

# NEWS

SPRING 2000



# LETTER

THE KALIMPONG ASSOCIATION (UK)

1900 - 2000

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**Dorothy Berry**, recently spent 4 months going round the world to visit Bible Club leaders in Zimbabwe and friends in Australia, New Zealand and North America. In her letter she says...

The most memorable highlight was meeting "boys and girls" and workers from Dr. Graham's Homes whom I had not seen for around 50 years. That was a real thrill and I learnt a lot about Kalimpong that I hadn't known before.

I had written to **Martin Holl** who lives near Melbourne, but he was in the UK during July and August, but he wrote reminding me that I had taught him Geography (In fact I had to take over from **Ginger Miles**, who had to return to England due to illness). I had a phone call from **Robert Wilsons** who lived not far from where we were staying (myself and two of my grandchildren), and he came to see me. He remembered that we were both left handed. He told me about his family and his grandchildren, and mentioned that he was a fan of Chelsea Football Club. He told me about his sister **Pat Hardie**, who lives in the UK. I also wrote to **Kevin Tucker**, but did not get a reply. We went to see **Betty Powell (Lucas)**, who has a lovely home near Byron Bay. She has 3 children and 9 grandchildren. In 2000 she will be touring Europe and coming to the UK in July.

In the Blue Mountains we stayed with **Errol Hyde** and his wife **Margaret**. We received a wonderful welcome. Errol showed us slides of Kalimpong so it was all very nostalgic and he remembered Eddy and me taking a group of them for a holiday in Darjeeling and going to the races (I didn't remember that!).

Then **Betty Simpson (Ingles)** invited us all round for a wonderful curry lunch, and we had a great reunion meeting up with **Henry Chapman** and **Helen, Bertha Spalding (Samuels), Alice Allen (Assam), Mary Bond (Spreadbury), Jean Scrymgeour (Thorburn)**. The talk went on for

hours. Berth remembered sitting on the khudside, with me watching the moonlight on Kenchenjunga, and I remembered hiking up **Deolo with Donald and Johnnie Berger**. **Betty** remembered horseback riding to school and **Errol**, how he used to pull hairs out of the horses tails. **Jean** recalled being bitten by a rabid dog and having to have all those injections! My grandchildren were amazed to hear that I had been considered a 'pretty young lady'. **Bill LeFevre** was there too with his wife **Barbara** and son **Jeffrey**, also **Jack and Irene**, lifelong friends of Kalimpong.

On another day we went to **Henry's** home for another wonderful curry. He persuaded me to 'get with it' and gave me a 'Hotmail' Address. Of his daughters, **Louise** now has job with IBM, and **Alison** is training as a chef. **Ivan Holland** and **Judith** were there too. **Donovan Oakley** phoned me. I knew **Donovan** at Laidlaw and Frazer, and although he has retired, He has gone back to work. He was in the world Karate Championship in South Africa, and still teaches it.

In New Zealand we stayed with **Mavis Marden** with whom I had taught. She is busy as ever, and lives next door to her sister. She showed us around Hastings and Napier. She sees **Janet Baptiste**, who lived too far away to visit me, but wrote to tell me how she had lived in New Zealand since 1959, when she came as a nanny. She has since trained and worked as a midwife for the past 34 years. She keeps in touch with **Pat and Nancy Harris, Nancy Halliday, Pippa Macey** and **Thuten Kesang**. She hopes to visit her brother and family in Perth and is also hoping that he will come for Christmas, as she has not seen him since 1972.

I phoned **Thuten Kesang** in Auckland. It was good to hear all about the OGB's he knows and how they are helping the Homes. He is booked to go to the centenary celebrations.

I would like to thank all the folk from Dr. Graham's Homes whom I met in Australia and New Zealand. Kindness was poured out upon me and I shall never forget the splendid time I had with them.

## Grand Curry Supper

A Grand Curry Supper and Auction in aid of Dr. Graham's Homes was held at the Raj Restaurant, in Lieth, Edinburgh On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February. The event was organised by **Rev. John Webster and Jennifer Webster**, with the assistance of the UK Committee Members in Scotland. 96 people were at the Buffet, where a variety of curries, rice and savouries were served. £5.00 of each dinner ticket was donated to the Homes.

The auction was held after the supper, with a theme of **"Please bid with your heart rather than your head - Celebrate, don't cerebrate!"**. There were 65 lots auctioned by the auctioneer, John Webster, who did a splendid job of getting diners to part with their money. **Over £6000** was raised - not bad eh!!!

