



A Good Ol' Christmas Tree Celebration with Kindergarten!



DR GRAHAM'S HOMES KALIMPONG (UK) - DGHUK

Charity Registered in Scotland SC 050985

Annual Newsletter

For the Year Ending 31st December 2024

CELEBRATIONS!

As we move ever-closer towards the One-Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Year of Dr Graham's Homes, signs of a build-up to a Grand Celebration in September 2025 are evident all around!

The Homes Community are big on Celebrations.

Below are some recent "Rehearsals" of what is likely to come!



Birthday Cakes for The Homes' 124thand for GO's 10th!



Birthday Picnics of Buns and Jalebies for Pupils and Staff

(Our Front Cover – Marking the Retirement of Gavin Goodall, Head of Junior School!)

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Charity Registered in Scotland SC 050985

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

drgrahamshomes.co.uk

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AGM and Curry Lunch

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

(planned for) Tuesday 20th May 2025 (date tbc)

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

Coffee served from 10:15 ahead of AGM at 11:00

Curry Lunch at 12:45

You are very welcome just to turn up for the AGM, but please reserve your place for the lunch afterwards through our Committee Secretary, Pat Lomax.

e-mail: secretary@drgrahamshomes.co.uk Tel: 075640 56418

Lunch cost £25 payable on the day

Honorary Presidents

The Moderator of the General Assembly
The Church of Scotland

The Primus
Scottish Episcopal Church

Honorary Vice President

Reverend John G Webster

The Board of Trustees 2023-2024

Chair	James Gibson* 44 Aytoun Road, Pollokshields, Glasgow G41 5HN Tel. 0141423 8290 e-mail: chair@drgrahamshomes.co.uk
Committee Secretary	Patricia Lomax* 8, Blairfield Terrace, Birkhill, Dundee, DD2 5PP. Tel 075640 56418 e-mail: secretary@drgrahamshomes.co.uk
Treasurer	Gordon Coupar Braeriach, South Kingennie, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 3PA Tel. 07763 941036 e-mail: treasurer@drgrahamshomes.co.uk

Other Members of the Board of Trustees

Peter Cook*	Frank Dunn	Aileen Fraser	Amanda Grant*
Shona Hume	Michael Jefferson	Esther Anne McCabe	
Ian T Russell	James TF Simpson	Patricia Simpson	
* appointed May 2024		** appointed October 2024	

Committee Officers

Sponsorship Secretaries	Ian and Anji Russell Hazelgrove, The Common, Cranleigh, Surrey, GU6 8NS Tel. 01483 272108 e-mail: sponsorship@drgrahamshomes.co.uk
Minutes Secretary	Reverend Caroline Taylor** 7 Sunart Street, Broughty Ferry, Dundee, DD5 3HW Tel. 01382 770198 e-mail: minsec@drgrahamshomes.co.uk

External Appointments

Independent Examiner	AZETS Abercorn House 79 Renfrew Road Paisley PA3 4DA	Solicitors	GILLESPIE MACANDREW 163 West Regent Street Glasgow G2 2JJ
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Bankers

BANK OF SCOTLAND
75 George Street
Edinburgh EH2 3EW

Editorial – Celebrations in Prospect!



“Celebrations!” – very much the culture in the India of today, hence the appearance of assorted birthday cakes in this Newsletter! The Homes too is keen on celebrations - whether for Prize Givings, Teachers’ Days, Graduations, Sporting Triumphs, or for whatever - almost invariably there will be a cake and some form of party gathering! (Note: it’s not all parties and celebrations - the School also nurtures and educates successfully!). Celebrations this year have included the Homes’ 124th Birthday, and also the 10th Birthday of the OGBs Group, GO. So, we can all anticipate some extraordinary celebrations around 24th September 2025,

when the 125th Birthday marking Founder’s Day will be in full swing for, we might guess, considerably longer than merely the day in question! Nor will the celebrations be confined to the campus; we can be sure that the event will be marked by former pupils around the globe, ever loyal to their heritage! On that theme, in this issue we have introduced to you the new Chairman of GO, Tenzing Norsang, as well as a revitalised group GAK whose mission is to support the younger generation of former pupils new to experiencing life outside The Homes’ safety net. Doubtless more celebratory noise!

At a DGHUK Committee Meeting earlier this year, two or three Trustees voiced their concerns about the effectiveness of our present and future activities in our support for The Homes. Our operations today are little changed from those of, say, twenty years ago. Are we still fit for purpose: “Where are We Now, and Where are We Going”? We asked a similar question some twelve years go and a conference then concluded that our general direction was on the right course. The situation is somewhat different today: supported pupil numbers are falling, as too is our established support base of India connections, and costs are rising – not too mention the difficult economic situation we all face both in UK and globally. Hence another conference was convened in early November, reported on by Jim Gibson later in this Newsletter.

Ian and Anji Russell have presented in their Sponsorship Report a summary of the entire sponsorship procedure, from initiating pupil applications through to college graduation and beyond. In addition, having just returned from their annual sponsorship liaison visit to India, they have also reported encouragingly on their visit. By comparison you can read how a supporter of The Homes, Michael Halliday, whose father was a pupil at the then “St Andrew’s Colonial Homes” in the mid-1920s, has penned a family journal, there relating how his father came to The Homes. His story is interesting as it contrasts support then with that which our team have in place today.

Now the Greatest Celebrations of all are almost upon us; time to send our Greetings to all supporters of Dr Graham’s Homes! A Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Jim and Pat Simpson – Editors and Trustees DGHUK

Message from The Chairman of DGHUK, Jim Gibson



Another year has come around and I continue to enjoy the challenge and the variety of tasks involved in chairing DGHUK.

Changing Faces: We are sad to lose the much-valued services of Frances Dent, our Committee Secretary, as she has decided to step down after five, not exactly undemanding, years. Three of those years were affected by Covid, which brought about profound changes to our ways of working but had the benefit of encouraging a greater sense of engagement than can sometimes be possible. Frances has been endlessly efficient, courteous, supportive and helpful, not only to me but to Anne and Margaretta, my predecessors in the chair, and we owe her a great debt of gratitude. We are delighted that she is continuing as a Trustee to give us the continuing benefit of her advice. Matthew Pears has also stepped down from trusteeship due to pressure of work and we are sorry to lose his technological expertise.



We are delighted to welcome three new Trustees to our number. Peter Cook, Amanda Grant and Pat Lomax were all appointed at our AGM in May. Between them they bring a wealth of experience and wisdom to our ranks. Peter served as a diplomat in the British High Commission in West Bengal and has known The Homes all his life, his father having been a Church of Scotland minister in Kolkata. Peter now chairs our Safeguarding Committee. Amanda is a great-great-granddaughter of Dr Graham and runs her own interior design and build practice. Many years ago, Pat was inspired by a cine film of Dr Graham. Formerly a cardiac technician developing software programmes for different hospital departments, she little thought that, in the fullness of time, she would find herself Committee Secretary to a DGH operation! Finally, we welcome Reverend Caroline Taylor to support us as our Minutes Secretary.

