



Kalimpong Association UK

September 2014 Newsletter

Have you often thought that when you receive flowers from someone you love, it's as though they have reached out to touch your heart?

Flowers are the messengers of our most sacred feelings. They have a language of their own. Flowers are a sign that we often crave in times of need and despair. Just to receive them, touch them, and breathe in their beautiful scent helps us restore whatever void we are feeling. They help us remember and understand that love is still present in our lives and that our happiness matter to someone.

One of the ordinary ways of love is staying in touch via phone calls, letters, or cards. In these days of 'virtual reality', the written word has an enduring quality and we are constantly comforted by each other's devotion. We all need reassurances and moments of sunshine on dark days.



I hope that this newsletter gives you plenty of warmth and sunshine to brighten your day.

Happy reading !

Margareta



Des Meyers and Bradley Mawer in Thimpu

BHUTAN OGB INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

13 - 16 June 2014

**Des Meyers, OGB (batch of 1971)
Sends this detailed report**

The Kalimpong OGBs had arranged a fund raising trip to showcase the DGH Choir in Thimpu, Bhutan. With the blessings of the Board of Management this trip became a reality and what a better opportunity to involve OGBs from around the region.

Plans were made to turn this event into an OGB International Conference!

My wife Flora, Ayaan and I were in Kalimpong in early May 2014, just before the May Fair. Having heard about the Conference, I contacted the current Secretary of the Kalimpong OGBs Association Captain Prakash Pradhan.

Prakash is the Principal of Rockvale Academy, a boarding and day school just beyond the Novelty Cinema Hall in Kalimpong Town. Prakash asked me to meet him in his School office. I was pleasantly surprised to see his school, his reception area for parents of students and his very well furnished School Office. DGH needs to think seriously about modernization to attract new students.

After accepting a most welcome soft drink, Prakash added me to the list of some 30 Kalimpong OGBs who had already registered their interest.

Ayaan was to start school in early June in Goa so unfortunately Flora would not be able to join me on this trip to Bhutan. On returning to Goa, I booked tickets to get back to Kalimpong by 11th June 2014 to join the group traveling to Phuentsholing and then to Thimpu and Paro.

12 June The school choir, Kalimpong OGBs and some family members assembled at Rockvale Academy where a light breakfast was provided and a packed lunch for the way. We were well over 100 in strength and it was great meeting so many OGBs and friends that I had come to know while I was in DGH and also during the seven-month of voluntarily service I did in 2010.

One Hundred OGBs and a thirty strong DGH Choir in five buses and as many private cars, began the five-hour trip from Kalimpong to Phuentsholing. At Coronation Bridge we had a brief stop to pick up a few Sikkim OGBs and what a surprise to see that one of them was Annie Hilton an Ex-Woodburn cottage girl. Alex her brother was a classmate and good friend of mine, so we had a great time recalling our past.

With any group of traveling OGBs (sound so much like 'The Traveling Mulberry's') singing is a must and comes as second nature. Very soon we were going through the many known songs that had been sung at the Cottage Singing Competitions over the years. But the loudest rendition was for our ever loving School Song 'Forward O' Youth'. I being an oldie and with the help of Ruth Glashon was able to sing the first verse of 'The Rallying Song' too. For a very few of us who remember, there was a Nepali school song that was briefly introduced after the Rallying Song was found to be too British and an

alternative was being tried. My Kalimpong OGBs and friends were quite surprised when I began to sing it

"Sundarshan himali kaka Ma, Garo Homes ko kati badham mah, Khunti thensha a..."
that's as far as I could remember.

This did bring smiles to all the OG's on the bus. Mrs. P.C. Simick was the one who wrote and taught it to us, back in 1970, but it was soon replaced by the current song 'Forward O' Youth'.

We reached Phuentsholing at around 11:00 AM and were warmly greeted by Denki Lahmu, Ugen Zam and Phub Dorji who had all our immigration documents ready for us. So after index finger printing and snap shots we were cleared smoothly.

Bhutan The land of the Thunder Dragon. The Valley of the Black Neck Crane. Tiger's Nest (Taksang Monastery). Buddhist principles. Clean air with clear blue skies, no litter and a very well managed environment. Roads are almost traffic free and road users have 'consideration for the other road user'. A hundred years ahead of India in road manners.

Oprah would have been very happy. Her main concern after her visit to India was that Indian lack road manners. Bhutan's wealth is measured in GNH (Gross National Happiness) and

"Gross National Happiness is more important than Gross National Product."
By: HM Jigme Singye Wangchuk

Thanks must be given to the Cabinet Secretary Pendhay Wanchuck, Ex-Assam and Willingdon, batch of 1972, for his intervention to have the office open early for 130 OGB's and choir. Denki Lahmu and the Bhutan OGBs of Phuentsholing arranged a 'welcome evening' with dinner and drinks. It was great to meet Karma Bhutia and his wife Gow, ex-Assam and Willingdon, batch of 1968, Guru Ladakhi, Dr. Shiva Rai, Mr. & Mrs. Jayshree Pradhan and many more OGBs from Sikkim. It felt like we were back in school everyone linked to each other by just being OGBs. By popular request the choir sang 'True Colours' which was well appreciated.

13th June We were due to depart from Phuentsholing at 9:00 am but when OGBs meet in groups IST becomes *Indian Stretchable Time* and no departure

schedules were ever kept. Not knowing that Bhutan is half an hour ahead of India we were always late!

Five minutes out, we were in picturesque Bhutan, climbing beautiful hills on well maintained roads and viewing several waterfalls. This could quite easily be Switzerland but in the foothills of the Himalayas.

Half way to Thimpu we were greeted by another group of OGBs and a sit down lunch was arranged. Our good friend Kunzang Lahmu was there, a sight to see , with smiles that could bring out the best in any one.

Mindful that His Excellency the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narindra Modi had chosen Bhutan as his first foreign country to visit and this now coincided with our conference, we moved on speedily.



Great roads all the way to Thimpu but also an eager and fearless driver who perhaps thought he was driving a Formula One car. The bus ride became like a 'white knuckle' fairground ride, but we were assured that the driver had done this trip many a time and knew the roads very well. We arrived Thimpu safely and checked in at the Sambhav Hotel, a fairly new hotel with all mod cons.