OGB's present included **Rosemarie Baker (Pearson), Vanda Frazer (Goodwin), Eston Kilgour, Donald Todd, Gordon Webster, Johnathon Webster, Florence Snell (Hopper) and Molly McCabe.**

The UK Committee wish to thank all those present at the auction for their generous giving, individuals who sent cash donations, that many kind individuals who donated items for the auction and the firms and businesses for their generous support. Appreciation to the Raj Restaurant, Henderson Street, Lieth.

## The Taj and Kalimpong

**John Webster writes:**

The escapist in me has always enjoyed travel, but the monthly bank statement invariably brings this fantasy back to reality! I had heard of couriers taking important diplomatic packages to embassies in far away places, but enquiries produced nothing. Following retirement, I wrote to Alistair McCabe of McCabe Travel Ltd. (The McCabe family have maintained a lively interest in Kalimpong, ever

since George (Farm Manager) and Mollie (Teacher) worked there).

Was it feasible to organise a tour to Calcutta and Kalimpong? I wrote, "My intention would be to expose the party to some of the abject poverty of Calcutta, produce the question 'What can be done?' and then take them up country to Dr. Graham's Homes to demonstrate what one man with vision actually did beginning in 1900. In this way I would hope to generate new interest in the Homes.

Alistair responded that it would certainly would be feasible, but no one would book a holiday tour to Calcutta! Instead he suggested a tour incorporating a tour to the "Golden Triangle" (Delhi, The Taj, Rajasthan & Jaipur) concluding with visits to Darjeeling and Kalimpong. So it was in October last year I left Heathrow with an expectant party of 23 bound for Delhi. Most were visiting India for the first time, two OGB's were returning to their families, and perhaps of greatest significance, in the party were the 'sponsors' of six children. In the case of three of the children this would be the first time of meeting!

Over a period of six days, guides introduced us to parts of Old and New Delhi, The Taj Mahal in Agra, Fatehpur Sikri, The Amber Fort near Jaipur, The Observatory (Jantar Mantar) and the Palace of Winds (Hava Mahal) in Jaipur.

Back in Delhi it was time to anticipate the flight to Bagdogra (still a glorious shambles) and the drive up to the sanctuary of the hills. DGH here we come! A full day in Darjeeling allowed visits to Tiger Hill for the sunrise & Everest in full view, a ride in the 'Toy Train', visits to the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute and Zoo and the bazaar for shopping.

Darjeeling to Kalimpong (via Ringle Runghit Tea Estate) brought back happy memories of the first sponsored walk! The snows were 'out' in full splendour to welcome us. After a nights rest in the Himalayan Hotel, we were off up the Murray Road for morning prayers in the Chapel. Suddenly it seemed, as the Chapel vibrated to the glorious sound of praise, the ambience and spirit of Dr. Graham's Homes overwhelmed the party.

Immediately following the Service, the children met their 'sponsors'. It was impossible to tell who

were the most excited and frightened as the children and new Uncle and Auntie met each other. Initial apprehension soon gave way to excited chatter and laughter, smiles and hugs (abs. Excited man!). Dr. Graham must have been smiling in heaven. This, after all was why he began the work 100 years ago! In these encounters outside the Chapel, the spirit of the Founder was captured.

A comprehensive tour of the Homes followed, culminating in a concert specially put on by the pupils for our party - a splendid conclusion to what by general consent, had been a memorable visit.

As a result, the existing sponsors left convinced of the worth of the work being done. One couple took on the support of a child on behalf of their Church, another couple hoped to do so, while a trustee in the party resolved to arrange for a further donation from her trust!

I have to record, in conclusion, that I am writing this 'report' in Glasgow Airport. Tonight I fly out for London with another party (22 of us), to do it all again! It is my hope and prayer that not only will my travel bug be satisfied, but, more especially, others will want to become involved in the on-going work of the Homes for the needy children and to the Glory of God.

## Other News:

**Freddie Pakinathan**, Honorary Treasurer of the Association (UK) and former member of teaching staff at DGH, suffered a severe heart attack on the 16th February, and was taken to St. Thomas' Hospital, London, where he underwent a quadruple heart by-pass operation the same day. He was discharged on the 24th February and is now back at home.

He says "I was lucky that my daughter **Vanita** was close by to come and take me to hospital straight away and there was an eminent surgeon present and surgery was performed almost immediately. **Philip and Vanita** were with me for 3-4 days in the hospital. My wife **Ruth** cut short her trip to India and returned on the 21st February and has been nursing me since then. It will take several weeks for me to get absolutely fit. We thank God for his mercies. I take this opportunity to wish all OGB's and friends a very prosperous 2000".