Contact with The Homes: We continue to keep in touch with life at The Homes by various means. Esther Pears was able to visit the Homes in September and thoroughly enjoyed being there during the Homes Birthday celebrations. She gave a presentation



on her visit at our Trustees Conference on 1st November.

Ian and Anji Russell were in India in March and made a further visit in November to take part in interviews for the 2025 intake of pupils and to keep in touch with our Extended Sponsorship college students.

They are in regular touch with Principal Neil Monteiro.

A significant channel of communication is the work of the JIRC (Joint Independent Review Committee) which was formed to implement the recommendations of an independent review funded by DGHUK in 2022. The Committee includes representatives from DGHUK, from the Board of Management (BoM), and from Global OGBs (GO), the accredited alumni association of the Homes. Esther Pears is Chair of the JIRC and holds the reins most effectively. Esther visited The Homes in September primarily to ascertain progress made on implementation of the Review Recommendations. She gave a full report on her findings at our Trustees Meeting on 1st November, a Report which will be shared in our next Newsletter.

Cooperation: The work of the JIRC illustrates the extent to which we in DGHUK work in partnership not only with the BOM and GO, but also with the other International Committees (albeit these are diminishing in size), as well as former pupils who get in touch with us and are keen to offer their views. We are developing our social media networks to provide a source of information and comment, and we value the feedback we receive from our core base of supporters in Scotland and elsewhere. In particular we acknowledge the work which GO does in providing funds and personnel to upgrade cottages and improve Homes infrastructure.

Cash, Funds and Reserves: Our funds are held in trust for our charitable purposes, in line with our Mission Statement which, under the strapline of 'Meeting the Need', is to relieve the poverty of needy children by providing for their education and welfare at Dr Graham's Homes. Our primary way of doing this is through the Sponsorship Scheme. We do not run The Homes - that is the role of the Board of Management - but we support the BoM to the extent that our time and resources permit, recognising the responsibilities which we have under UK Company and Charity Legislation. We are not responsible for governance at The Homes but we are responsible for ensuring governance is in place.

Our funds are held in trust for others and we therefore have a duty to use them wisely. Our reserves policy is to set aside designated funds, sufficient to cover the future educational needs of all existing sponsored pupils and to provide assistance in meeting the cost of emergency or unexpected expenditure at The Homes, whilst maintaining free reserves equivalent to a minimum of six months of ongoing general fund expenditure. Our free reserves are in excess of this level.

Challenging Times: The Greek philosopher Heraclitus famously said that you cannot step into the same river twice. The DGHUK Board acknowledges that we live in challenging times as we seek to meet increasing and frequently changing needs with finite resources and we are committed to doing what we can to preserve the legacy of Dr Graham our founder. We cannot do it alone and rely very much on our loyal base of supporters.

Jim Gibson
Chairman, DGHUK

Our New Appointees to DGHUK

Patricia Lomax – Trustee and Committee Secretary



My first introduction to the Homes was many years ago when I saw an old cine film about Dr Graham's Homes. Over the years they seemed to come up in various ways until my interest was aroused and, in 2010, I had the opportunity to visit Kalimpong. Subsequent to that I now sponsor a young girl. Then in 2023, with the distinct feeling I was meant to go back, I paid two more visits, staying over five weeks the second time. I enjoyed being there for the 123rd Birthday celebrations and was also able to run a few workshops in clay, both for the children and some teachers.

It was also good to spend some time with the cottage aunties. Now as a Trustee and DGHUK Secretary I hope to be able to contribute usefully in different ways.



Amanda Grant – Trustee and Events Manager



I am fortunate to be the great-great-granddaughter of Dr Graham and grew up with my mother selling Christmas cards to raise funds and hearing about her visits to Kolkata and the Homes. Sadly, I didn't visit The Homes until after her death but I am very proud to continue the legacy of supporting the sponsored children and giving them the best education and life that we can.

On my first visit to The Homes, I had the privilege of meeting some of the families in Kolkata whose children are sponsored, so gaining an understanding of the poverty and life their children had left to head up to Kalimpong. Seeing them all so happy and thriving in the wonderful atmosphere of the Cottages inspired me to carry on the family legacy and amazing works that are being done by the whole team.

I have stepped back from my design and build business in London so have more time to dedicate to the Homes and am looking forward to working with the UK Committee.

Peter Cook – Trustee and Safeguarding Manager



Peter recently retired from the British Diplomatic Service after a long career representing the UK Government overseas in countries as diverse as Turkey, Denmark, Qatar, Barbados and also to the UK Mission to the United Nations in New York. His most recent appointment was as British Deputy High Commissioner in India based in Gujarat and Rajasthan then latterly in Kolkata.

He was born in Woodlands Hospital in Kolkata, West Bengal, back in 1963 when his father Reverend John Weir Cook was Minister at St Andrews Church in BBD Bagh (Dalhousie Square back then). He has had a lifelong association with Kolkata, Bengal and especially Dr Graham's Homes.

He first visited the Homes with his parents in 1965 when he was just two years old – and was most recently a visitor there in 2022.



Caroline Taylor – Minutes Secretary



I had a feeling that I'd "always" known about Dr Graham's Homes - this was confirmed at the conference held on 1st November in London, my first meeting as Minutes Secretary. One of the Trustees, Peter Cook, recalled that his father had encouraged his Kilmarnock congregation to support The Homes through various fundraising activities. Rev. John Weir Cook came to Henderson Church when I was twelve somystery solved!

After University, then Voluntary Service Overseas in Indonesia, I worked as a secretary, until I felt the stirrings of a call to ministry, a scary process which John assured me I should embrace and, as he had known me since I was a shy teenager, I found the courage to take him at his word. I am so glad that I did, for parish ministry has opened so many doors to me, enriching my life beyond all expectation.

Now to offer my skills to the Trustees, together with sponsoring a 12-year-old girl, feels like a logical step. I hope that she too will discover that the world is her oyster!

DGHUK Committee Secretary's Report



As the recently appointed Committee Secretary, having seen all the work that Frances before me did, I am so grateful that a Minutes Secretary - Caroline Taylor - and an Events Manager - Amanda Grant - have also been appointed! That has lifted the load considerably. I am enjoying my involvement with Dr Graham's Homes and working with the other Trustees on the Committee.

Our recent Conference in London provided an excellent opportunity for me to get to know the other Trustees a little more. Having now visited The Homes three times, I look forward to making a positive contribution to all the work that goes on there.

With my Best Wishes for Christmas and 2025.