As Bradley Mawer had flown in from Calcutta, we shared a room; and what a guy is our Bradley. An OGB Batch of 1999 and solely dedicated to the future and betterment of the Homes.

We need many more OGBs like Bradley of the younger generation who have the passion and unconditional love for the Homes to take the OGB network through the next century and those to come.

I would ask all who have not already registered on the Global OGBs (GO) website www.dghogbs.com to do so and become part of the Global Family of OGBs.

'United we Stand' and have a better part to play for the betterment of the future of the Dr. Graham's Homes. I am told that it was Daddy Graham's dream that one day the Homes would be run by his ex-students. "Come on you Homes Chaps" – lets make this a reality. I use the word 'Chaps' to include all OGBs.

The evening of the 13th June 2014 was set aside for the Prime Minister of Bhutan His Excellency Tshering Tobgay who arranged a dinner for his fellow OGBs. This was a real highlight of the trip to Bhutan. The choirlads and boys made a welcome path for the PM and as he walked through it he was cheered on, in

the usual Homes style. He stopped and spoke with almost all the children, shaking their hands. Later he was thronged by us OGBs and he had time for every single one of us.



His Excellency is a shining example of an OGB, warm and humble and a great orator. Daddy Graham must have been looking down on his family with pride. I **elaborate** on the word 'family' because we had the privilege of Ian Graham (the grandson of Daddy Graham) in our midst – what an occasion. Drinks and dinner was served and through out the evening His Excellency mingled with the OGBs.

In a speech later in the evening His Excellency the Prime Minister welcomed us all and spoke from his heart with clarity and honesty. He said that we had not only gathered here in the spirit of Daddy Graham but also in the reality of the Graham family as we had Ian Graham with us. He joked when he said that he had not seen so many cameras!

The Chief Justice of Bhutan Lempo Sonam Topgay, ex Wiston Cottage and Willingdon Hostel, batch of 1970, also spoke. He made it a point to be here and offered a very warm welcome to all of us even though he was extremely busy with

the Indian PM's visit and the opening of the new Supreme Court. Toby as we fondly know him, spoke briefly, mindful of the time and the occasion.

As the evening progressed the Choir performed and sang the Bhutanese National Anthem and lead the gathering in the School Song 'Forward O' Youth' which brought tears to many an eye. The OGBs then took over the platform and a few favorites like Fruit Salad, Kum by Yah, and the Rallying Song (just the first verse) were sung. We later retired to our respected hotels, as the next day was scheduled for the OGB Conference.

14th June The morning was set for our conference and the afternoon scheduled for the much-awaited DGH School Choir performance before Her Royal Majesty The Queen Mother.

OGB International Conference

Dr. Miku Foning, President of the Kalimpong OGB Association, chaired the meeting. The Cabinet Secretary of Bhutan, Mr. Pendhey Wanchuck, gave the introductory speech covering the history of Bhutan and Gross National Happiness. He was given a standing ovation.

OGB Associations that were represented gave accounts of how their particular Associations had helped DGH in the past. However, there was no mention of what future plans they have.

Mrs. Jayshree Pradhan (OGB – batch of 1962) and Member of the DGH Board of Management, spoke on behalf of the Board and reiterated the unfortunate state that the Homes was in and that OGBs could help not only financially but by offering their professional services.



Bradley Mawer, spoke on behalf of the Global OGB (GO) initiative and brought the meeting to a silence when he quoted what the Chairman of the Board of Management, Lt. General John Mukherjee (Retd.,) had stated at the November 2013 International Conference in Calcutta about the financial crisis that the school was in and that it had a life line of just three years to run if the finances did not improve. Most of the OGBs from Kalimpong and the Teaching Staff that accompanied the Choir were aware of this, as the Chairman had already spoken to the teachers and House Parents in a meeting at the Homes.

Bradley spoke extremely well with clarity about the aims of GO and that in no way was it in competition with any of the other OGB Associations.

The time to save the Homes from possible closure 'was now' and as OGBs we must unite to sustain the Heritage left by Dr. John Anderson and his wife Mrs. Katherine Graham. GO is not being formed to take over the Board of Management, (BOM) but wants to be a force that has some impact on how we can save the School. It can be the biggest group of OGBs who are passionate with unconditional love for the school and are willing to contribute in whatever way they can to resolve issues that have brought the Homes to the state that it is in now.

**For more information
DO visit www.dghogbs.com**

Due to time restraints there was no 'open house discussion' and some OGBs were quite disappointed as the organizers of the Conference had lost sight of the fact that Dr. Graham's Homes was going through a financial

crisis and there was no discussion on what the OGBs and their Associations could do to help.

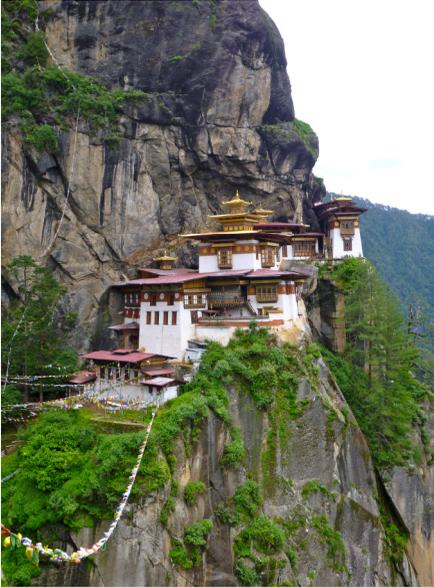
The DGH Choir performed at 4:00 PM for Her Royal Highness The Queen's Mother and to a packed audience of OGBs and friends of Dr. Graham's Homes. The audience showed their appreciation when the Choir sang the Bhutanese National Anthem and when an Anglo Indian Boy and Nepali girl did a duet of a popular Bhutanese song. Other songs showcased were: Blackbird, Mama Mia, Hey Jude, True Colours and a few more Pop Songs. Other than the two surprise songs in Bhutanese, the choice of songs were made in advance by the OGBs of Bhutan. At the end of the concert the audience asked for a choral song and the Choir sang 'Amazing Grace'.

