



Kalimpong Association UK

September 2016 Newsletter

EDUCATION IS
THE MOST
POWERFUL
WEAPON WHICH
YOU CAN USE
TO CHANGE THE
WORLD.

Nelson Mandela



FROM MARGARETTA

Dear Friends

I am writing as I prepare for my final meeting of the Kalimpong Association in the UK. If you are free I invite you to join us in London on 24 September.

The reality is we are all getting older and younger OGB's, for whatever reason, are not joining us. Many of us feel now may be the time to formally wind up our organisation. Come along on the 24th when all options can be openly and freely discussed.

One thing that has been decided is that this newsletter will continue, but as the voice of GO, the new global OGB Association. GO is open to all supporters of the Homes, whether you went to school there or not. Please take the time to go online and become a member, or complete and send me the form at the back of this newsletter. This will ensure that you continue to receive this magazine.

Get in to the habit of looking at the GO website, there is so much of interest and it is being constantly updated with new and interesting stories.

I will continue as the Editor, so please as always send me your news and interesting stories. I do feel that this magazine is one of the best ways of us all keeping in touch with one another.

I am so encouraged with the progress made under Gillian's direction, but the challenges ahead for the Homes are immense and our contribution so important and now welcomed by the new management team.

I will be visiting the Homes in October when I will be part of a GO team giving college and careers advice to the sponsored children. Something long overdue and another great GO initiative.

I hope you enjoy our newsletter, and thank you to all who contributed.

Margaretta Purtill

London KA Birthday Celebrations September 24th 2016

Doors open 12 noon
1 pm meeting commences

Methodist Church, Hinde Street,
London W1
Tube: Bond Street

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CHAIRPERSON



Dr. Graham's Homes, Kalimpong, as an institution, has been catering to the educational needs of thousands of children for over a century. While it was primarily set up to meet the needs of Anglo-Indian children it continues to make a difference to thousands of other children who are admitted, without making any distinction.

I had a very fulfilling and satisfying visit to Dr. Graham's Homes recently. While there I interacted with all categories of staff, heads of the various departments, some parents, Kalimpong OGBs, Local BOM and LAC members and most importantly the children. While there is much to be taken care of, I am sure that everything will fall into place given that we now have a sense of direction. A detailed report of my visit has already been dispatched to all concerned.

In the coming years we will continue to be ignited with the value of 'Pride in our tradition and heritage' and we will nurture this with care, responsibility and a deep sense of dignity.

Several thousands of satisfied parents and guardians have entrusted their children in our care and have seen their children carve a niche for themselves.

This has been possible only because of the many well-wishers around the world who have never hesitated to come forward for a good cause-the cause being to open doors and windows of opportunities to all children who pursue their education at Dr. Graham's Homes, Kalimpong.

All categories of staff too, have contributed, in equal measure, to the story of success and growth of Dr. Graham's Homes, and we look forward to renewed energy in fulfilling the vision of our illustrious founder, Dr. John Anderson Graham and carrying it forward to another successful century.



'Remember that it takes struggles in life to make strength; it takes fight for principles to make fortitude; it takes crisis to give courage; suffering to make sympathy; pain to make patience and singleness of purpose to reach an objective – the objective being to walk this earth with dignity.'

Dr. Gillian R Hart
President and Chairperson,
Board of Management,
Dr. Graham's Homes,
Kalimpong.

New Management at the Homes

An update from Shane Calvert after his June visit June 2016

I arrived on the evening of 27 June and met with the new Principal Mr Brian Robbins, and the new Headmaster, Mr Neil Monteiro and their families.



Principal Mr Brian Robbins

On 28th June, the induction ceremony of the Principal Mr. Brian Robbins was conducted. The ceremony was a very solemn and meaningful one.

The Principal is in charge of all departments, answering directly to the Board of Management.

Headmaster Mr Neil Monteiro

Mr Monteiro has been promoted to Headmaster taking responsibility for all matters pertaining to the school.

Superintendent Col. P. Thapa

Col. Thapa is re-assigned to take charge of the following departments: the Farm, the Estate, the Central Kitchen, the Workshop, the Stores & Bakery,

and the Clothing. Security would also be under his control.

Bursar

Col. A. Gogoi

Col. Gogoi is now Bursar with, amongst others, these key responsibilities:

Implementing systems for monitoring and control of expenditure and ensuring that proper accounting rules are observed. Introduce computerized accounting records for all departments

Acknowledge promptly the receipt of all funds from overseas committees and parents.

Arrange for proper auditing of the books of accounts for the Homes and Provident Fund.

Senior Master & Public Relations Mr. Praveen Pradhan

In addition to holding the post of Senior Master, Mr Pradhan will be the main liaison with outside agencies, promoting the school.

I am pleased to report that each of these appointees was satisfied with the changes and happy to take on the challenges facing the Homes.

The Chapel Restoration

The Heritage Commission have taken responsibility for the restoration, but it is not at all clear when work will commence. This is being followed up by Board Member, Mr. Praful Rao.

It is the advice of board members that the Chapel should not be used till further notice.