Pat Lomax

Committee Secretary, DGHUK

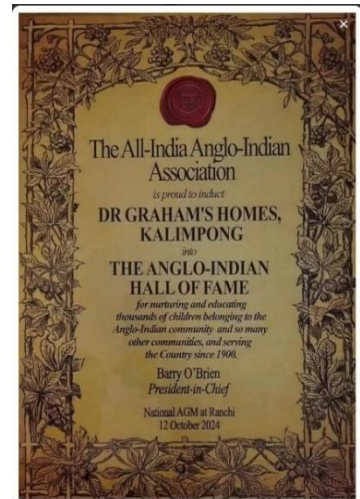
Report from Principal, Neil Monteiro



As we approach the last month of the academic year 2024, I am excited to reflect on the success we have achieved: a fruitful year with a series of remarkable events. To begin with, Dr. Graham's Homes has been inducted into the Anglo-Indian Hall of Fame for nurturing and educating thousands of children belonging to the Anglo-Indian

community.

While this was a proud moment for all of us, Dr. Graham's Homes welcomed our new Chairman and President of the Board of Management, Mr. Lancelot J. Fuller, who has earlier served the Homes as both Headmaster and Principal.



Consecutively this year too, three of our students have successfully cleared the National Eligibility Entrance Test one of the toughest, most prestigious entrance exams in India. The collective efforts of students, teachers and parents have surely paid off in abundance.

Whilst academically our children have done exceptionally well to add to our pride our children have excelled in non-academic activities as well. Our Homes Contingent came 1st Runner Up at the 78th Independence Day School Marching Contingent Competition. How proudly they marched bearing the Indian and School flags! In addition to this, six girls represented West Bengal and The Northeast Region in the CISCE National Girls Football Championship. Our children also represented The Homes at the Regional



Athletics Girls and Boys, among them were sponsored pupils Monica Kerketta, Sneha Singh, Stephanie Wild, Natasha Wilson, Chantelle Grey, Rohan Narzary, Tyron Samuel and Rishabh Sonar. Chantelle, Natasha and Monica also participated in the CISCE National Games & Sports 2024 at Hyderabad.

In October, Dr. Graham's Homes were privileged to host the Inter-District/Inter-School Athletics for Boys and Girls, the event being held on our Ronaldshay Park.



Our chess enthusiasts - students and teachers - did us proud this year as not only did Dr. Graham's Homes emerge as Kalimpong District Chess Champions at the Inter-District Chess Championship, but Miss Upalakshya Rai, our Lucia King Teacher, became one of the first women from Kalimpong District appointed as State Chess Arbiters.

Ms. Deki Ongmu Panlook, Senior Teacher, was honoured with the Medal of Merit, presented by the Bharat Scouts and Guides. The Medal, the Second Highest State Award, recognizes meritorious service to the organization.

Sneha Darnal of Class 10 was honoured with the Rank of Junior Under Officer for her outstanding performance at NCC Firing Camp at New Delhi.

Last week, I was honoured to have been elected President of the Association of Heads of the Anglo-Indian Schools, Darjeeling Chapter.

Neil Monteiro - Principal, Dr Graham's Homes

Personal Introduction from Mr Lancelot J Fuller

- Incoming President and Chairman of the Board of Management



I am no stranger to Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong, as many of you reading this would know, my journey with DGH beginning in 1975 and still continuing decades after! As a Final Year Teacher Trainee from Mount Hermon College of Education Darjeeling, my final teaching practice was at The Homes in autumn 1975. A life changing experience which I have carried with me in all my travels and teaching across India.

Exactly two decades later I was appointed Headmaster of DGH, in August 1995, and subsequently Principal in November 1996. My work at The Homes, along with that of my wife Perin, was our focus on the love and care of the children. In our years at The Homes, we met and interacted with dozens of kind, caring and extremely generous people from India and abroad, chiefly from the UK Committee, who all made our work much more meaningful. The International Committees and the Board of Management were very supportive of our ideals, core values and work at DGH. We thank God for all His blessings upon The Homes and on us until our departure at the end of July 2003. Little did we know then that God had yet another plan for us.

The Members of the Board of Management, chaired by Shane Calvert and Vice-Chair Wing Commander(Retd.) Praful Rao, invited me on to the Board on 11 May 2024. On 14 September 2024, the Board reposing trust and confidence in me, elected me President and Chairman, Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong. Thereafter it was with an overwhelming sense of responsibility I attended the Birthday Service in the newly renovated Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel with deep gratitude for all the blessings God has bestowed upon The Homes and for the lives and work of Dr. and Mrs. Graham.



Like the phoenix, today The Homes rises not from its ashes but from the shadow of itself, stronger in resolve but weakened by 104 days of political strikes and more than a year of Covid 19 lockdown causing loss of finance, infrastructure damage through lack of use and maintenance of buildings - especially of cottages, and of boarders not returning. However, despite all setbacks, the Board's resolve and focus was, and is, the care, love, safety and comfort of all children entrusted to the care of the Homes.

The Board is focussing on eventual self-sufficiency of The Homes by consolidating, maintaining and improving our assets be it its land, its buildings and infrastructure especially for boarders, optimizing our other resources and increasing our intake of boarders, bringing in more revenue as well as goodwill and support from all quarters.

The goals of the Board were and are being supported by our well-wishers and supporters like the OGBS worldwide, International Committees, chiefly by DGHUK. The UK Committee has been the mainstay of the Homes for decades.

'We make a living by what we get , but we make a life by what we give'.

– Winston Churchill



Nobody understands this better than the supporters and well-wishers of The Homes, OGBs, International Committees and DGHUK to fulfil the vision and mission of Dr. Graham of Kalimpong, a vision and mission of caring for children. 2025 will mark 125 years of caring for children in this Children's City at Kalimpong, Dr. Graham's Homes.

'And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name'. – Chronicles 29: 13



Batches of 1974(l) and 1999(r) cut the 124th Birthday Cake!

Lance J Fuller

President and Chairman, Board of Management, Dr Graham's Homes

DGHUK Sponsorship Secretaries Report - December 2024



For this report, we have focussed on the DGHUK Sponsorship Programmes. We have tried to provide some background to the programmes, and also show how the children and young people we are sponsoring benefit. As a charity, we are currently facing a number of fund-raising challenges – as are most charities in these financially stressed times. However, we are confident that we can continue to support 'our' beneficiaries in

India as they navigate their education in Dr Graham's Homes, through their tertiary education, and then into the world of work. Once there and earning, they are able to break the cycle of poverty that previously trapped their families in low paid jobs.

Some Background:

Just after Dr John Anderson Graham established St Andrews Colonial Homes in Kalimpong, India, (later renamed Dr Graham's Homes in his memory), he worked tirelessly to set up a number of fundraising committees around the world. The UK Committee, now known as Dr Graham's Homes Kalimpong (UK) – DGHUK - was set up at that time. Many of these committees have fallen by the wayside over the years, but DGHUK still remains, along with the Australian, Canadian and Irish committees.

DGHUK has the following aims and values:

Our mission statement

To relieve the poverty of needy children by providing for their education and welfare at Dr Graham's Homes.