Unfortunately, my video camera battery went 'dead' on me and I could not record the whole concert!

15th June 2014

Today we climbed up to Taktsang or Tigers Nest, a world famous Buddhist Monastery perched on a steep cliff 10,000 ft above sea level and dating back to 1692. This is a climbers' dream, and the ascent takes anything between two and two and a half hours climbing steep pathways cut in to the mountainside. Several times I had to rest my overworked lungs. My walking partner uphill was Sonam Gompus (of the Kalimpong Gompus Restaurant famous for its pork momos). He was an inspiration and with the help of his local 'Red Bull' we got up many a steep short cut. A third up the climb, I caught up with Sakshi and Sunil Pradhan with Kunzang (one of the organising Bhutan OGBs). We often rested to take in the tremendous views.

At the point of the final 700 steps, which lead down a steep crevice and then up to Tigers Nest, I felt that vertigo had taken the better of me. I wanted to sit it out and wait till everyone climbed down and then up and finally back to this high point. However, with Sunil's perseverance and both Sakshi and Kunzang egging me on, I looked at the step in front of me and literally took 'one step at a time' until I made it down and then it was peanuts walking up again to Tigers Nest. It was worth every effort as a peace and calm overtook ones body – quite difficult to explain but so joyously peaceful.



On the way back it began to rain and the pathways became slippery but we all got back safely. Our good friend Genzing Zam (ex Elliott Cottage and batch of 1973) played host to all the walkers and provided a sumptuous Bhutanese lunch at her amazing Palace Hotel & Restaurant in Paro.

By mid afternoon we were on our way back to Thimpu. The evening belonged to the Bhutan OGBs and it was an open evening of music and dance that no OGB within range was going to miss. Many a familiar face from the past was noticed and warm greetings exchanged. We were once again treated to an excellent dinner with drinks. The party went on till 11:00 PM being cut short due to the Indian Prime Ministers visit to Thimpu.

16th June

All things come to an end. It was time for all of us to say 'adieu' to our Bhutan OGBs and the many friends we had made. Being mindful that roads in Thimpu were to be shut for the departure of the Indian Prime Minister, plans were made to set off after an early breakfast. However, once again 'Indian Stretchable Time' came in to play and we got caught in the roadblocks and had to take diversions. Our five-hour journey to Phuentsholing took more than six.

I returned to Goa after what had been a wonderful and memorable trip to Bhutan. This was made possible by the warm and friendly welcome, and the friendship that only OGBs together can generate.

**For the generosity and organisation of Kalimpong and Bhutanese OGBs,
I offer my heartfelt gratitude.**

Thank you. You were amazing!

Des Meyers, OGB batch of 1971.

Passionate with Unconditional Love for the Betterment of the Children in Dr. Graham's Homes, Kalimpong.

Kalimpong Association (UK) Members.



The next meeting of the Kalimpong Association is on the 20th of September, go to page 26 for details

MY JOURNEY FROM KALIMPONG TO NEW ZEALAND

**From George Borthwick
OGB (batch of 1964)**

I was born in Calcutta to a young Anglo Indian girl and an American military father in the aftermath of World War 2 in October 1946.

Within six weeks of my birth I was sent to Dr Graham's Homes as one of two young babies from the Fendall Home in Upper Circular Road, Calcutta. I have vague memories of Lucia King Nursery and dear Miss Penny and the nurses there.

At five years old I was placed in Calcutta Cottage where I soon made friends as well as learning by rote in the Kindergarten.

At that time I was sent down to Calcutta for an eye operation to correct a squint and was very kindly looked after by Pop and Granny Hardy who were the managers of the Birkmyre Hostel at the time.

I subsequently spent many happy holidays with them and also had the strange experience of staying in the dormitories there with the older boys who had left school and were working in and around the city.

My many years in the Homes were academically average, but the picnics down in the Rilli, the Tirpai buying gurbuns, momos and thupa soup, to name a few, were generally very happy escapades.

I recall several trips to Darjeeling along the rough highway down to the Teesta River and into the tea plantations while other holidays were spent either in the Home itself or down at Madras.



Lucia King Nursery 1948



Fraser Hostel 1964

One outstanding experience was the evacuation of the school down to Gopalpur in Orissa State for several months during the Indo-China incident in 1961/62. During 1962/64 I was in Fraser Hostel which were also good years.

Several good and bad teachers come to mind along with sporting activities like swimming for which I won awards.

At a young age I was very much aware of my background and reasons why I didn't have a home for the holidays, but what I did have was greatly appreciated. Altogether I was in the Homes from November 1946 to December 1964, a total of nearly 18 years.

My last year in the Homes, was an experimental one as I and one other student (Dennis Vellum) spent most of the year in vocational training with Mani Printing Works in the town. This led to my going to J Thomas and Co in Calcutta to their Printing Division, initially at Nilhat House near Dalhousie

Square (BBD Bagh), and later at the main plant in Dakhineswar on the outskirts north of the city. This necessitated daily train travel from Sealdah where we did our Apprenticeship and later I became a Supervisor over 150 employees; quite a responsibility for a 20 year old.

About this same time my Fraser House Parents, Norm and Hazel Skilton from New Zealand were keen for me to travel with them to New Zealand as their foster son. As you can imagine with both Indian and New Zealand immigration rules it was not particularly easy. Perseverance on the part of the Skiltons eventually succeeded and I came out in September 1969.

I settled very quickly into NZ culture and within months of arriving had a leadership role in my firm and all subsequent roles in employment ended up in senior management and leadership.

Calcutta Cottage 'Sunday Best' 1960



For the past almost thirty years, I led a charitable organisation's Training and Employment Programme nationally for young unemployed prisoners on their release and young school dropouts. After finally retiring early last year I was awarded a Queen's Service Medal for my efforts which was very unexpected, *while at the same time acknowledging the work done in alleviating poverty and investing in the community.*

I have three adult children and two lovely grandsons and have lived in Wellington for many years and family life is now generally quiet and largely enjoyable. In retirement I am still engaged part time as a Chaplain at the Port of Wellington to Seafarers who come from many different countries.