Left to Right: Col Gogoi, Pastor Henry Simon, Headmaster Neil Monteiro, Chair Gillian Hart, Mrs Golgoi, Shane Calvert & Col Thapa

Cottages and cottage staff

It is clear that there is a clear need for additional house parents on both the girls and boys houses. This is being looked into carefully. The issue of raising the salary of cottage parents will be taken up at the next board meeting.

The Principal was asked to examine how the children could once again use the vacant cottages.

OGB's

In the meanwhile, with many OGB's requesting accommodation for the Birthday Celebrations, the Principal was requested to submit a proposal for these cottages to be used to generate funds. This would, however, be a one-time arrangement since the aim will be to get the children to use them again.

School

Discussion with the Headmaster revealed that measures were being put in place to stress on academics and discipline.

I returned to Kolkata on the 29th after a hectic but fruitful visit.

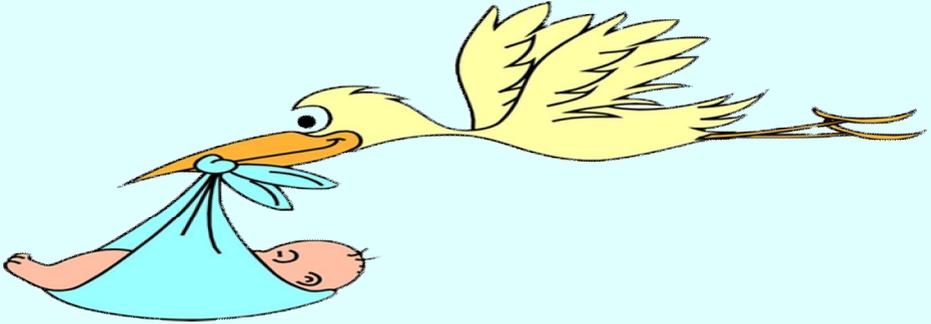
It was good to see the happy faces of the children who had just returned from their short vacation.

Mr. M. S. Calvert

Member of the Board of Management,
Dr. Graham's Homes,
Kalimpong

THE FIRST KALIMPONG BABY

By his son, Graham Potter



Oscar Charles William POTTER
my father, was born in Allahabad in 1901
and was the first baby to be taken in by
Dr Graham into what was then called St
Andrew's Colonial Homes.

Oscar often tried to find information about his parents, but all he was ever told was that they were “Britishers”

What follows is necessarily a story of two parts. Part One is my research into his previously unknown ancestry, and Part Two is his life after Kalimpong.

Inspired by the BBC programme “Who Do You Think You Are?”, I decided to carry out some research into my ancestry. I had considerable success in tracing ancestors through the maternal line back as far as 1536. But that is another story. I then decided to see if I could find more information on my father than he had.

Because all my father was ever told was simply that his parents were “Britishers”, I thought I had little to

investigate. Without much optimism I first approached the National Library of Scotland where Dr Graham's papers are kept. They were very helpful but could give me no information, and suggested I approach the school.

I approached the school in January 2014 to ask if they could provide any more information, and they replied in September 2014 that my grandmother was Eurasian (which my father did not know), the names of mother and father were not given, but they were “Britishers”. Also they had some “other papers” that “might be of interest”.

I am extremely grateful to Pat and Jim Simpson for their efforts in getting copies of these “other papers” for me. These have opened quite a history from a simple written comment. This would not have been possible without Pat and Jim's help.

This leads to Part One of the story.
Please read on ...

PART ONE

This is my research into my father's previously unknown ancestry. There are significant documents in the "other papers".

The first of the "other documents" was a letter to Dr Graham dated 20 August 1901 which said:

"There is a poor woman here who has got into trouble and has an infant (illegitimate) which must be deposited somewhere if she is to have a chance of a fresh start. She is a Eurasian." From other parts of that document it appears that she had quite a strong character. It seems that she quite strongly wanted my father to be taken by a Protestant establishment as it said she "appears to dislike the idea of surrendering her maternal right to the RC priests".

The great man agreed to take my father. He was the first baby to be taken in by Dr Graham, on 27 October 1901, and his birth date given to the school and recorded as 17 July 1901.

There is a sad letter written to the school by my father in September 1919, when he asked "Could you please tell me if I have got any parents because I heard some people talking about my father, and saying he was still living. I would be much obliged if you could give me his address if he is still living."

In the top corner of this letter there is a handwritten note saying: "Last letter from his mother – Miss Ellen Potter- from Peshawar 22 February 1904. Sent by Mr Chree." (The Rev George J Chree was the Chaplain of the Church of Scotland at Allahabad, and helped in getting my father to the school in 1901.)

This handwritten note gave the foundation for a start to tracing the paternal line. The records show Ellen Gertrude Potter born in 1880, Christened in 1888. No father is named in that record.

Ellen Gertrude Potter

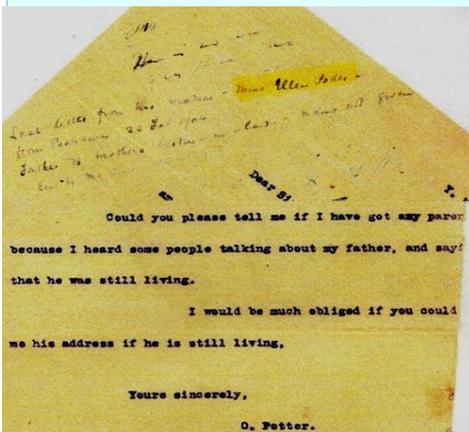
India Births and Baptisms

Name:	Ellen Gertrude Potter
Gender:	Female
Christening Date:	26 May 1888
Christening Place:	Lahore, Bengal, India
Birth Date:	Jan 1880
Mother's Name:	Sarah Potter

The next question was what other information there was on Ellen, my grandmother.