Our values

- ◆ Compassion
- ◆ Dedication
- ◆ Integrity
- ◆ Faith
- ◆ Perseverance

Our strategic aims

- ◆ **Support** children and students through the Sponsorship Scheme
- ◆ **Protect** the welfare of the children of Dr Graham's Homes through robust safeguarding processes
- ◆ **Work with** the Board of Management and the Homes to deliver a medium-to-long-term strategic plan for Dr Graham's Homes in light of recommendations of an independent review
- ◆ **Raise awareness** and funds
- ◆ **Maintain** a well-functioning UK Committee with adequate succession planning, all policies up to date and compliance with legal duty

Our Strategic Aims are achieved through the work of the **Board of Trustees** and its subcommittees.

Our Supporters:

Over the years we have been supported by many faithful groups and individuals who



Arran Friends Coffee Morning

have worked tirelessly to create events and activities that bring in much needed funds. Also, in his day, Dr Graham built up a strong support network of churches in Scotland through his many visits and tours around the country. A number of these churches continue to provide funds to us. In addition, there is a large network of UK-based alumni of the Homes who, together with their

families, have provided a great deal of financial support for our sponsorship programmes down through the years. Many have also left legacies to us.

However, our particular challenge now as a charity is that many of our faithful supporters are now quite elderly, and the historic support for our work has dropped away somewhat. When combined with greatly increased costs associated with the education of our supported children and young people, we find ourselves very exercised as to how to maintain sufficient levels of income to continue our work effectively.

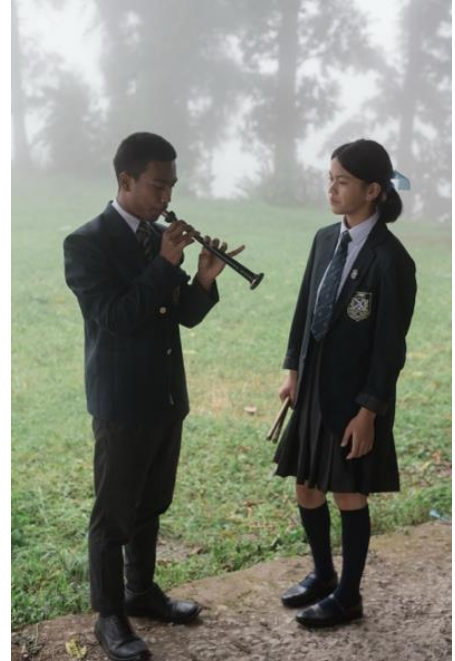
Answers on a postcard, please!

How do our Sponsorship Schemes work?

DGHUK has two sponsorship schemes – the **Child Sponsorship Scheme** and the **Student Sponsorship Scheme**, also known as the **Extended Sponsorship Scheme**.

Child Sponsorship Scheme:

- The school sets the annual fees for the children attending and boarding in the school.
- DGHUK looks at its available funds and informs the Board of Management (BOM) in Kolkata as to how many new children can be admitted to the DGHUK sponsorship programme in the coming year.
- The BOM advertises in and around Kolkata that this number of supported spaces is available at the Homes for financially needy children. Families then apply for a place at the Homes and each shortlisted family is interviewed and receives home visits.
- After the interviews, which take place in November when the DGHUK Sponsorship Secretaries are in Kolkata, places are offered for the number of additional children that DGHUK can support that year.
- **Note:** In India, the school year runs from mid-February to December.
- The DGHUK Treasurer calculates the appropriate amount of sponsorship support due to the Homes for that school year, based upon the number of DGHUK sponsored children in attendance, and sends a quarterly remittance to The Homes.



Music plays an important part in the lives of the children.



Extended Sponsorship Scheme:

- In the Autumn of the child's final year at the Homes (Class XII), the DGHUK Sponsorship Secretaries send personal letters to each of that year's school leavers. These are sent via the school office. In this letter, we explain to the children how the extended sponsorship scheme works, and invite them to write back to us, giving us their personal contact details and informing us of their hopes and plans for the future.
- The school principal also meets with each of them individually, as do the sponsorship secretaries during their November visit to the school.
- The Class XII children officially leave the Homes in December, then return for a few weeks in February to prepare for and take their Indian School Certificate board exams in the next month or so. They then await their results before deciding which college or training course to apply for. The DGHUK sponsorship secretaries keep in close touch with each of them as they go through the relevant application processes.
- Once the students apply for and are admitted to their college or training courses, the DGHUK sponsorship secretaries keep in close touch with them throughout their time there in order to monitor their well-being and provide pastoral support. They also regularly remit to each student the funds that they need for their college fees, their accommodation and their course books. Each student also receives a monthly allowance for pocket money and travel. Any emergency medical expenses are covered as and when needed. Sadly, we frequently receive news that one or other of our students has contracted malaria, typhoid or dengue fever etc, so it is a relief that we have reserved funds available to pay for their treatment and medical bills.



Some of our sponsored students.

Note: DGHUK is committed to supporting each sponsored child right through their time at the Homes and throughout their tertiary education - right up until they are safely established in the world of work.

How much does sponsorship cost?

The current costs of child and student sponsorship through DGHUK can be found on our website here: <https://drgrahamshomes.co.uk/get-involved> .

However, we must emphasise that with the cost as high as it has become, we do not expect most sponsors to be able to contribute the full annual amount as they once did. We are now actively encouraging our supporters to consider sponsoring just part of the costs - whatever they feel they can afford - or joining with others to sponsor as a group. It is



also important to remember that if you can gift aid your donation, you can reduce the level of your contributions because HMRC will increase your gift by 25%.

Feedback from one of our sponsored young people:



Bridget & her mother

Bridget – left the Homes in May 2024 and is now studying for a BBA (Bachelors in Business Administration) at a college in Kolkata. She hopes to work in the aviation industry.

Before she left school, she wrote this to us:

"I come from a small family that has always emphasised the importance of education. Growing up, I witnessed my single mother working hard to provide the little she can. My mother has been my biggest supporter, encouraging me to pursue my dreams.

"I am committed to working hard, achieving academic excellence and making the most of this incredible opportunity. Your support has given me the confidence to strive for greatness and to never settle for anything less than my best.

"Once again, I want to express my sincerest appreciation for your generosity and belief in my potential. Your sponsorship has made a significant difference in my life, and I am determined to make you proud."

The Challenges we are facing:

As we mentioned above, the combination of fewer sponsors coming forward and greatly increased education and associated costs in India, has resulted in DGHUK currently being able to sponsor less children at the Homes than was previously possible. This has exercised the trustees greatly, and as a charity we have been seeking new ways to bring in funds.

We are very grateful to the organisers of, and contributors to, the various sponsored events that have been held.

Notable amongst these are the two 'Great British Tea Parties', the cycle rides across Scotland and in India, and the more recent 'Hope Run' across Scotland.



'Bike for DGH' riders

We have plans for more sponsored activities which will continue to draw in new supporters. We are also reaching out to trusts and corporate sponsors. In addition, we



Some of the DGHUK Hope Run participants setting off on their 220-mile run across Scotland.

are continuing to raise the profile and presence of our charity through our website and our social media feeds on Instagram and Facebook and in the press.

