional cautionary works are required.

The main issue cross-campus, however, remains the condition of the existing monsoon water management system. Consequently the Kolkata Board have been advised of the relevant action that needs to be taken to secure the future integrity of those buildings at risk.

**Jim Simpson**

**Trustee DGHUK – Convenor, Building Surveys Working Group**



## GO – “Adopt a Classroom” Project

In our December 2021 DGHUK Newsletter we reported upon the new initiative launched last year by GO – the global organisation of Homes' former pupils, OGBs - “Adopt a Classroom”.



Mission: raise sufficient funds and mobilise suitable resources to carry out a full refurbishment of all classroom accommodation in the fullness of time! At the time of our first article we were able to report that, under “Project Phase

I – Junior School”, some seven classrooms in that building had been restored and re-equipped and the drive thereafter was to complete the full refurbishment of the entire block in time for the anticipated return of pupils to the campus – at that time expected to be February 2022.

For this Newsletter of May 2022, GO has confirmed that not only have the remaining five classrooms of the Junior School been brought up to the standard set in the first stage of Project – Phase 1, but, in addition, a complete repair and recladding of the entire building roof, verandas and rainwater management provision has been completed!



At the beginning of March this year, Principal Neil Monteiro and all the staff welcomed the children of all ages and study years back to The School! What a surprise awaited the lucky members of the Junior School, Classes III to VI, as they opened the doors of their classrooms! New desks, new cupboards, new teaching boards, new flooring, and improved lighting! Worth coming back for! Soon it was down to lessons – hope the smiles (behind the masks) last!



But now – what next for the GO Team? This Newsletter heralds the launch of GO's follow-on project – “Sponsor a Classroom – Phase II” – the refurbishment and fitting out of the Middle School, the Hornell Science Block! To support this venture, GO is inviting supporters to donate anything between Forty-Five pounds for an individual desk

to around £3,000 each to bring any one of the rooms themselves back up to scratch as operational classrooms! Full information on how you can participate is available directly from the GO organisation on [ogbanirban@gmail.com](mailto:ogbanirban@gmail.com) or via the website [www.dghogbs.com](http://www.dghogbs.com)

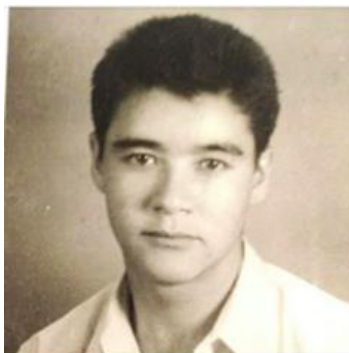
*JTFS pp* **Anirban Bhattacharyya**

**Chairman GO Association**

## **Percy Frizelle – 19<sup>th</sup> October 1936 to 18<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

*Homes lost a staunch supporter, loyal friend, frequent visitor, and sponsor of local pupils with the passing of Percy Frizelle shortly before Christmas 2021.*

### **An Appreciation from Pat Hardie**

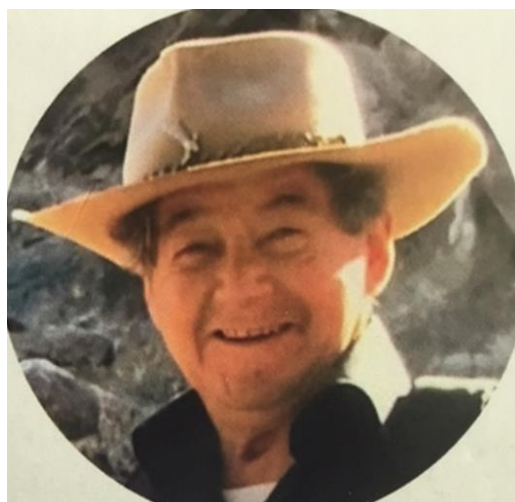


Percy Frizelle was born in Kalimpong and spent his early years at The Homes, firstly at Lucia King, before moving up into Heathland Cottage and finally into Fraser Hostel, the residence for senior boys. On leaving Kalimpong he worked in Calcutta for a few years, living at the Birkmyre Hostel, before emigrating to Britain in the 1950s. Here he worked variously as a heating engineer, carpenter, bee-keeper, before finding his true niche - gardening. He settled in the village of Digswell, Hertfordshire, along with his wife Betty where they brought up their three sons.

He worked as a groundsman at ICI, and in due course was offered the job of head gardener at Kew Gardens - but turned that down because of the difficult commute. He went on to work as head gardener at The Node in Codicote, Hertfordshire, until his retirement. His garden in the village was his pride and joy and very much a village attraction. He enjoyed fifteen minutes of fame when he appeared on the TV programme "Gardeners' World". After entering the local garden shows and winning most of the prizes, he became a judge of these competitions, serving as Chairman of the district horticultural society for thirty years. No visitor to his home or garden left without the gift of a home-grown plant, bunch of flowers, or produce. He and Betty supported many local children at The Homes through sponsorship; the garden of the sponsorship secretary of the time to this day displays many Himalayan Daisies, fuchsia and assorted ground-cover plants, all raised in Digswell!

For a few years Percy served as Chairman of the Kalimpong Association (UK), set up by former pupils of The Homes in the UK and overseas to keep in touch through quarterly newsletters and school reunions. He visited Kalimpong several times, always making a point of seeing his sponsored children, most recently Sajal and Nelema and their families.