I found out that on 12 July 1905 Ellen married Donald Edward Phillips, and they had two children, a boy, Michael Denis, and a girl, Dorothy Emily.

Donald died in Calcutta on 22 August 1938, aged 66. Ellen lived to the grand age of 77, dying in Calcutta in 1957.



There is also a note in the “Kalimpong papers” referring to “no funds coming from Lawless”. Impossible to know if he was my grandfather, or if this was connected, but there was a Matthew Lawless, a Private in the 104th Regiment of Foot (Bengal Fusiliers) at Allahabad, where my father was born. The next part of the search was to trace records of Sarah Potter, my great grandmother.

A complete mystery to me had always been the origins of the name Potter, and also of my father’s names of Oscar Charles William, which seemed so precise. The next part of my investigation would provide an answer to this.

The next record I found was of a marriage on 27 May 1873 in Lahore between Sarah Emily Eleanor Francis Wallace, aged 16, and Charles William Potter. Sarah’s father is shown on this record as John Marcus Wallace. I therefore, at this point, thought Charles William Potter was my father’s grandfather. But I subsequently found that Charles died in October 1876, aged 23, four years before my grandmother was born in 1880. He was a Pay Clerk in the Agent’s office of the Sind, Punjab and Delhi Railway Company. Sarah and Charles had three children. It seems that Sarah, my widowed great grandmother had a liaison, probably at a vulnerable time for her, from which my grandmother was born. Presumably, unlike my grandmother, she was able to keep Ellen as she was a “married woman”, although widowed.

I now knew where most of my father’s names originated. Although my (unmarried) grandmother surrendered my father because of the convention in 1901. It seems my grandmother Ellen had been told that Charles William Potter was her father, and she therefore carried on the name, and passed it to my father. If Charles William had lived longer, then my father may never have been born.

Sarah remarried in September 1881 to Edward Morgan Roberts. By an incredible coincidence, my parent’s first child was named Charles, but he only survived two weeks. The next discovery was that Sarah Wallace’s mother was Amelia Wallace. She was born Amelia Garrett in 1839 in Bhojepoora, and her parents were Mary and Thomas Garrett. She died on 19 January 1887, and is buried at Lahore. On 2nd June 1855, aged 16, she married John Marcus Wallace. As well as Amelia, Sarah and John had nine other children. John died in July 1882.

John Marcus’ father was John Wallace, and he was a sergeant in H.M.66th Regiment. From here on in my research there are strong military connections. Amelia parents were Thomas and Mary Garrett. Thomas was a Private in H.M. 14th Regiment at Fort William, and they were married there on 26 February 1827. Mary was then aged 17 and a widow, having been previously married to a Samuel Woodward, a private in H.M. 13th Regiment. Thomas was later Postmaster at Umbulla. Thomas was born in 1805 and died in 1871. As well as Amelia, Thomas and Mary had nine other children.

The next records to find were those relating to Mary. The record of her first marriage, aged 13, to Samuel Woodward, shows her maiden name as Fisk. Christening records at Berhampore show her as born 8 April 1810 and her parents as John Fisk and a “native woman”.

John Fisk was a Private in H.M. 17th Regiment of Foot. He died in the Regimental Hospital at Fort William on 9 December 1820, aged 40, probably from cholera, and is buried in Fort William. The regiment left Fort William on 21 December 1820, twelve days after John died. During their time at Fort William the Regiment lost eight officers and one hundred and thirty men to cholera.

John Fisk had eight children. Two with mothers named as Nancy and Ann, both “native women”, and the others with unnamed mothers. To his credit he did give his name to all those children. I also found, not surprisingly at that time , that he was illiterate, as a marriage record shows “his mark”.

At this point the records dry up. But I consider what I have found very successful, considering that my father only “knew” his parent to be “Britishers”.

**So the line from 1780 is:
Fisk – Garrett – Wallace –Potter**

My greatest regret is that I cannot show this history to my father.

PART TWO

In Part One, I set down my journey to find my father’s ancestral line. Part Two is his story after leaving school.

I believe these words from the Homes school song define the philosophy of the school: a hopeful wish and a wonderful ambition.

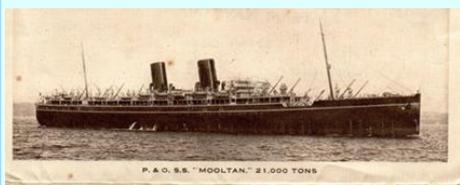
“Welcome the morn' a new day is born
When people shall live as one.
Equal rights for every brother,
Lands at peace with one another”

When Oscar finally settled in England he discovered the importance of the UK Kalimpong Association of OGBs which still today brings together those whose roots are in Kalimpong. This is an important vehicle of contact for OGBs. Through the Association he maintained contact with his school contemporaries,

met and became friends with many of those who followed him into the school later and then came to England, including his greatest friend.