**Norman Hutchinson**, former pupil at DGH, **Heathland Cottage**, well known artist and royal portrait painter is featured in a book to be published in November 2000 - details will be given in the Autumn Newsletter. OGB's can buy a pre-publication autographed copy of the book to be published by the Unicorn Press.

**Sister Margaret Cassidy MBE** who worked in the **Steele Memorial Hospital** has moved from Carey Court to a nearby nursing home after a severe fall, fracturing her leg. She would be glad



to receive a card or a line from OGB's and colleagues. **Visitors would also be very welcome.** Her address is - **Ashbourne Care, Camberwell Green Care Centre, Camberwell Green, London SE5 7AS Tel: 0207 708 0026.**

**Audrey Elk-Morris** writes " Margaret looked very well and I could picture her in the crisp starched sisters' uniform she wore when she was head sister in the Steele Memorial Hospital. She looked contented at the care centre and spoke well of the helpful staff. She would be pleased to see OGB's.

**Michael Robertson**, President and Chairman, Board of Management, writes: "We had our **Himalayan Fun Festival** for Dr. Graham's Homes, which was a success as we were able to collect Rs.350,000/- in one day. Of course it is a lot of preparatory work. Banners from companies and collecting over a thousand gifts donated by organisations and people. It is the Calcutta Committee's main fund raising event of the year. We also plan to do Easter 2000 where we will showcase our children to a Calcutta audience,

where we also hope to raise more funds. Do keep writing and support the cause of DGH. It is especially important to talk of the work being continued in India".

### **London Marathon - Nick Sankey**

Last year I was fortunate enough to be able to spend 4 months at Dr. Graham's Homes as part of the GAP year scheme, a year between completing my 'A' Levels and starting at University, which I have now done.

The few months I spent at the Homes were an amazing experience at a place that I would thoroughly recommend to anyone wishing to take a year out between School and University. The love and warmth at the Homes was unique and very touching, it was an experience that will not be forgotten, and I hope to repeat during my University holidays this summer.

As I am sure you will all know, this year is the Centenary of the Homes. One of the projects that is hoped can be realised this year is the refurbishment of the Jarvie Hall, so I have decided to run the London Marathon on the 16th April. I am already wondering why! (regularly).

The Jarvie Hall has had very little done to it since it was built, and you don't need a surveyor to notice that it is in a dilapidated state! There are many rotting floorboards (and child size holes) as well as a leaky roof. In my time at the Homes I helped to direct two cottage plays. For one of these the Liadlaw children had spent a long time and lots of effort setting up on the Friday night, only to find it flooded the following morning, thanks to the Monsoon. During rehearsals and performance of these two plays, I was electrocuted three times due to the very poor wiring, an incident which could have been far more dangerous if it had happened to one of the children.

I have set myself a target of £2,500 to start with, which would be added to the fundraising for the same project in India. Although this is a very large sum, it would be considerably harder to raise this in Bengal. I realise that many of you are already very generous in your support for the Homes, but wonder weather you will forgive me for asking for this one extra contribution to help me towards this figure. I believe that put alongside the newly refurbished Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel,

having the two most important buildings in Kalimpong in excellent condition would be a fitting start to the Homes' second century.

I would appreciate if you would be able to send any cheques you and your friends feel able to offer me to the address below, made payable to "Dr. Graham's Homes". I will obviously not bank them until after I have completed the race, but it would save much time, effort and postage in late April. Many thanks, in grateful anticipation. I am sure that you will hear of my 'exploits' in a Homes Newsletter later this year.

Cheques made payable to "Dr. Graham's Homes", and posted to **Nick Sankey, Potters Hill, Wrotham Heath, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 7SX.**

**Shenell Namey**, sponsored by the Kalimpong Association (UK), in a letter to Fiona Cranston, sponsorship secretary, writes: I am very sorry to inform you that I will be leaving school today as my Father has come to take me home - most probably I will continue studies in Calcutta. May I say how grateful I am for all your kindness and thoughtfulness towards me, and of course your keen interest in taking me on. Though I will be going away from here, I will never forget what you have done for me to achieve a good education here in the Homes. I shall always remember you all in my prayers.

**Roy Davidson**, the son of **Helen Davidson (Brown)** Is soon to be on his way to Kalimpong to trace his parents footsteps. On his return, Roy has promised that he will write an article for the newsletter, and possibly have some pictures of the Homes.