Since being in New Zealand I have occasionally been able to visit Thuten in Auckland along with other OGBs. We only have a few OGBs in NZ and Thuten does a magnificent job in keeping us all in touch along with his sterling work on behalf of the Homes.

I was able to attend the Homes Centenary in 2000 and had a great catch up with many OGBs, now scattered around the globe, a great occasion that I was able to experience with my son.

Ironically, as was the experience of many other children of that era after World War 2, it wasn't till the 1990's that I discovered my birth mother was still alive and that I had two brothers. Sadly I didn't meet my mother or younger brother, both had passed away before I got to India, but I met my second brother in a village north of Dehra Dun and I now visit my nephews and nieces as often as I'm able.

My years at Kalimpong are always regarded as my first and only home as a youngster for which I am eternally grateful. I experienced many exciting activities in education, sport, friendships and people in a wonderfully unique institution called "home".



Nowadays, I have renewed my interest in events in the Homes as it goes through a challenging time in its history. As an OGB I do have a responsibility to support the school and have been very happy to join the Global Organisation. All OGBs who are able, should join and make our communications and friendships expand even further.

Long may the Homes continue looking after the many hundreds of students irrespective of class, creed or culture.

God bless you all.

George Borthwick

Dudley and Val's trip to the UK and Italy

Valerie and Dudley Appleby planned a holiday to England for Val's brother's 60th birthday on the 10th July. We left Australia on the 30th May arrived England late afternoon and went to my brothers, had a beautiful dinner relaxed. The next day we woke up to a beautiful summers day.

We met my sister in law's family for dinner at home. My sister in law leslee's son Joe and girlfriend stayed with us in Australia, it was nice to have met Jo's Mum and Dad for the first time. It was a lovely evening.

On Sunday we were invited to Leslee's brother Bruce and Emma's home for High Tea. We drove through the beautiful English countryside in Canterbury. We were later taken by Bruce down some country lanes and saw some country manors and homes with lovely thatched roof homes. We went back to Bruce and Emma's home where she had prepared a lovely high tea.

The following day we went to a dinner dance at the Chatteringham Hotel where a soul singer Fil Straughan was performing. Yet another sunny day, we went on. Day to Westerham visited some antiques shops, old churches and had lunch at a pub. On our way home we stopped at the Oak Tree Chop House in Sevenoaks for tea. I was given tickets to see Jon Mayer at the O2 what a lovely complex I also got invited to the O2 Priority Lounge for cocktails before the show.

We celebrated our 43rd Wedding Anniversary whilst in England. We visited an old Aunt in Bognor Regis stopped for lunch at Black Rabbit in Arynedale. On Sunday we went to the seaside in Whitstable, had fish and chips for lunch and spent all afternoon strolling along. We have been so fortunate to wake up every morning to birds singing and the sun shining. We went for a drive around Hextable, Eltham Palace, Roehill Grange, Bexley village and Ruxley.

We went over to Dudley's brother Pat and Leonie's home for 3 weeks. We visited family and friends when we were there. Leonie and Pat were very kind, drove us around cooked lots of lovely food. While we were there we attended the Kalimpong AGM. We met several of the OGB's that we knew. After the meeting we went to a pub and met David went to Soho for a lovely Chinese meal. Margaretta and Vince invited us over to their home and treated us to a beautiful meal.

On June 28 my brother Henry, his wife Leslee Dudley and I left England for Italy. We took the Eurostar to Paris and then the overnight train to Verona where we stayed for 3 days and did lots of sightseeing. We then took a train to Florence for 2 nights, continuing to Naples and took the ferry across to Sorrento. We were there for 8 nights visiting the Amalfi Coast and Positano. A highlight was a speedboat to Capri on brother's birthday. We returned to England, spent a night there and returned to Perth on Malaysian airlines a day **prior to the Malaysian plane being shot down!**

OGB Correspondence

**From : John and Christine Dempster
in Australia**

Hi Everyone

**Christine and I would love to hold this
years` Homes Birthday get-together
in September.**

24th September 2014 falls on a Wednesday, so we will have to host the event either earlier on Saturday 20th September, or a week later on Saturday 27th September. Any suggestions?

Whether this takes a minimalistic form of an afternoon tea where we simply cut a Birthday cake and heartily sing the School rallying song, or, more appropriately, we each bring a curry for an extended Birthday celebratory bash, I leave for you, collectively, to decide.

**I personally would prefer a curry lunch,
or dinner in the early evening.**

Our home is at 89 Bronzewing Avenue in relatively far-away but predominantly landscaped Ellenbrook. Conveniently, a car-park is situated directly opposite our house. This car-park overlooks Woodlake Lake which is home to quite a number of ducks and swans, and two furtive moggies that really should be immediately removed because they are occasionally dining on some of the unfortunate sitting ducks.

**Please forward this email to other
OGB`s and friends that you might like
to welcome to join our diminishing (??)
but happy group.**

Many thanks.

John and Christine Dempster

from: Errol Webber
errol.webber@gmail.com

to: John Dempster:

Re: India Trip. I just wanted to know if:
a) you caught up with Robert Coutts because I find it difficult to get any "news" out of him, and
b) how well do you know Winnie Creatorex (was she your batch) as she happens to be in WA right now.

from: John Dempster
john@jcdempster.com

to: Errol Webber
errol.webber@gmail.com

Hi Errol, Thanks for yours. No, I did not catch up with Robert, and I only knew Bill Creatorex who went to Sea before me and then seems to have simply disappeared! Maybe you can find out about Bill from Winnie?

I did manage to catch up with my classmate, the beautiful Elizabeth Shaw (Towers) in Calcutta, and Jayshree Pradhan in Gangtok. We went to the church service in St Thomas` Church where Elizabeth heads the Choir. I recognized her immediately and it was great to catch up after 52 years. She very generously drove us in her car all the way to the D.I. and treated us to a sumptuous lunch and drinks, after which she dropped us back to our apartment in Lindsay Street overlooking the New Market. Met the Rev Andrew Simick at St Thomas`: he was a `small chap` during my school days.