Oscar Potter at the school,



5/10/33

My Dear Oscar

A word of greeting from the Red Sea. It was a real joy to me to meet your wife & your young son and I appreciated very much your coming to the Station to see me off. I hope we shall hear from each other sometimes.

Kiss the little rascal (Graham Oscar) for me & with the heartiest of greetings to you & your wife.

I am
Yours affectionately
Miss Purdie



London, c1930

Although I know little of my father's time at the school, I am aware he had a first class education, and that the school motto of "Thorough" was ever present. He received great help from them in finding his way with work until he joined the army. He also greatly appreciated those who looked after him. Auntie Cooke, a House Mother, was a dear friend until her death, aged 100. He was well aware of how much Dr Graham and Mr Purdie had done for him, regarded them both with great affection, and kept in touch with them regularly.

After working for a short time in Calcutta, my father joined the 16th/5th Lancers in 1920 in Rissalpur, and finished his initial service in England in 1927. But that was far from the end of his army service.

My father's career in England was first as a Bus Conductor on London Transport until 1939, then after WW2 as a bus driver, still in London, and finally a Bank Messenger for a leading Merchant Bank in London.

Throughout his life, he maintained contact with OGBs. He had contact with the London Association when he first came to England through Sir John Cumming KCIE CSI MA (Oxon) who was then Secretary of the Association. Sir John was at my parents' wedding in 1929, and was later my Godfather. He is far left on the wedding photo. I believe, but am not certain, that Auntie Cooke was my Godmother. I have a Bible inscribed by her on the date of my Baptism at St Columba's, Church of Scotland, Pont Street which suggests this. This was in the church that was bombed during WW2. I was named Graham Oscar, after Dr Graham, and my son is James Graham. I think Mr Purdie was also present at the ceremony.



Because he was retained on the army "Reserve", my father was called on 2nd September 1939 to join the Royal Scots Greys in Edinburgh, then still a cavalry regiment, and part of the "Remount" which trained horses for the cavalry. He was actively involved in the training of horses.

In 1940, when the Greys mechanised, he transferred to the Royal Army Veterinary Corps. With them he served in the Middle East, and Italy. Despite mechanisation in World War 2 horses and mules were essential means of transport, most notably in Palestine and the Italian campaigns where terrain made it impossible for vehicles.



Italy 1944

As with most ex-service men in WW2, my father rarely spoke of his experiences. He only told one story. He was with a mule train in Italy, when his

mule picked up a stone in its hoof. He was at the front of the train, and stopped to attend to his animal. He was then at the back when aircraft came over and bombed the mule train. Only the back three survived. "Friendly fire" - American aircraft!

After the war he joined the Legion of Frontiersmen, keeping his connection with horses. The Legion gave regular displays of Musical Rides,



and tent pegging. The history of tent pegging is that the cavalry would lance the tent pegs to cause the tents to collapse on the enemy.



We regularly saw Ruby Merrett (Harrison) and her husband Jim at Freshwater on the Isle of Wight, Helen Shaw and her husband Don, and her two sons Hamish and Donny, and daughter Peggy, in Brentford, West London; Nora Fullerton, Eva Davy, and "Auntie" ("Nutty") Cooke, mostly at reunions. We were in contact with Auntie Cooke until she died aged 100 in a Croydon Nursing Home. We were also regularly in contact with Mr Purdie. Some great curries were shared. I also remember Miss Bacon, who was Secretary in London in the 1950s. There were others now lost in memory. In the OGB photo I think Miss Bacon is flanked on either side by Dr Graham's daughters, but not 100% sure.



OGB REUNION c1950

Back row: ??? ??? Eva Davy Auntie “Nutty” Cooke Doris Potter ???
 Middle row: ??? Ruby Merrett Nora Fullerton ??? Mrs Otto Miss Bacon ???Mrs Sheriff ??? ???
 Front row: Oscar Potter? Hamish Shaw Helen Shaw Donnie Shaw Graham Potter Peggy Shaw



When I started my search I looked for information on George Douglas, and found he had a daughter, Tara, in Canada, and decided to contact her. She was my first Kalimpong contact for some time, and I am very pleased we are now in regular correspondence. Her father, my “Uncle George”, was always a very special member of our family, and I remember him very well. My most vivid memory is of him in his navy uniform taking me to a local greengrocers and sending me home with a bag full of fruit.

My father’s greatest friend, who always stayed with my grandparents when in England, was George Douglas (A.V.S.M D.F.C).

My father died of cancer in 1964, aged 63. He was a heavy smoker (40 a day), as were many who experienced the war.

Finally, I must again sincerely thank Pat and Jim Simpson for their help in obtaining the “other papers” which enabled me to go on an incredible journey to trace my Indian Ancestry. I feel through them and Tara I have been reunited into the Kalimpong family.

Correspondence with our Sponsored Children

From Fiona Cranston

A longstanding UK Committee member

Fiona is the daughter of Dr David Graham, the eldest of the founder's six children. For more than thirty years she has corresponded with very many children at the school. During this long period she has also been a key player in the Annual London Curry Lunch, and it is Fiona who loyally markets the Homes Christmas cards each year - one of the UK Committee's most successful fund-raising ventures.