Our special thanks go to our Media Consultant, Olly, for all his hard work in these areas.

Final Words **THANK YOU!**

Thank you to all our amazing supporters, sponsors and fundraisers. Without you, DGHUK couldn't exist, and our amazing young people would never be able to achieve their dreams.

Ian and Anji Russell – Joint Sponsorship Secretaries

Sponsorship Secretaries' Report on Their Visit to DGH in November 2024

We returned to the UK on 26th November after a two-week trip to India, a week of which we spent at The Homes meeting and interviewing all the sponsored children, together with senior staff members, on both the teaching and administrative sides.

In Kolkata, we also met with all the students who have started in their 1st Year at college, and we interviewed prospective needy families who had applied to enrol their children in the Homes under the DGHUK sponsorship scheme.

In the end, 12 new children were selected for the DGHUK scheme, all of whom met the selection criteria set by the interview panel, the chief of which was genuine poverty. Several of the children whom we weren't able to select this year will have the opportunity to apply again in future years.

The trip was very successful, allowing us once again to get under the skin, so to speak, of many aspects of Homes life. We looked at children's education and welfare, their safety and well-being, and the condition of their environment.

The current condition of the infrastructure at Dr Graham's Homes, has long been a cause for concern, and continues to be so despite the best efforts of the Board of Management and the school administration to improve things. However, during our time there we were left with the overwhelming impression that our sponsored children are well-cared for by the staff, both teaching and ancillary, that they are generally learning and achieving well, and that above all they are very happy to be there. They all recognised and appreciated the opportunity provided for them through their sponsorship by DGHUK, by their individual sponsors, and by our many supporters.



The pictures below speak more eloquently than we can as to how the children and students are. As always, it was a delight to meet such outgoing, cheerful and well-rounded young people – young people who have experienced many of life's challenges, but who have been learning through their time at The Homes to overcome them.



Juniors gathering to watch the Kindergarten Sports





Class II Children of Kindergarten



Waiting for Lunch



Girls of Woodburn Cottage



Safeguarding Role-Play Lesson in Nursery



Our 1st Year Students



Cynderella



Olive

Ian and Anji Russell – Joint Sponsorship Secretaries

Rebecca - A Story of Sponsorships and Relationships!



It has been my privilege to support **Rebecca** through her college and university years and the result is so rewarding!

Rebecca arrived in Dr Graham's Homes when she was just one year old. She was sponsored through her school life by a Church In Bathgate and talks fondly about her time at The Homes ('the air is so beautiful').

Over the five years I have known her, we have had a wonderful correspondence. These years have been difficult, coping with Covid restrictions and often I have had texts of despair. Her courage has been admirable.

Now, with her **MA Degree in Public Administration** from Amity University in Delhi, further recognised there through the award of



The Shri Baljit Shastri Medal for Best in Human and Traditional Values,



she will, I am sure, have a successful, enriching life and career.

A DGH success story, indeed!

Anne Hoggan

Aspects of Our Visit to India - Frances and John Dent

As a Sponsor - At the Homes we were very pleased to have several short meetings with a girl we have been sponsoring for a few years. We met Angel briefly 5 yrs ago when she had newly arrived in Lucia King. Now she is 9 yrs old and enjoying life in Birissa Cottage. We spotted each other in Chapel and she and her friends were as excited to meet us as we were to meet her. I had been worried that she might be embarrassed about meeting her sponsors, especially in front of her friends, but not at all! The next day some of her friends recognised us and then she came running up the hill to greet us. One little girl told us she had a sponsor but she didn't know who it was. This made me realise how important it is to write to the sponsored children. John and I are guilty of not writing very often!



We were also fortunate to be able to visit Pune and meet Sherry, an OGB who is being supported through a postgraduate nursing course. We had a great time getting to know her as we explored the city together. Sherry had good memories of her time at the Homes. She had been admitted to Lucia King when she was two years old.

As a Guide Leader - I have a background in Girlguiding and was pleased to spend time with Dr Graham's Girl Guides and their Captain, Deki Panlock. Deki is a biology teacher but makes time to run a thriving unit and she has recently been awarded a prestigious medal by West Bengal Guides. I gave all the girls a Girlguiding Dundee badge, but not until they had had fun with a quiz based on the Beano (published in Dundee for 86 yrs) and made friendship bracelets in UK colours.





As a Trustee - Although I am a Trustee of DGHUK, I was not visiting the Homes in an official capacity. I did, however, keep my eyes and ears open and my overall impression was of a flourishing school with happy, healthy children. Our visit coincided with Children's Day. This involved an outdoor assembly for the whole school, followed by entertainments or party games for the different age groups. There was

a really happy atmosphere among pupils and staff, all wearing a mixture of school wear, national dress and party outfits. A lovely way to end our visit!

Frances Dent – Trustee DGHUK

Treasurer's Report, December 2024



Challenging Times Continue It's a sad fact of life as Treasurer that, despite the valiant efforts of our loyal but diminishing band of supporters, our income comes nowhere close to matching our commitments to Dr Graham's Homes and to the large number of former pupils who then go on to receive support through Extended Sponsorships as college students. In addition, and despite the best efforts of the Trustees to keep these to a minimum, there are the not insignificant costs of running a charity such as ours. Nonetheless, very occasionally something turns up which brings a smile to my face.

Just last week, as we were coming to the end of a two-hours+ Trustee Zoom meeting, my attention was drawn to a notification on my phone advising me that I should be looking at the DGH bank account. Normally I would ignore such messages coming through during a meeting but, on the off chance that this might be something worthy of mention to my fellow Trustees, I opened the account. The message itself was of no interest at all but there in the account my eye fell upon an electronic deposit which had appeared only five minutes previously. The deposit, a legacy from the estate of a long-standing supporter, was in the sum of £20,000 and my immediate thought – a treasurer's mind at work - was that this was sufficient to cover our commitment to DGH for almost a full month! However, more than that, this was one of those occasions which brought a smile to my face; not the amount particularly, but the thought that someone who had been a loyal supporter during their lifetime had gone to the trouble of trying to make provision for the time when they would no longer be around to deal with such matters in person. This is by no means the only such contribution received in the current or previous years, but it is the most recent and, I thought, worthy of mentioning.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will learn about the changes which are happening at The Homes. Change is a necessary part of life there but it comes at a cost, a significant proportion of which falls upon DGHUK. More of that later but, for now, here are some details concerning our finances during the past nine months:

Income: Our income in the nine months to 31 October 2024 amounted to £172,000:

Donations plus tax recoveries: £35,000	(£49,000)
Income from sponsorship: £101,000	(£92,000)
Legacies: £17,000	(£9,000)
Investment income: £19,000	(£27,000)

(The total, £177,000, of the bracketed sums are the equivalent figures for 2023).