## **Can You Help?**

**Rosie Douglas'** whereabouts are being sought. She was in Macgregor Cottage in the 40's. Anybody with information please contact Eddie Lamb. Tel: 0208 691 0118

**Jean Fosberry** is searching for her childhood friends, **Barbara and Aida James**, who were in the Homes in approximately 1955. Anyone with information please contact Jean via e-mail at

fosberry@dsc.wa.gov.au or via the editor Tel: 020 8653 6769

**Esther Lyons**, author of the book 'Unwanted' is trying to search for her Aunt, **Agnes Wright** or any of her descendants. **Agnes**, along with her brother **Edward** was placed in the Homes in the early 1900's. Any information please, by e-mail to lyonsfab@gtml.com.au or via the editor Tel 020 8653 6769.

Information is being sought for **Stewart Louis Walter Ross**, who was a school teacher at the Homes in the years 1908 - 1920. Also any information on his wife **Jessie Brownlee** who was also a member of staff at approximately the same time.. Any information, via e-mail to **Estelle Ross** at the following address djerba68@hotmail.com or via the editor. Tel 020 8653 6769.

## Reunion

DGH reunion will be held on the 12th June 2000 at 3 PM in the Church Hall at the Hinde Street Methodist Church London W1. Family and friends are cordially invited. Any contributions, in kind, towards the food and raffle will be very welcomed.

## OBITUARIES

**Richard Romer** (Heathland) passed away in December 1999 in Calcutta, aged 56. He worked as a chef at the Planters Club in Darjeeling, and when he found out about his illness, he and his wife **Betty** left Darjeeling to be with their two sons in Calcutta. He died shortly after.

We extend our sympathy to his wife and family.

**Julie Scott (nee Markham)** passed away in Edinburgh on the 18th January 2000 aged 65. Julie came to the Homes late in her education when her mother was a nursing sister (**Sister Markham**) in the Steele Memorial Hospital. She was in Macgregor Cottage.

After completing the Senior Cambridge Exams in 1952, she left India for Scotland where she trained and worked as a nurse in the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, and later married **William (Bill) Scott**. Julie's love of DGH never diminished. She was proud of her DGH upbringing, contributed generously to the school, became a member of the Kalimpong Association and supported many of the Kalimpong functions in London and Edinburgh.

Her son **Kenneth**, in a letter advising us of her death, writes: "Having come from India at the age of 17, my mother set an example to us all by demonstrating the Christian way in the most selfless manner, despite very difficult circumstances. She was a tower of strength inwardly and shall be sorely missed by those close to her."

We send our deepest sympathies to her husband Bill, and her children, **Kenneth, William, Alistair and Pat**.

**Andre Ronald Eric D'Cruz**, was tragically killed in a car accident on the 19th January. Andre was the son of **Colonel Denzil D'Cruz** (dec'd) and **OGB Barbara D'Cruz (Wooton)**.

We would like to extend our sympathy to Barbara and all the family. His father would have said "**Thapai kithi ramro kaeta cha**". "**You were a wonderful son**".

**William Dudgeon** passed away on the 16th April 1999 at home. He had been ill for some time. Bill was the Technical / Workshop Manager in DGH from 1960-64. His wife **Ruby (Green)** was a Lucia King Auntie, and their two daughters, **Kathleen and Moira** were attached to Thorburn Cottage.

Bill was very involved in youth work in the local church and both were members of the Kalimpong Association.

He will be deeply missed by his pupils, friends and colleagues. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife **Ruby** and daughters **Kathleen and Moira**.

## Events at the Homes April 2000 - Sept 2000

		8-9-00	Special Service, Lady Holden Essay Competition + Sit and Draw Competition
6-4-00	Special service followed by a programme for students	17-9-00	Grahamites Rededication Service
20-4-00	Easter fellowship Camp (3 days)	22-9-00	Swimming Gala
04-5-00	Centenary Basketball Tournament (2 days)	23-9-00	Birthday Service, Arts & Crafts Exhibition, Torch-Light Tattoo
11-5-00	Singing Competition	24-9-00	Birthday Gathering, Birthday Ball (Students only)
12-5-00	Prize Day & Staff Play	25-9-00	Public Reception, School Play
13-5-00	May Fair & May Ball	26-9-00	Reunion (Batch 1975), Jam Session, OGB's Raffle Dinner Dance
14-5-00	Flower Service and Choral Fest; Junior and Kindergarten Concert		
13-7-00	Centenary Fest (Various events) (2 days)	27-9-00	Pagal Gymkhana, Barrah Khana, Fest of Song & Music
		28-9-00	Sponsored Walk

### 1999/2000 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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