Fiona has some very positive news of two students she has corresponded with for many years. (The students names have been changed)

I have corresponded with Sophia for very many years! She was one of the great number of children that the Kalimpong Trust has part sponsored since the early 1980's. She was born in Kathmandu in January 1992 and was



admitted to the Homes at just 3 years old. At that time she was not a very healthy child but quickly became stronger and had a successful school life. She was an important member of the School choir when they visited the UK and I was so pleased to meet her as she was a particularly delightful girl, outgoing, full of confidence and pretty!

At that time she wanted to go to Calcutta and study something related to the Beauty profession. Instead she gained a BA from Loreto College and is now working in Kolkata for Tatar Consultancy Services, the IT division of that Company.

Lynne Summers was from Calcutta and also admitted to The Homes aged 3. She was sponsored by the Trust from Year 10. I am not sure who her sponsors were before this date. However she was a particularly pleasant girl to correspond with and obviously always happy at school. She wrote a particularly nice letter of appreciation and thanks for her sponsorship before she set off to Kolkata to study for an English Honours degree. She is already well-established in the Marketing and Anchor team of TAAZA TV, an infotainment Channel in Kolkata.



Brandon, Janine & Clarence with the new Homes minibus donated by the Chief Minister of West Bengal

Janine Eagling's recent trips to India

I've been lucky enough to visit the Homes three times recently, although my contact with Dr Graham's began when I was a small child. My grandmother, Daisy James, was a Homes girl and told me many stories about her time there over the years. It was clear that her experience was a happy one. She had cousins at the Homes and of course, many friends. She was a champion of the Diving Team and a resident of Bene Cottage.

A few years ago, I was looking for some voluntary work that my daughter could do overseas and visited the Dr Graham's UK Fundraising Committee's website, which I had discovered previously. Instead of finding something for my daughter, I found something for myself! The closing date for applying to join the 2011 Kolkata to Kalimpong sponsored bike ride was in just two days' time! I didn't think twice and contacted the John Webster, the

organiser, immediately. So that was how I arrived the first time at a much imagined destination - at the end of an exciting, colourful 465 mile bike ride along the Ganges plain and up the hill to the Homes.

I have always been made to feel very welcome at the Homes and it was an emotional moment when Ruth Glashan, Sponsor Secretary, handed me my grandmother's file to look through. I expected it would contain school reports and notes about her progress through the school and yes, those documents were there, but in addition to that, there was correspondence from her sponsor, a Welsh missionary, letters from my grandmother to Dr Graham himself, after she had left and letters from her employers to the Homes. It was a fascinating insight into her early life, the period when she arrived in the Homes aged twelve in 1926 to the mid 1930s, when she was establishing herself as a nursery nurse and child's companion, living with two different families in the oil fields of Digboi.



Janine Brandon, Clarence and Ruth

I have been attending, with family members, the UK Fundraising Committee's curry lunch in London for a few years. This is a chance to meet up with other people with Homes connections over a glass of wine and stupendous lunch. Jim Simpson, who was the Chairman of the Committee at the time, put out a request one year, for correspondents, people who may want to write to a child in the Homes, building up a personal relationship that might last many years. Along with other family members who I was at the lunch with, I volunteered. Shortly after that, Jim asked me if I would be able to write to two boys, brothers, who had arrived in the Homes not long before.

In 2014 I joined the cyclists again, this time from Kathmandu to Kalimpong, some 340 miles, less distance, but a hillier route. On arrival we were greeted by the school band, which we followed through town to the path up to the Homes. The path was lined by hundreds of children clapping and cheering us. It was a welcome I will

never forget!

It was on this visit that I first met the brothers who I correspond with, Brandon and Clarence La Riviera, as well as the boys my mum, auntie and partner are in contact with.

Close in age, it was clear at the beginning that the brothers are a firm unit together. Meeting them for the second time in March this year, now aged eight and ten, I could see how much more confident they were. I was able to spend time with them on three consecutive days over Easter. With Ruth's help, we went to a café in Kalimpong for tea and they visited me at my guest house for Sunday lunch and a game of pool (or rather, a sometimes worryingly boisterous knock-about with some snooker cues and balls!). It was a rich and rewarding experience for me and I hope a memorable break from routine for the boys!

The letters and drawings they send me are always welcome. That reminds me – letters from me to them are overdue! Who knows what the future will bring, but I very much hope that I can continue to support them by writing, sending small gifts (they particularly like the UK comics) and once in a while, visiting in person.

Janine Eagling, July 2016



Brandon, Joy, Ankit, Clarence & Rufus taking Easter tea in Kalimpong



Neville & Audrey in front of Fraser Hostel

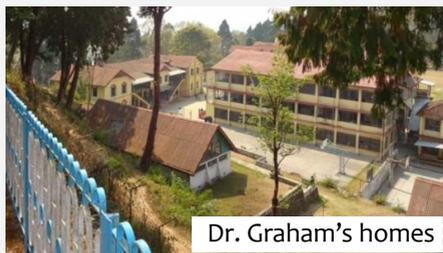
Audrey Bourbon's trip to India

My partner Neville Hopper and I, along with his cousin Fred and wife Marilyn, now living in the U.S.A, had decided to take an extended trip to India to revisit many of the places that each of us had grown up and lived in before we left for England. It was really interesting planning a schedule that took in so many different places from Kolkata to Sikhim to of course the Golden Triangle including Agra where I was born.