Percy's funeral was attended by Kalimpong friends and a wide circle of colleagues and friends of the district horticultural society.



*Percy - and His "Signature" Bush Hat!*

His son, Michael, plans to take his parents' ashes to Kalimpong once travel to India is eased.

**Patricia Hardie (nee Wilsone)**  
**OGB - 1943 to 1952**



## In The Homes' Archives – Everest 1922 Party Visit St Andrew's Colonial Homes

Mount Everest was conquered almost sixty-nine years ago – 29<sup>th</sup> May 1953 – that achievement becoming a Coronation Day celebratory announcement on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1953.

But Mount Everest became much more meaningful to the children of St Andrew's Colonial Homes in 1922 – right now almost exactly one hundred years ago to this day! The mountain had remained a challenge for centuries, not least to the British who regarded it as an unconquered peak worthy of a gentlemanly assault – a challenge in “The Great Game”. Amongst the many attempts on the peak, two expeditions were organised by General Charles Bruce: the first in 1922 and the second two years later. British expeditions customarily used Darjeeling as a staging point, also stopping off at Kalimpong to be greeted by Dr Graham and the children of St Andrew's Colonial Homes.



*1922 Everest Expedition in Jarvie Hall. Dr Graham reading the message from the Chief Scout to General Bruce and his team. George Mallory behind, at right side of arched doorway*

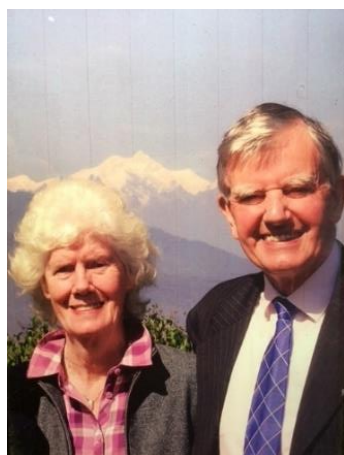
The 1922 expedition in particular assembled as the platform party in Jarvie Hall on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. *en route* for Everest. Dr Graham read a message from Lord Baden-Powell, Chief Scout, to the gathering, wishing the party “*Bon Voyage*” and a safe expedition. Unfortunately, conditions on the mountain caused them to stop short of any final assault so that expedition returned to Britain to prepare for another day. That day came in 1924 when most of those same mountaineers travelled once again to Kalimpong and beyond. Sadly, this was the expedition in which the final assault party, George Mallory, and Sandy Irvine, was last seen disappearing into a cloud - well within striking distance of the summit. Did they succeed – no one will ever know, and it was left to Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay to conquer the mountain almost thirty years later.

**Pat Simpson – Trustee DGHUK**



*George Mallory*

## Editorial – A Return to a New Future?



We hope you've picked up after reading through this Newsletter that there is joy and celebration in every DGH quarter around the globe now that the children have returned to The Homes! **School's Back!!** Although we haven't as yet been back to Kalimpong to see for ourselves, we are assured that there is delight on the faces of all the children on meeting up with their friends once again – many of whom have not seen one another for virtually two years! Equally, we are sure that parents, and indeed the teachers, are all delighted for their own particular reasons. Now the task of getting back to grips with the curriculum – much of which is bound to be “catch-up” by nature – starts in earnest. We wish everyone all the best in their individual tasks.

In our December 2021 Newsletter, we spoke of the difficulties Dr Graham's Homes is experiencing generally - as, indeed, are most other schools of similar nature in the Hills and elsewhere across the sub-continent. You will, hopefully, recall that we in UK have taken the unprecedented step of commissioning an Independent Review of The Homes by an external management consultant, based in India, which has been examining all aspects of how our Homes are managed. That Review is now almost complete and at present we are in detailed discussion about the draft findings, how issues of concern might be tackled, and the way forward determined. We are not quite there yet but will most certainly be by the time of our next Newsletter. Suffice to say that not too much has been discovered about which nothing had been suspected or known of previously. The difference is that now we are in a position, or we will be shortly, to address the issues rather than letting them disappear, Nelson-wise, as if seen by a blind eye. The next few months will be both challenging and significant!

One area which is glaringly obvious, however, is the poor condition of many of the buildings. Perhaps not too surprising, remembering that these were built from absolute scratch, using local labour unused to building much by way of long-term permanent structures, made even more difficult as almost the only materials available were those immediately to hand. Timber was felled from the adjacent jungle; stone of whatever characteristic was quarried locally. In theory fine – but the vital factor of general on-going maintenance has been sadly neglected over the century with its attendant monsoons. One of the inputs to the Review has been that of commissioning physical surveys of buildings, tasks in which appropriately-qualified Trustees of your UK Committee played an active, supervisory, role. All sixty-plus structures on campus were surveyed for damage and structural integrity and the recorded findings now provide a benchmark against which the future condition of the campus infrastructure can be gauged.

Much has been done throughout these two years of lockdown; now there is much to do by way of recovery and moving forward. We are grateful for the support of all our Members and Friends as we look to that future!

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

## 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, 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> October 2022

4pm – 8 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 £5**

**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 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022 5.30–8.30pm**

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

Please come and bring a friend!



**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