The decrease of £5,000 in total income between the two years can be explained in a number of ways but for donations and sponsorships it tends to reflect timing differences in receiving recurring income. Legacies by their very nature are unpredictable, whilst investment income is a response to market conditions, exacerbated this year by a need to withdraw capital of £100,000 from the Charity's investment portfolio to meet ongoing expenditure.

Expenditure: Our total ordinary expenditure across the same nine months period (i.e. to 31 October 2024) amounted to £333,000, compared with £354,000 in the previous year, a decrease of £21,000. As administration and governance costs are modest and relatively stable, it is within sponsorship, the core purpose of the Charity, that the decrease is seen most noticeably. Child Sponsorship decreased from £210,000 to £195,000, due primarily to the Trustees' decision not to support a fresh intake of School pupils in the Spring of 2024. Extended Sponsorship decreased also, from £92,000 to £82,000. The Trustees were pleased to be able to make available to The Homes funding of £9,000 to facilitate the supply and erection of fencing around two of the cottages, thereby increasing security.

No further loan funding was advanced to The Homes and, in terms of the existing agreement, regular repayments of the balance is due to begin in February 2025.

As will be clear, expenditure continues to run considerably ahead of income and the current year deficit is already standing at £161,000; this is expected to rise to at least £200,000 by the end of the current financial year. By way of comparison, the deficit for the Charity's last financial year, before taking account of investment gains, amounted to £242,000. The Charity does hold reserves but, unless ways are found to raise income significantly to a level which halts these recurring substantial deficits, the future of the Charity in its current form cannot be guaranteed.

Investment Portfolio: Trying to predict what the financial markets will do next is not for the faint-hearted. Fortunately, we have the support of our stockbrokers, Killik & Co, who do a sterling job in understanding the needs of our Charity and guiding the Trustees in the best possible way with regard to the investment of the Charity's reserves. The biggest challenge, currently, is the need to make withdrawals of capital to plug the 'cash gap' between income and expenditure and the Trustees are aware of the need to invest funds prudently to guard against a possible need to withdraw capital at a time when the financial markets are not particularly favourable. We are very grateful for the advice provided, based on an appropriate risk approach which is constantly under review.

Support: As has been the case for some time now, funding the costs of sponsoring children at Dr Graham's Homes on an ongoing basis will continue to prove a challenge to the Trustees. Despite this, the Trustees have agreed to accept twelve new sponsorship pupils at the Homes in the Spring of 2025. To an extent, this will be balanced by the number of sponsored pupils leaving The Homes at the upper end of the School so that any increased funding requirement with which we are faced will stem from an increase in school fees rather than any increase in pupil numbers.

The Trustees are acutely aware of the ongoing pressure on finances and continue their efforts to attract new sponsors and adopt alternative ways of funding the Charity's core objectives.

Gordon Coupar – Trustee and Treasurer DGHUK

Some Fund-Raising Events of Summer 2024

Arran Friends of Kalimpong Coffee Morning; July 2024



Arran Friends of Dr Graham's Homes held their regular Autumn Coffee Morning in Corrie Village Hall in July, raising a fine £985 via a grand raffle with lots of nice prizes! A wee bit more funding which will be going towards supporting another child in Kalimpong! Grateful thanks to DGHUK Trustee Shona Hume and staunch supporter, Janice Small, who together look after Arran Friends of Kalimpong.

'GO' Charity Bike Ride, Bhutan to Kalimpong; September 2024



After four days of gruelling pedal-turning, at last the bikers arriving at the school. The road leading up to the school was lined with pupils, the pipe band was waiting and everyone associated with The Homes came out in force to support and say thank-you to the bikers. The police escort came first with lights flashing on their vehicles and horns blaring, then came the support jeeps and suddenly we got our first glimpse of the bikers led by their

esteemed leader and new chair of GO, Tensing Norsang!



The pipe band struck up and we all followed them up the hill and on to the Betty Sherrif Basketball court where a huge reception was waiting to honour them. There was food and juice, music, tribal dancing, the winners of the cottage singing competition sang their winning entry, speeches and many photographs. The significance of holding

the reception on the Betty Sherrif basketball court is of course that all donations will go towards putting a roof over the court so that it can be used as an all-weather multipurpose stadium.



Looking ahead, plans for Bike For DGH 2026 are already underway, and the event could potentially involve cycling routes such as Kathmandu to Kalimpong or Shillong (NE India) to Kalimpong. Interested participants are encouraged to express their interest early by emailing bikefordgh@gmail.com.

Stay tuned for more updates and thank you to everyone who has contributed to making this event such a success!

Pat Simpson – Trustee DGHUK; Editor

DGHUK Conference – 31st October/1st November 2024

The DGHUK Board was able to have a 24 hour “Away Day” conference in early November in London. It was a great opportunity to meet in peace and quiet, away from the pressure of routine business and to focus entirely on strategy and major issues of principle, with our thoughts and discussions guided by an external facilitator. We greatly appreciated the opportunity, freedom and space to discuss in confidence issues which most concern us, and weigh up conflicting demands and priorities, so to reach a way forward, fully recognising our responsibilities as Trustees under UK charity law.

Our discussions focussed upon:

Children

Caring for the children for whom we are responsible is our first priority. This includes ensuring that the accommodation, infrastructure and safeguarding arrangements are in good order. We were given a presentation by one of our trustees, recently returned from a fact-finding trip to Kolkata and Kalimpong; the photographs we saw from across the campus convinced us that there is much improvement to be made in this regard.

Commitment

We reaffirmed our commitment to supporting the children on a long term basis, since those whom we sponsor are in our care potentially for 15 years (or up to 18 years if they progress to further education) and our aim is to ensure that they are well educated and supported during that time; this involves throwing away any rose tinted spectacles which we may have, being realistic about the challenges facing us and working step by step to achieve the improvements which are required, consistent with the limitations which we have in our funds and seeking to maximise funding opportunities through social media and other means.

Collaboration

We are delighted to note the synergy, which is evident in the recently reconstituted BOM, aided by the impetus generated by members of GO. We agreed to review our charitable purposes, to ensure that they cover the steps we wish to take with the BOM to bring about the necessary improvements. We plan to do this by preparing a document which will clarify the roles and responsibilities incumbent on both DGHUK and the BOM as we work together to improve the situation at the Homes.

Jim Gibson

Chairman - DGHUK

In Search of John Halliday and Doctor Graham's Homes

From the Journal of Michael Halliday, DGH Supporter – "My Father Starts School"

I have known for a long time that my father John Bevil Halliday, his brother Peter and their friend Ronnie Smith, all grew up as pupils at Dr Graham's Homes a school perched high on a mountain ridge at Kalimpong in West Bengal. By the 1920s St Andrews Colonial Homes - as DGH were originally known - was a self-sufficient village complex across 400 acres housing 600 children. My father and his brother Peter were sent to the DGH by their father, Hugh Ingle Halliday, a Sawmill Assistant in Dibrugarh Assam, when it seems he decided to move back to Scotland, having recently married a Scottish bride. I have recently acquired copies of letters sent by my grandfather to the Superintendent DGH, asking for his sons aged 5 and 3 to be taken on which make uncomfortable reading.