This was a trip of a lifetime and was completely unforgettable, filled with reminiscences, as well as giving us new memories of our time spent all

together in places dear to each others' hearts.

High on our agenda was of course a visit to Kalimpong, as I have heard so much from Neville and others about Dr. Graham's homes and the good work the school has done over many years for so many of the Children who were looked after and educated there. All the OGB's I have met have only praise for the time they spent there, so I wanted to see for myself.



Dr. Graham's homes

I have to say Kalimpong is a truly beautiful and special place and I can understand why so many people have wonderful memories. Margaretta Purtill had very kindly contacted Dr. Abraham in advance, regarding our impending visit, as our travel agents had informed us that visitors were no longer allowed to visit the school.

Unfortunately Dr. Abraham had resigned rather suddenly so was not there when we arrived, and although completely surprised by our visit, Ruth Glashan warmly welcomed us all,

Audrey Ruth & Neville in Ruth's office



and suggested we went over to see the pastor Rev. Henry Simon from Lucknow, who showed us around the old and beautiful Church. Neville was very touched to see where his sister Florence's ashes have been placed in the cemetery, and we will be shortly arranging for a plaque to mark where her ashes have been buried.

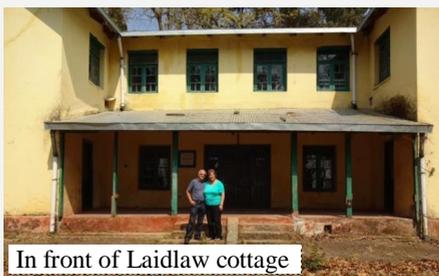
Sadly the church has been affected by the earthquake and you will see from the picture there is now a large crack in the structure. Rev. Simon feels very passionately about the school and seems a very dedicated and good man, as well as very hospitable in his invitation to us to stay on till Sunday to join in the Lenten service, which due to our busy itinerary was

unfortunately not possible. Because of the unfortunate surprise element to the remaining staff of our carefully planned visit, we were unable to meet any of the school children, but it was charming to see them playing at break time all very well turned out in their school uniforms.



Fred & Marilyn Hopper, Neville, Audrey & Rev Henry Simon

However, Neville was very saddened by the state of disrepair of both Laidlaw Cottage and Fraser Hostel especially as he remembered their beautiful gardens and Fraser's tennis courts.



In front of Laidlaw cottage

We really did enjoy being in Kalimpong, sharing Neville's childhood memories first hand, and one day would like to be able to return again to this special place. In the meantime we all sincerely hope the new management team will be able to further improve the situation there.

Audrey Bourbon, April 2016



DGH March Past practice before Independence Day

*Celebrating the Homes
70th Independence Day*

15 August 2016



Senior Girls



Girl Guides



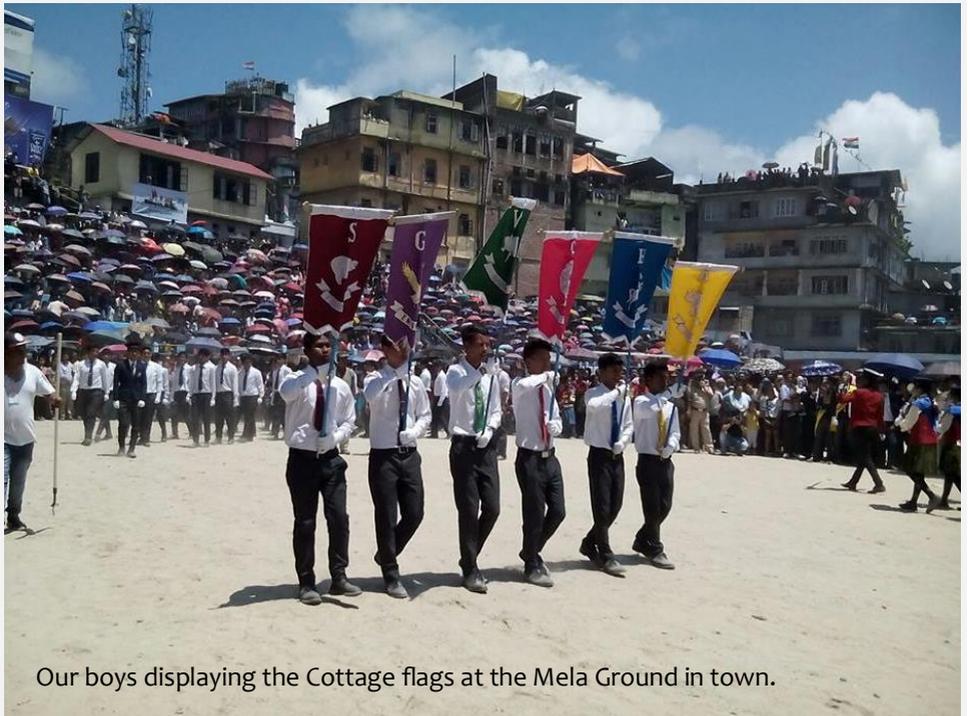
Our girls at the Mela Ground in town



Practice Session around the school



Marching around the school gong



Our boys displaying the Cottage flags at the Mela Ground in town.



YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS

Thank you I received by email the Newsletter about half an hour ago and have just finished reading every word of it. It had so much variety and was so interesting that one could not put it down until reaching the end. I thought your article on the Sponsored Walk of the Sea of Galilee was splendid.

Congratulations to You/ Alistair/Nada and much love.

Bernard (Brooks)

Thank you very much for your spring newsletter, I will email this to all OGBs and their descendants in New Zealand.

The article on your trip to the Holy Land was very interesting. It must have been a great experience for you. Thank you for sharing the story with us.

Thuten Kesang (New Zealand)

Thank you for the Spring 2016 News Letter received in the post on 2nd April. Really enjoyed the read - as usual.

It is good to hear that the Homes has a new Headmaster in Mr. Neil Monteiro who happens also to be an OGB. Also, I get the feeling that you are chuffed about the appointment of the new Chairperson of the Homes, Dr Gillian Hart. Sound like changes for the better.

Your article on the McCabe Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in January was very interesting, as were the nice photos accompanying your story. Good job your friendly camel kept its mouth closed!

Basil (Stoneham) UK

Thank you for the latest Spring Magazine, and also for the update on "Life in the Purtill Household".

Please remember that, like many others all around the world, you and

Vince are in our thoughts and prayers. We read and re-read the stories, and especially liked the pilgrimage to the Holy Land by you and the supporters of the McCabe Educational Trust. What a great journey.

Love

**John and Christine (Dempster)
Australia**

Thank you Congratulations to you, Alistair and Nada on your Spring Newsletter. It was good that you got new appointments at the Homes recorded so timeously. Thank you for including 3K's Notice.

I'd like to make one suggestion - it seems to me vital that "GO" is given appropriate and prominent space in future Kalimpong Association Newsletters. I'm not aware as to whether Kenny was asked to contribute or not but OGBs are the future of the Homes and as such, "GO" needs to be highlighted.

Editor's note: John, your comments are well in hand. We are delighted that next year this magazine will become the official "GO" newsletter.

- still compiled by Margaretta, but wearing her other hat as GO Vice chair.

On another subject, "Horses" - your equestrian articles stimulated my memory. I think the Webster's must hold the honour of once "possessing" the last pony on the Compound!

Dip Sing Foning, as Estate Manager, used to ride round the Compound on horse-back. About this time we were given the gift of a pony from a retiring Tea Planter in the Dooars. Pema Driver rode Lalli by stages up from the plains and he was stabled in a small hut at the rear of Bell House.

I, as farmer, was scared of this kicking animal! but our eldest son taught himself to ride and galloped out every morning, preceding the Farm Manager! Poor Jennifer was the only one brave enough to bring him in at night from his pasture. When we returned to the U.K. Lalli was given to Pema and what happened next, I know not.

"Lalli the Last Gee-gee" might be an appropriate epitaph.

John Webster

We are delighted to report that BOM Vice President, Mr. Shane Calvert has been appointed for a second consecutive term as MLA to represent the Anglo Indian community in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly.



Thank you very much for your congratulatory messages and good wishes on my re-nomination on the MLA to represent our Anglo-Indian Community.

I feel humbled and yet honoured to continue working for the welfare of our people. Strengthened by your prayers I feel confident of carrying out my responsibilities to great success. With your support and guidance I am certain that we can achieve a lot more for our community in general, and for Dr. Graham's Homes in particular.

with all good wishes, **Shane Calvert**

Obituaries



Deryck Allan Peter Sinclair (1932 – 2016)

from Charles Sinden, grandson

Deryck was born on 3rd March 1932 in Calcutta to Kenneth and Dorothy Sinclair. He was the second of four children: Joyce, Clive and Anne.

Aged four, Grandad and his siblings were sent to board at Dr. Graham's Homes. He would often capture one's imagination re-telling events of a very different time, such as travelling to the Homes by steam train, along the narrow railway that runs from Darjeeling to the Himalayas. As the train was slow-moving, whenever it went around a bend, Grandad and his friends would jump off, run around it

and race the train to see who would get around the bend first!

Grandad kept up-to-date with news of the railway, and always looked forward to reading the Darjeeling Railway Quarterly.

At school, Grandad was a proud cadet of the North Bengal Mounted Rifles. As you can see from the photograph, he enjoyed the cadet corps where he learnt to shoot. He would laugh when he recounted that although they were a cadet of mounted rifles, they had no horses. When I was taking my marksmanship test at school, Grandad gave me excellent advice on steadying my aim with a rifle, consequently I passed with the highest score in my year.

Deryck is Right hand side top



Grandad's stories of his time at DGH were also extremely entertaining, and more often than not involved him and his friends getting into sticky situations. One of his favourite memories to recall was when one night, he and his friends ran away from school and stole the food given as an offering to the gods after a local burial that had taken place earlier in the day. Whilst they were greedily indulging themselves, they suddenly heard a police siren – Grandad ran off quickly but after seeing that the others had been caught, handed himself in to the police. They were given a stern telling-off, but were also given a hearty meal and a warm bed to sleep for the night – not bad for his only night in jail.