Jayshree, too, meeting after 52 years, was exceptionally kind and generous to us in Gangtok, entertaining us in her home where we were introduced to her husband and children and grandchildren.

The Old Boys and Girls DGH Association of Sikkim gave us the great honour of gathering to meet us and to welcome us to Gangtok, and put on a fantastic dinner which quite overwhelmed us. Such was their kindness and generosity

that it is something that we will never forget. We knew none of them except Jayshree who was my classmate, yet we could all have been back in school together at the same time. We owe them heaps.

When I get to sort out my holiday snaps, I will forward you a copy of this great Group.

Kind regards
John



Birissa Cottage – what a happy bunch !

News from the Homes:

Congratulations to ICSE Football team who won the football finals. They beat Goethals 5 - 2 in the semi-final and won the finals 3- 0, beating North Point Darjeeling.

Cinchona Plantations are celebrating 150 years

Though he got this information very late he is keen to celebrate the 150 years Anniversary starting this November, 2014.

An Invitation from Miku Foning Chair, Kalimpong OGB Association

Dear friends in Australia, UK, and Canada, Greetings from Kalimpong!

Its been ages since I last wrote to say hai!! to you all. Nonetheless; I am writing this email as I have a request from:

Dr. Samuel Rai, Director Cinchona & Other Medicinal Plants, Government of West Bengal

Dr Samuel is a young and energetic local man from Kalimpong and is personally known to me for many years.

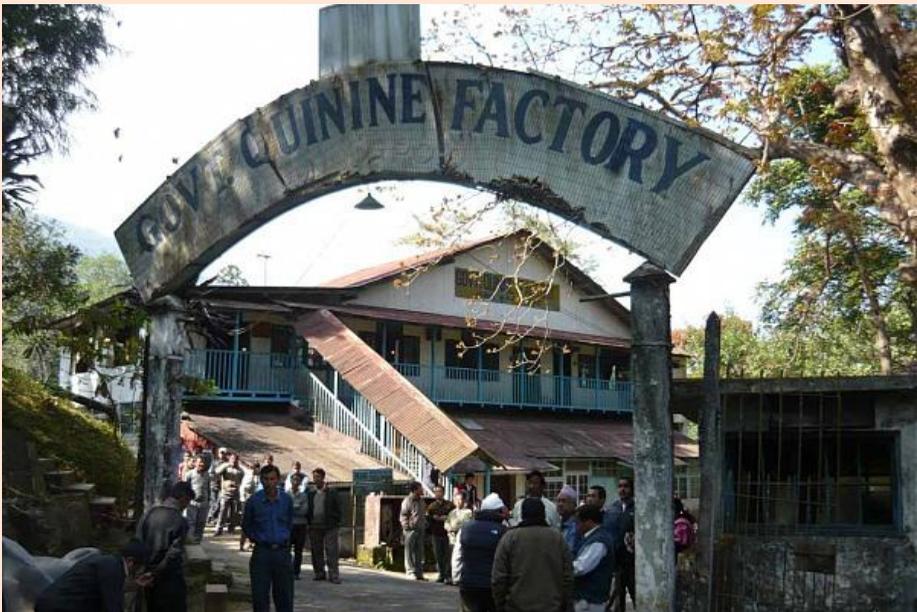
He has recently joined as the Director and looking through the Department documents he has found out that the Cinchona Plantations were started at Mungpoo, in the Darjeeling - Kalimpong hills 150 years back.

Just to convey to you all a brief of this plant "Cinchona"

In the olden days when the Scottish Missionaries and the East India Company came to this part of the world, in the plains region there was rampant diseases like malaria, kalaajar, and many for which there was no cure particularly in those days when even basic health care was also not available.

I came to know from Samuel Bhai that a gentleman by the name of Dr. Thomas Anderson (1862 to 1869) was the Superintendent of the Botanical Garden at Shibpur, Calcutta.

Realizing the need to find a medicine for malaria he must have found out the value of the Cinchona plant which could be a cure for malaria.





It is said that Dr Anderson came to the Kalimpong-Darjeeling hills and started the Cinchona plantations in the hope of finding a cure for malaria. His efforts did pay off and these plantations have been existing ever since, and quinine, the extract has saved many lives since then.

During those days many people coming particularly from Scotland like Revd Taylor working at SUMI died of Malaria in Gorubarthan. We learnt that Dr. Thomas Anderson also died at a very young age of 38 years. Who knows maybe of malaria! Interestingly, Dr. Samuel tells me that Dr. Thomas Anderson in fact was a medical doctor and not a botanist.

There is a move to designate the Darjeeling Cinchona plantation as a Unesco world heritage site.

The Darjeeling Cinchona Plantation was started 150 years ago in 1864 at Mungpoo and now covers 22,00 hectares, feeding 5,000 people.

Dr. Samuel has sent me two lists of people from his records from those early days and more recently. See overleaf. If you know of anybody connected to them, please let me know.



My apologies, but as usual a request to please help us out.

From what I know the Maceys and Frizelles (OGBs); their fathers did work in the Cinchona plantations. My only link - Julian Frizelle had migrated to Toronto, Canada in the 1970s; The Maceys I hear are in Australia and UK. Kindly convey to them this news!

An Invitation

Dr. Samuel would like to invite all the officials and their relatives - past and present to the 150 years celebrations of the Cinchona Plantations. Have a look at the lists overleaf. If you know of anybody connected to them, please let me know.

Kindly pass this message to any connections and ask them to contact me. I am also sending a copy to Dr. Samuel for his reference and record.

Thanks folks!

I will be writing to you all later with regard to our DGH 2015 Birthday celebrations; and we look forward to meeting all of you in Kalimpong next year - 2015 during our DGH Birthday celebrations!

With our every good wishes and warmest regards.

Miku

mfsfoning@rediffmail.com



Lists of Former Officers of Cinchona & Other Medicinal Plants West Bengal, Mungpoo.