1000/- sent to Colman
for school fees in
DGH
12/11/20
Nov. 5th 1925.
Laimukhuri P.O.
via Dibrugarh
Assam

Dear Sir,

I beg to approach you with reference to a child whom I wish to send to your Homes as soon as possible -

The boy is aged four years & I believe that is the best age to send children to you -

Regarding remuneration for the above I would prefer to pay a lump sum down of Rupees one thousand, all that I can afford as I am now married, but which I will make every endeavour to add to in the future, if you wish -

I would like the child taken off my hands entirely, & sent to the Colonies when of age -

I would be glad to have an early reply to my letter, if you will be so good as to let me have further particulars -

Thanking you -

The Superintendent -
Kalimpong Homes.

Yours faithfully,
H. I. Halliday.

Below is my father's application form: admission no.1747 requesting training for work in the colonies and future settlement.

Application No. *1747/26* *come also about fees & 100/-* Register No. *1747*

St. Andrew's Colonial Homes,
KALIMPONG, BENGAL.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR THE RECEPTION OF CHILDREN.

I. CHILD.

(a) Name. *John - Bevil Halliday*

(b) Date of Birth. *July 15th 1921* (c) Sex. *Male*

(d) State of Health (Medical Certificate to be submitted). *Medical Certificate enclosed.*

(e) Has child been baptised? If so, where and by whom? *No*

(f) Ecclesiastical connection under which applicant desires that the child should be registered
(i.e. Church of England, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Congregational, etc.). *Church of England*

(g) Educational Attainments. *Nil*

(h) Last School Attended. *Nil*

(If child is accepted a Transfer Certificate must be obtained prior to admission.)

II. PARENTS.

(a) Names Father *H. Halliday* Mother *Koboroh Miriani*

(b) Nationality* Father *English* Mother *Miri*

* (i.e. European, Anglo-Indian, Indian, etc.). If European, state special country and, if Indian, give the race (Bengali, Napali, Punjabi, etc.).

(c) Are they alive? Father *Yes* Mother *Yes*

(d) Address and Occupation. *Laimukuri P.O. M.F. Anam - Saw Hills Assistant*

III. APPLICANT.

(a) Name and address. *H. Halliday Laimukuri P.O. M.F. Anam*

(b) Relation of applicant to child. *Father*

IV. SUPPORT OF CHILD.

(a) Terms offered by Applicant.* Monthly Fee Rs. *15/-* Lump sum Rs. *1000/-* *when child ready to leave for colonies.*

* (In 1923-24 the average cost of each child in the Homes was over Rs. 40 per month. The principle adopted by the Homes Management as to payments for fees is to accept such a sum as the responsible guardian can reasonably afford.)

(b) If full Fees cannot be paid, what are the circumstances which are urged on behalf of the child's reception as a Free or partially Free pupil? *Applicant unable to afford more -*

V. CHILDREN'S TRAINING.

(a) Does the applicant desire the child to be trained for the colonies or for work in India? *Colonies*

(b) Does the applicant desire the Board to make, as far as may be in their power, arrangements for the future settlement of the child? *Yes*

In such cases it will be necessary for those responsible for paying pupils to offer a reasonable guarantee for regular payment of the fees.

VI. REFEREES.

Names and Addresses of two respectable persons. *H. Cook Esq. Laimukuri P.O. M.F. Anam.*
F. Needham Esq. Harkong Sekel, M.F. Anam -

Signature of Applicant *H. Halliday* Date *January 6th 1926.*

Please fill up this form and return it to Rev. Dr. Graham, C.I.E., Kalimpong, or to the Secretary of the Local Committee.

It can be seen that Hugh Ingle Halliday was willing to pay 15 Rupees a month for each son, against a predicted cost of over Rs 40. Peter followed his brother to the homes some 18 months later. It seems that it was also agreed to pay Rs 1000 for each son on their departure from the Homes.

At first glance these documents make for disturbing, even distressing reading. How could a father just send his children away forever? "I would like the child taken off my hands completely and sent to the Colonies when of age" as he says of John. Surely an unthinkable act? However, by the standards of the day, it should probably be said that Hugh Ingle Halliday was not the worst of absent British Colonial fathers, since many mixed-race offspring were simply abandoned on the streets, where Newspapers and administrators of the day viewed the problem as a threat to social and racial hierarchies, quite apart from the plight of the children themselves...which was of course the need that Dr Graham responded to by establishing his Homes.

Another side to this story however comes via my mother, who heard from my father that, as an adult, Peter was shunned when he tried to visit the Hallidays in the UK. They seemed to think he was pursuing them for money.

My partner has pointed out the plight of the Indian mother, who I can see from the application forms was a Miriam Koboroh, of the Miri Tribe, one of several groups in Assam. What must it have been like to have her boys taken from her aged just 5 and 3

I have to thank the staff at DGH Kalimpong: Colonel Gogoi and Bidhaya in the archive department for locating these documents for me. I now know a lot more of the origins of my Paternal grandmother, which is fascinating as well as very moving.

I can see from the application forms that Hugh Ingle Halliday listed his address as care of the post office at Laimukuri. This is north of Dibrugarh, on the opposite bank of the Brahmaputra in Assam. I wonder what kind of existence that was. He mentions in his letter for John that he will send an initial 1,000 Rupees, which is all that he can afford since he has just got married. Having checked with General Register Office records I can confirm that this was to one Alejandra Georgiana Darrell Adamson and took place in September 1925 in Chelsea, London. To achieve this HIH would have travelled for weeks or months, leaving behind his Indian wife and two boys.



Thinking about my father's early life I reflected that one figure felt very distant, and that was my grandfather Hugh Ingle Halliday...then I remembered that years ago, my mother had given me a photo of him. A hunt eventually found not only the photograph of HIH but also a copy of his birth certificate.

This photo of my grandfather brings him much closer.

I can see that he is in Army Uniform here with Sam Browne belt. I can just make out his rank insignia on his epaulette, which looks like a single "pip" which would make him a second lieutenant.

It is interesting that the photograph is mounted in a quality display folder and seems to be in the same envelope in which it was posted from the UK. My father was by then working as a Jute Mill engineer, a position that James Purdie, Superintendent of DGH had arranged for him after graduation from University and a line in which he continued until leaving India.

The photograph would seem to indicate that father and son were still in touch and that my father had possibly asked for the photo to be sent to him, which then prompts me to wonder what their relationship was like at this point....