A few months before his sixteenth birthday, Grandad sat his final exams and won a scholarship to attend La Martinière, the prestigious private school in Calcutta. He only attended La Martinière for one term before his Father withdrew him – a matter which the Headmaster, in a letter to Kenneth, wrote was 'very stupid', something you certainly wouldn't hear from a Headmaster nowadays.

Grandad began working for Ralli Brothers Limited aged seventeen. His job involved selecting and grading raw jute and preparing it for export. During this period of Grandad's life, he began playing cricket with a local men's cricket team in Dhakka. After one match, in which Grandad and his team thrashed the other, he met Sylvia, who was to be his wife of fifty-seven years. After their marriage on 24th May 1958, they lived in Mymensingh where they

welcomed their first daughter, Charlene. Due to troubles in India after Partition, they moved to England in November 1962, where they lived in Stoke Newington for a brief period before settling in Croydon, where they welcomed their second daughter, Janis. Despite having a young family, Grandad continued his studies and became a Chartered Accountant on 8th April 1970. He worked hard to build his practice, Sinclair & Co, which has now been established for over forty-three years. Grandad was meticulously precise throughout his life and remained so in his passing on 5th April 2016, which coincided beautifully with the end of the tax year, ensuring the Tax Man could not take any more of his money than was absolutely necessary and neatly tied up his financial affairs!

Grandad was incredibly loyal to his faith and to the Church. He prayed often, and was a regular worshipper, as well as auditing the Church's accounts for a number of years. He would walk to service each Sunday, even when in his eighties. His faith never wavered from a young age, and he would often recite his School Prayer, which we included in the funeral service as per his wishes. The Sinclair motto is 'Commit Thy Work To God', which is something that Grandad certainly took with him in every aspect of his life.

Grandad was a wonderful husband, brother, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, as well as an esteemed colleague, and is greatly missed by all who knew him.

**Composed by Charles Sinden,
grandson of Deryck and Sylvia Sinclair**



Stanley Benson Rowe



Stanley was a member of the House staff at Heathland in the 50's and also assisted in the Technical Block. His daughter, Julianne, an old Bene girl, now lives and works in New Delhi, and has written these words:

"Sad to inform all of you that my dad, Stanley Benson Rowe, passed away at 2am this morning, 22 August. Please pray for his soul to RIP. Thank you everyone for your good thoughts and prayers. God be with each and every one of you!

"Papa, I love you and miss you loads. I may detest your advice, abhor your suggestions and loathe your opinions. But that doesn't stop me from loving the man behind them all. Dad, I love you. If I was given a chance to start all over again, there are a lot of things I'd change about my life except one thing ... my dad, who's been there for me through it all. I will always Love you"

Julianne Rowe

Tom Turney

Dear Friends and Family,

I wish to let you know that my father Tom Turney passed away on 25th May 2016. His funeral was held on Monday 30th May at Buderim,

Alvia Turney

Tom was educated at Dr Graham's Homes. He was in Grant and Assam Cottages in John Nuttall & John Christie's time in DGH. Tom emigrated to Australia from the UK with an OG Valarie (nee Towers) and they had a lovely daughter Alvia who also lives in Australia. OGB's here in the UK correspond and talk with the family very regularly. Our condolences to the family on Tom's passing.

John & Ellena Christie



**Condition of the road
from Siliguri to
Kalimpong at the
moment...**

**its horrific with heavy
rains everyday!**



Forthcoming Event

Birthday Celebrations

September 24th 2016

Methodist Church, Hinde Street, London W1

Tube: Bond Street

Doors open 12 noon

1 pm meeting commences

Room MUST be vacated by 5pm

Catering will be done by Munal Tandoor
(Please do not bring any food)

RAFFLE PRIZES WELCOME

Fiona McIntosh would be delighted with any information about the period that her grandmum and mum were in Dr Graham's Homes.

She is working on her next fiction book (she has written 82 books). Her mother's name was Monica Violet Patton and her grandmum, May Iris Patton. Both worked for a short while as teachers in the Homes perhaps late '40's or early '50's. Fiona would welcome any information with regard to both of them.

Fiona McIntosh's email is
fionamc@fionamcintosh.com or
fmcbooks@gmail.com



I am looking for contacts for all the Wilkie's.

Can you help or point me in the right direction?

David was a classmate.

Cheers.

Errol Webber

dghogbsc@just46.justhost.com
Australia



Kalimpong Association UK

Most of you are aware that the **Kalimpong Association UK** will be holding their last Homes Birthday Celebration on 24th September 2016, at the Methodist Church, Hinde Street, London.

The final newsletter from the **Kalimpong Association UK** will be published in December 2016. However, the newsletter will continue to be published under the banner of the **Global OGB Association (GO)** twice a year from 2017.

If you wish to continue receiving this newsletter electronically you must register as a GO member. Membership is FREE and there is no joining fee. You can register online at <http://www.dghogbs.com/> or follow instructions below:

Please register me as a GO member to receive the newsletter. My details are noted below:



Email: _____

Cottage / Dayscholar: _____

Batch / Year of leaving DGH: _____

Country of Residence: _____

Name: _____

I am already a GO Member. My email is: _____

Return completed form to: Mrs Margaretta Purtill (Byers)

67 Brangwyn Crescent,
London SW19 2UA
Email: purtills@btinternet.com



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 : purtills@btinternet.com

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