1st. List:

1. Mr. S. C. Sen, Superintendent Cinchona Bengal, August 1944
2. Mr. G. Holl ,Assistant Manager, Govt. Cinchona Plantation, Munsong, 1944.
3. Mr. H Graham, I.C.S-Secretary Govt. of West Bengal, 1942.
4. Mr. G. H. Fothergill, September 1942 & General Manager, Mungpoo, 1951.
5. Mr. L. G. Richards, Bengal Gardeners' Service.
6. Mr. G.H. Fothergill, Esqr., M.B.E, General Manager, Mungpoo, October 1950.
7. Dr. M. Sen, D.S.C, A.R.I.C (London), Director Cinchona, West Bengal, 1950.
8. Mr. J.T. Cleamens, June 1955.
9. Mr. H. J. Macei, Manager, Govt. Cinchona Plantation, Rongo, February 1951.
10. Mr. H. Thomas, Esqr., General Manager, Mungpoo, January 1946.
11. Mr. S. Mukherjee, Director Cinchona, September 1955, March 1956, April 1962.
12. A. Frizelle, Manager, Govt. Cinchona Plantation, Munsong, September 1961.
13. K. S. Joneza, General Manager, Mungpoo, March 1951.
14. J. D. Macdonald, Manager, Govt. Cinchona Plantation, Munsong, March 1953.
15. S. Mukherjee, J. D. Meedonald, R. P. Chaterjee, R. P. Gurung, B. B. Thapa, J. B. Rai, A. F. Ramsong, Managers, July 1958.
16. S. Mukherjee, Quinologist, Govt. Quinine Factory, Mungpoo, March 1951.
17. R. K. Kumar, Manager, Govt. Cinchona Plantation, Mungpoo, July 1963.
18. A. Chaterjee, Quinologist, Govt. Quinine Factory, Mungpoo, February 1964.
19. Dr. P. N. Samanta, Medical Officer, Mungpoo Hospital, February 1964.
20. Mr. R.K. Kumar Assistant Manager In-charge , GCP Latpanchor January 1959

2nd. List:

- Dr. D. K. Chaudhuri, Quinologist, Govt. Quinine Factory, Mungpoo, 1958.
- S. Mukherjee, Director of Cinchona, West Bengal, September 1958.
- D. Sen Barman, Director of Cinchona, West Bengal, May 1968.
- J. C. Saha, Director of Cinchona, West Bengal, July 1968.
- H. N. Guha, for Director of Cinchona, West Bengal, February 1966.
- G. L. Subba, Special Officer Food Grains, April 1968.
- P. C. Guha, fr Director of Cinchona, West Bengal, ctober 1956.
- A.O. Sitling, Assistant Manager, Govt. Cinchona Plantation, Kashyem, 1954.
- R. P. Gurung, Assistant Manager, Govt. Cinchona Plantation, Burmiak, 1954.
- S. S. Chitnis, Section Officer, May 1978.
- S. K. Pradhan, Manager, Govt. Cinchona Plantation, Mungpoo, August 1970.
42. J. D. Macdonald, Manager, Govt. Cinchona Plantation, Munsong, 1957.
- B. N. Banerjee, Quinologist, Govt. Quinine Factory, Mungpoo, August 1971.
- M. Sen ,Director of Cinchona, West Bengal, March 1950.
- B. Maji, Manager, Govt. Cinchona Plantation, Gairibas, May 1990.
- B. B. Basnet, Manager, Govt. Cinchona Plantation, Latpanchor, June 1988.
- A. Chatterjee, Quinologist, Govt. Quinine Factory, Mungpoo, July 1966.
- Mr. G. H. Fothergill, General Manager, after retiring was staying with Mr. Hulbert, Curater Lloyd Botanic Garden, Darjeeling in February 1951.

Kalimpong Association (UK) Members.



Another picture for the records
Featuring some members missing from the earlier picture!



YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS

Thank you for the Newsletter, which I did enjoy reading, as always. However Ken Webster's article did bring back memories and it was quite strange on turning a page to see myself and my sister staring out at me. It is a picture of the patrol leaders and seconders of the Girl Guide Company, taken I think in about 1945-46 in the grounds of Jubilee House, where we often met. Mollie Duncan and Sheila Masterton, the guiders can both be seen. The names Ruth Nicholl. Ruth Macey, Mary Spreadsbury, spring to mind among others. Does any one else recognise themselves? It would be good to hear.

Best wishes, Margareta, to you and Vince

Nesta Farrow (Lloyd)

Thank you for the Newsletter. A lot of good information, and well presented. I enjoyed reading all of it.

I am very hopeful for the future of the Homes, after reading. It seems we have gotten a strong group together and maybe all of us will be more inclined to get involved. Looking forward to the next letter.

Gail Collins

Thank you for the Summer Newsletter. I have just returned to Goa from a five week tour of the North East of India and even after a train journey of some 38 hours, I could not put the Newsletter down (it is 00:59 past midnight). I enjoyed every article. The photographs of the K2K Bicycle Ride and the article by 'The One and Only' Reverend John Webster made me feel so humble. I remember how I struggled up from the Teesta in the Kolkata to Kalimpong 2012 Bike ride, but I was just a kid at 58 years young. He is such a great person and every OGB should take a leaf out of his life. At the age of 80 plus he still continues to amaze me and all the OGB's I know. God Bless him for all that he does for Dr. Graham's Homes. He is a legend. We also enjoyed Thuten's article on the late Mr Bob Crow and Bradley's encounter of DGH. The photographs of some of the older OGB's were awesome. Our prayers are with you and all your Members and we are hopeful that the Kalimpong (UK) Association will grow from strength to strength. Thank you for keeping me on your mailing list.

Desmond & Flora Meyers.

Thank you very much once again for the Newsletter. I let my bowl of porridge (rolled oats with sultanas and crushed nuts and seeds) get cold while I sat back and read the Newsletter from top to bottom, no doubt making Christine quite angry.

I've forwarded it to the usual gang of suspects and I know it will be warmly received by them, too.

John Dempster

AN APRIL VISIT TO THE HOMES Calcutta and Gangtok

John Dempster & John junior

In April, John jnr and I took a trip to chaotic Kolkata, rainy Darjeeling, marvellous Gangtok, and beautiful Kalimpong, and then back to Cal for another final hit, before flying to Dubai to meet up with Christine.