The Suffolk Artists web site has Hugh Ingle leaving India for good in 1931 and settling at Yew Tree House in Brundish, Suffolk from where he exhibited as an artist in 1932. Yew Tree House is part of a farm and since his death certificate describes his profession as "Agricultural Smallholder" I wondered if he had worked the land in his later years. However, a bit more searching in the archives of local newspaper The Diss Express, has revealed that he was active on the board of local magistrates, frequently judging local legal cases as well as being a clerk on the local Parish Council and a local church warden. He died relatively young at 60 in 1952 and his widow, mentioned on his death certificate "AGD Halliday present at death", remarried the following year to Sir Charles Ridley Pawsey of the Priory, Badingham, Suffolk – a distance of less than two miles from Yew Tree Farm. General Register Office records match for the marriage and death of Hugh Ingle and so would seem to confirm the story I have uncovered.

Contrary to my supposition in view of the Scottish surname Halliday, neither my grandfather nor great grandfather lived in Scotland. As to whether Hugh Ingle had any children - my half relatives - with Alejandra Georgiana Darrell "Rita" (née Adamson), G.R.O. searches had drawn a blank with records largely un-transcribed between 1934 and 1984. However, the question was finally answered by the Diss Express in its obituary which says of HIH: "he leaves behind a widow but no family".

Concerning the later life of my grandfather and his apparent high moral aspirations, I can now only wonder as to whether he had any inner conflicts over his choices.

There is of course one more figure that has been rendered distant in this story and that is Miriam Koboroh. I wonder how her life in Assam continued and if she had more children.

A Trustee's Fact-Finding Visit to The Homes in Kalimpong



In my capacity as Convenor of the Joint Independent Review Committee, JIRC, I travelled out to Kalimpong in September to establish how effective had been the efforts of the JIRC over the last two years in over-seeing the implementation of the Independent Report. That Report, regular readers will recall, was commissioned by DGHUK in 2021 to assist the Kolkata Board in the management of The Homes. Since my return to UK the detailed JIRC Visit Report of my findings has been submitted to the Chairman of the Board and we are awaiting the response from Kolkata. That response will be shared with our supporters in our next Newsletter. In the meantime, I can most positively report that all of The Homes' children – Sponsored and Private Boarders together with the Day Scholars, some 1,400 in all - are very well cared for, and catered for, at Dr Graham's Homes.

My visit to India in September, however - I confess - was two-fold! As well as JIRC business I was "lucky enough" to be able to time my visit to coincide with the 124th Birthday Celebrations of The Homes – and also that of the 10th Birthday of GO, the Global OGB Association former pupils! So, herewith a snapshot of those joint birthday celebrations!



Pupils and staff gather on the main field eager to enjoy their Birthday picnic



GO 10th Birthday Cake

Not to be outdone by some youngsters and a mere 124 years of celebration, OGBs prepare to cut their own 10th Birthday cake. Overseeing proceedings is the new Chairman of the Kolkata Board, Mr Lance Fuller, a former Principal of The Homes (1980 – 1990).

The Cottage Singing Competition was hotly contested by all cottages – with Lucia King singing their hearts out trying to top the charts! They came so close!



“Grease”

Later, we enjoyed a spectacular performance of the musical “Grease” from the senior pupils. John Travolta and Olivia Newton John would have been proud!

The Swimming Gala with Chief Guest - retired teacher from Australia, Patrick Freese



The Pipes and Drums of Dr Graham's Homes on Parade welcoming the Bhutan Bikers



124th Birthday Service in the newly restored Chapel under the Chaplaincy of Reverend Henry Simon

Esther Anne Pears
Trustee DGHUK; Convenor JIRC

A Message *cum* Invitation from Tenzing Norsang; Chairman of GO Global OGBs



Firstly, I would like to introduce myself to you all! I am **Tenzing Norsang** an OGB from the Batch of 1995, now recently appointed Chairman of GO, our former pupil alumni association. Although I am based in Minneapolis, USA, I am heavily involved in the fundraising efforts of GO members worldwide, in particular in the Bike Ride ventures that have taken place both in India and in UK in recent years. I am looking forward to my years in office and to meeting you in the course of my Homes-related travels.

Looking ahead, 2025 is going to be a momentous year for Dr. Graham's Homes as we celebrate our 125th Anniversary. If you've never had the opportunity to visit or if it's been a while since your last visit, I would like to personally invite you, on behalf of all of us at Global OGBs, to come and celebrate this remarkable milestone with us.



We'll be gathering at Dr. Graham's Homes in Kalimpong on September 24th, 2025, and we would love you to join us in this special celebration. It will be a time of reflection, joy, and reconnection as we celebrate the incredible legacy of The Homes and its impact on generations of children.

We can't wait to welcome you and share this historic occasion with you all!

As we approach the festive season, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to each one of you for a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year 2025. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and I looking forward to seeing you in September 2025!

Cheers,

Tenzing Norsang

Minnesota, USA

Global OGBs – Chairman

Grahamite Association of Kolkata - "GAK"

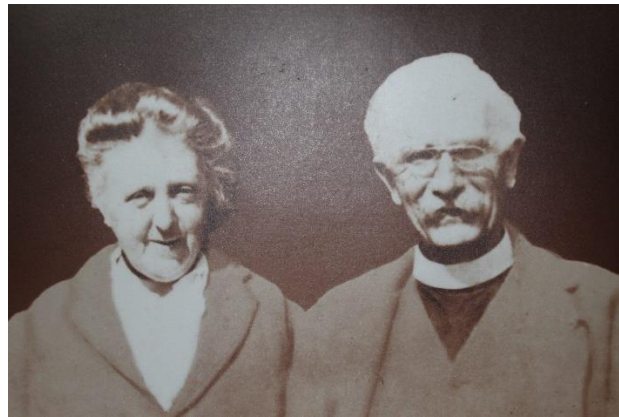
We bring our December 2024 Newsletter to a close with some good news of an initiative promoted by some of our younger Homes alumni living in the Kolkata vicinity.

A significant group focussing upon fellowship amongst the younger generation of OGBs, particularly those whose lives are centred around Kolkata and its vicinity, has been welcomed on to the scene recently in the form of the **Grahamite Association of Kolkata**. For very many years there has been a Kolkata OGBs club loosely based around DGH's Birkmyre Hostel in Middleton Row just off Park Street in Kolkata. Sadly, the group has been in decline of late. However, the few remaining members have recognised that decline and have therefore invited an enthusiastic group of, younger, Kolkata-based, former pupils to take over the reins. Already GAK has appointed a President – Roshan Jolliffe (Batch of 2008) – and a strong Committee to take the group forward. Their first moves have included drawing up a formal Constitution and arranging Registration with the Indian Regulatory Authorities. Whilst their aim is to support OGBs generally in their desire to help The Homes, more importantly they provide a focal point and safety net for younger OGBs within the Kolkata catchment and beyond. From the perspective of our sponsored graduates of recent years, as well as of those now venturing out into the world of employment in all its forms, we welcome this additional facility.



The Birkmyre Hostel, 4 Middleton Row, Kolkata

Jim Simpson – Trustee DGHUK; Editor



DR GRAHAM'S HOMES, KALIMPONG, INDIA

1900 - 2024

OVER A CENTURY OF CARING FOR CHILDREN

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

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