I hope to tell you about it in the days to come. For now, suffice to say we were extremely fortunate to meet and have lunch with David Syiemlieh Reid (he will be ninth in line to the President of India when he becomes the Chairman of the UPSC, the United Public Service Commission), Badora Sheldon, my classmate the beautiful Elizabeth Shaw (Towers), OGB Mark Alistair (what an interesting person he is, with a life story to match) and his very pretty wife OGB Michelle, and Theo Baker, in Calcutta.

Unfortunately I could not make it to the Birkmyre to make my salaams to Eddie and Joanne Augustine. In Darjeeling we had dinner with OGB Norbu Dekeva (who was sponsored in the Homes by Thuten) and his vivacious missus. They now own the Dekeva Hotel. We were in Room 203 and we reckon it was the best room in the hotel!

In charming Gangtok we were made welcome by another classmate of mine, the elegant Jayshree Pradhan

and her husband and children and grandchildren in their lovely home.

I was meeting Elizabeth and Jayshree after 52 years. We completed Year 12 Senior Cambridge, and were bussed out of the Homes on 6th December 1962, if my memory serves me right. That was the year when the Chinese posed a big problem on India's northern border and the School was evacuated, leaving only the MSC (??) Year 10 for a while in the School compound, together with the Senior Cambridge students (I think there were twelve of us) of year 12.

We were then spoilt rotten by Thuten's sister and her husband when they took us to their beautiful home for a grand lunch. On one evening, the Sikkimese OGB Association (headed by President Karma N Bhutia) turned out in force to make us welcome in Tibet House where we had a good ol' chat session. I cannot recall the names of the many OGB's who attended and I am embarrassed to admit this, as they truly deserve to be individually acknowledged and personally thanked. Jayshree of course was there, together with Dr K Bhandari and OGB Dr Shiva Kumar Rai, kept us enormously amused with his anecdotes of school life.

If you get a chance to meet the Sikkimese OGB's please do, as they are very special.

An enormous dinner followed in the Club where a great variety of dishes were on offer. I hate to think what the cost was. My eldest son John tried to pay at least our share of the bill but they would have none of it.

In Kalimpong it was great to meet the Principal Mrs Peacock, and also Ruth Glashan, and Christine Barry of Ahava. Christine does so much for the school girls and is well loved by them for her affection and benevolence. I only hope Christine's care and concern for the School and the students does not eventually overwhelm her. We got to meet her husband John and had some memorable chats with him in the lounge in Ahava.

We attended the Church service held outside the Jarvie Hall. We sat on chairs in the sun. It looked to be a small gathering (were all the Homes boys and girls there?), and the students looked so young! A glance around confirmed that the Anglo Indians were in the minority.

Tea was on offer after the service and we were able to meet the School and Office Staff. Ruth was her usual smiling and immaculate self. The Reverend is a young and all-round great bloke and made us very welcome. He gave us a very knowledgeable guided tour of the Church after the morning Service. We saw the damage that was caused as a result of the earthquake, and it was not a pretty sight. It will be a great loss if the Church cannot be repaired and made `usable` again.

We ended up spending quite a bit of time in the Museum, poring over the copy of the Admissions books and the remaining school magazines and paraphernalia of years past. If I am fortunate enough to return to our School for another visit in the years ahead, I will spend more time in the

Museum and possibly photocopy much of what remains, for I cannot see these priceless documents and papers being left intact.

I would strongly recommend all OGB's to leaf through the Admissions books and magazines, to photograph as much as they can of entries and articles, as it is a historical record of all our years in the Homes and in our School.

Kalimpong town is, to an extent, unrecognizable. Congestion on a grand scale. People, humankind itself, and cars and vans predominate. Parking spaces are scarce; quite a few main roads are glorified parking bays now. There are even one-way streets. The phrase `hairs breadth` has got to change to `Kalimpong breadth`, as the driver has sometimes to `fold` in his rear view mirror when passing vehicles going the other way on those narrow roads. Tirpai too has changed out of sight: you cannot tell where Tirpai starts and where it now ends, as shops and dwellings are everywhere. Prepare yourself for a very bumpy ride when you take a taxi to return to the Homes from Kalimpong town.

Encroachment of the Homes compound as we knew it, is mind boggling.

Not very long ago you could look northward from Ahava toward the Himalayan mountain range and see mainly natural bush falling away to the Ranjeet river valley below. Now, today, there is a dwelling whose rooftop is 20 metres? 10? 5? in your line of sight from Ahava's lawn.

Regarding the school in general and the Homes in particular and what would seem to be the deteriorating situation it now finds itself in, could it be that blatant greed and outright militancy is the option of choice of some staff/employees of the Homes?

If it is, then, sadly, this could very well be the manner by which they kill the Golden Goose for all.

All the best, and thank you once again, Margaretta, from all of us who get to read your Newsletter, for a great read.

John@jcd.comempster

Greetings from the United Arab Emirates

Hello all,

Apologies for being a silent member for now and greetings from all of us in the UAE. We are a very small group here in the UAE: Remo Rodgers, Ashitava Mukherjee, Suprotik Guha, Deepak Chhibber, Lorraine Dickinson, Cheryl Gomes (nee Hughes), Bigy Mathew and myself, Garth Mitchell.

In 2012, we got together to raise about Rs. 11 lakhs to help with the earthquake reconstruction with our contribution being allocated to Frazer Hostel. We raised this money through a souvenir and charity dance in Dubai. We used Ken's photo image with permission as the cover for our souvenir and had messages from Gen. Mukherjee, Mrs. Peacock & Rev. Webster, as well as Mr. Brook's tribute to Dr. Graham. A PDF is attached here for your reading pleasure. We've also been sponsoring the education of a 12 year old boy at DGH for the last two years. So that's a small brief on us and we'll be happy to support the Homes from here in the UAE.

Good wishes from us all,



Garth garthmitchell@gmail.com



Rev John Cook

pictured above, Rev John Cook with his friend Dorothy

Dear Thuten,

I am so sorry to tell you that John died last Thursday morning, the 10th of July after a long struggle with cancer. He died here in my home where we had been living together for the past year surrounded by love and support.

We had hoped to marry last December. We had a beautiful service of commitment and love with family and friends a month ago.

Dorothy

Wilton David Paterson

Wilton passed away in Lingfield, NSW, Australia, on 22 October, 2013 aged 91. Sadly missed by his wife, Esma, and family. He is well remembered by Robert Clarkson who was in Assam Cottage with him until 1939.

Wilton was very clever. He won the Form Prize every year, won a scholarship, and also the James Prize. He could not be awarded the Pemberton Prize too, as one could only win one of the two.

When he left the Homes, he carried on with his studies in Kolkata until he graduated from St Xaviers College. He then enlisted in the Armed Forces, obtained a commission and joined the Signals Regiment, and rose to the rank of a full Colonel. When he retired, he emigrated to Australia.

BOOK LAUNCH

Footprints of the First One Hundred Years (1900-2000)

is written by Bernard T. Brooks, former Headmaster and Principal of Dr. Graham's Homes, Kalimpong. Various Kalimpong Associations are contributing to the publication, and hopefully, book sales will recoup these costs. The book is being printed in Kalimpong and will be released on 7th September, 2014 – a day before Dr. Graham's birth anniversary.

THE AIM

Although the book is dedicated to the ex-students of Dr. Graham's homes, it is written in recognition of the generous support of:

- * the original Overseas Committees of the Homes founded in Britain (Edinburgh and London), Canada, New Zealand, Australia (Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide), Sweden, and Switzerland; and
- * a countless number of incredible sponsors in these countries who appear themselves to have found joy and satisfaction in the relationships that developed between sponsor and child.

THE STORY

This originates with the founding of the Homes in 1900 for a group of underprivileged Eurasians sadly referred to as the 'Tea Garden children', leading to the building of the 'Children's City of the Himalayas' during the Graham era. It then deals with the difficult transition period following Dr. Graham's passing, and finally the emergence of a progressive twentieth century multi-cultural school of repute, while retaining the rich values and traditions of the past.

HOW TO GET YOUR COPY

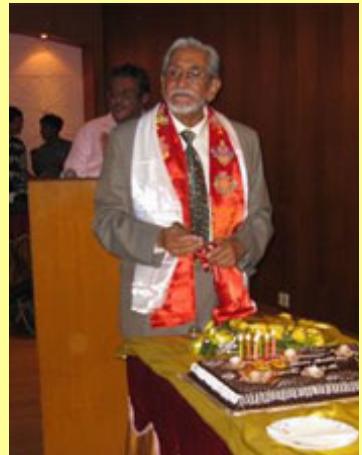
Margaretta hopes to have a supply of the book in London during October. If you email or call her, she will post you a copy on delivery.

Cost: £7 + £3 pp (delivery in UK)

To pay by credit card email Alistair McCabe
alistair@mccabe-travel.co.uk

For overseas readers, postage costs will be higher or maybe your local organisation can take a supply from Margaretta.

In Sikkim, Mrs Jayshree Pradhan will have copies; in Kalimpong, contact Mr Miku Foning





AN INVITATION TO JOIN GO !

The new global OGB organisation

Dear Friends of Kalimpong

In November 2013, at the DGH International Conference in Kolkata, a group of OGB delegates committed to setting up an OGB organisation that would seek to unite OGBs worldwide with the primary aim of supporting the Homes.

Whilst many OGB groups exist, some active in their support of the Homes and others focused on networking, we came away with a concept that would seek to unite all OGBs globally and under one platform. We believed a united group would be increasingly effective and more likely to be heard by the BOM, with whom the OGBs have for far too long been at odds.

Some nine months on, we now have a Global OGB Association with an Executive that includes representation from the BOM, OGB groups and a healthy membership that is open to all former students, teachers, staff and friends of Dr. Graham's Homes.

Our Patron is Mr Bernard T Brooks, a much loved former Headmaster and Principal of the Homes and I am delighted that Margaretta has accepted a position as Vice Patron. She has been enormously helpful in helping set up the organization.

If you have not already done so, please join up now! Our invitation to join GO is extended to all OGB's PLUS anybody with a real interest in the Homes. Our organisation is not intended to replace local organisations but to help bring them together.

You should sign up on our new GO website
www.dghogbs.com.

We expect to formally launch GO on 24 September 2014, The Homes's 114th Birthday! We trust that you will consider joining GO as we proceed together with the aim of helping our old school overcome its present difficulties.

Ken Hammond **OGB 1972 [GO Chairman]**

News about my Vince



It has been famously said:

“You make plans and then life happens!”

Travel plans were all set and I was so looking forward to going to India to attend the book launch for Bernard Brooks' new book. Instead, on the day my husband Vince and I were to celebrate our 28th wedding anniversary with a weekend away, my dear Vince was rushed into hospital.

The last three weeks have been surreal!

Vince has cancer and he is undergoing intensive treatment and I am so grateful that he is in very competent hands.

The support of family and good friends has been amazing and I keep myself as busy as I can.

One big blessing that has come out of this life experience is that it has made me truly realise what is really important in life.

Margaretta

Be happy, smile and always have positive thoughts, as happiness is inside of you. This is the energy of God, the spark of love that is your origin and identity. Be a carrier!



Forthcoming Event

Birthday Celebrations

September 20th 2014

Doors open 12noon

1 pm meeting commences

Room MUST be vacated by 5pm

Methodist Church, Hinde Street, London W1

Tube: Bond Street



Don't forget, you can find us on the web

www.kalimpong-association.co.uk



Kalimpong Association UK



www.twitter.com/kalimponguk

NEW FEATURES FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

We are looking for some new features for our newsletter and need your help! Could you make some suggestions e.g. "A day in the life of ..." or snapshots, latest achievement or things your children or you have done which made you smile. We are looking for upbeat, heart warming, positive stories so if you have any please email Margareta : m.purtill@sfct.org.uk

**Our sincere thanks to Alistair & Nada at McCabe Pilgrimages
for their help in producing this newsletter**