



Kalimpong Association UK

Christmas 2015 Newsletter



*May the blessing of Christ be with you,
And all your loved ones,
On this blessed Christmas time,
Indulge in all the Christmas fun, .
Stay blessed
Merry Christmas & a happy new year!*

Margaretta & Vincent Purtill

OGBs September Reunion in Kalimpong

from Thuten Kesang



We arrived in Kampong from New Delhi on 22nd September after our 14 days trip to Ireland. It was great seeing all the banners around Kampong, welcoming the OGBs to the 115th anniversary of Dr Graham's Homes. These were done by the Kampong Association of OGBs. Thank you to you all.

water polo between Fraser and Willingdon which we always looked forward to. No diving competition either. Old girls from a number of different years had a race, which was very exciting to watch. However, I was surprised that there was no race between the senior students and the OGBs. This used to be something we looked forward to. In 2010, we had this race. There was a break for about 30 minutes, where we were treated to morning tea at the disused Greenhouse shed, which was enjoyed by all. Unfortunately I did not see the rest of the swimming gala, as we had to rush off to room 21.



23rd September: We started the day by attending the school swimming gala at 9 am. As usual everyone was so excited about the competition. **I was very sad to see that many cottages were not represented due to their closure, like Hart, Elliott, Fraser, Willingdon and Centenary cottages.** In my days Hart and Laidlaw always fought for the swimming shield. There was also no

GO general meeting: While the swimming gala was on, some of the GO Management members were busy setting up Room 21 for the meeting and distributing leaflets to OGBs to sign up for GO membership. We are very pleased that there were about 100 + OGBs who filled the forms. Everyone started to arrive and sharp at 1.30 pm

our Vice Patron Margaretta Purtil chaired the meeting. She introduced various speakers from GO management team to explain to the OGBs what GO is all about and why we were set up in the first place. It was clearly stated that in order to help the Homes, the OGBs Associations all around the world must be united in order to save the legacy of Daddy Graham, who founded the institution for needy children of India.

The GO management team had invited General Mukherjee, the chairman of the Board of Management to attend our meeting and perhaps explain the concept of the College building in the Homes to the OGBs. **Unfortunately he could not come but appointed three local Board members to attend on his behalf.** Then we invited the school management, headed by newly appointed CEO Dr Abraham to explain about the college. Col. Thapa gave a power point presentation explaining the need to establish a college in order to save the Homes from financial collapse.

Then the floor was open for questions and what followed was an outpouring of genuine love, passion and concern for the institution. The questions posed were valid and concrete but unfortunately neither the School administration nor the Board Members present could provide solid answers.

Many in the room felt that decisions regarding the College had been made without proper guidance and without considering the ethos of the Homes. Many questioned the need for the College. Questions were asked about

planning and implementation and the neglect of the school at the cost of building the College.

The meeting became very unruly and the Chairman and I tried a number of times to defuse the situation, but eventually we had to close this meeting. However with request from Bradley Mawer, Vice Chairman of GO, another meeting was scheduled to be held by the School Management and the OGBs on 25th September at 11 am, to continue discussion on the pros and cons of the college building in the Homes. The afternoon tea was provided by GO to all OGBs.

Some of the OGBs attended the school concert in the late afternoon; others went back to the hotels to prepare for the evening, where we all attended a Dinner and Dance to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Batch of 90s. This was held on the Betty Sheriff Memorial Hall. The evening started with several speeches and recognition of many teachers by the students of the 1990 batch. This was followed by a lovely dinner and dance, enjoyed by all.



Batch of 1990

24th September: The Homes birthday celebration started at 9 am in the Jarvie Hall. As usual many greetings for the Homes birthday were read out.



Unfortunately Mr Brooks, who was going to be there could not come due to his health, so his daughter Pauline read his birthday greetings to us all. The guest of honour was an ex student, who kept on using our motto, THOROUGH amongst his speech. He said that we were taught to be thorough in everything we did in the Homes and he hopes that we all use this

motto in our daily life, as he does. *(Hope the Homes will print his speech somewhere on the web site for all to read; well worth reading)*

It was also announced that the Chief Minister of West Bengal had donated a school bus to the Homes, as a part of the 115th Anniversary celebrations. It was due to arrive on that day.

The Birthday cake was cut. The batch of 90's, who were celebrating their Silver Jubilee all came on the stage. As part of their celebration, the batch of 90's donated many computers which were installed in the school library and we were all invited to view them after the Buns and Jelabies.

We gathered in front of the Jarvie Hall to have a service in front of the bust of Daddy Graham and to offer our garlands and khatas. The school choir sang a lovely hymn. The prayer was led by Rev Henry Simon. Then James Roxborough, one of the oldest OGBs attending, gave





a speech reminding us of the legacy that Daddy Graham left and our duty, as OGBs, to do whatever we can to help the Homes and keep the vision of the founder alive by helping all those needy children of India. He spoke passionately about the Homes. Then one by one we were all invited to place the khata or garland on Daddy Graham's bust. This was a very moving tribute by the OGBs to his memory.

Everyone was invited to the Crosier Club for Buns and Jelabies. Of course

most of them joined the kids on the field where all were having a great time. After tea we all went to view the Museum, Library and the Art Room. The computers in the library will be a good asset to the Homes. The 90s batch have installed 6 computers which are connected to the internet. They are also providing maintenance for 3 years.

The Kalimpong OGBs had arranged a Masquerade Ball night for all OGBs at Sinclairs hotel in 7th mile. This was well



organised and Des Meyers ran a fund-raising auction. Most had their masks on; those who didn't have a mask could purchase one there and there. The dinner was sumptuous and enjoyed by us all. Luckily for those who wanted to leave early from the ball they had organised taxis for us to use, otherwise we would have been stuck as Kalimpong shuts down by 8 pm!

25th September: Our second meeting with the management was held in

state of the cottages in the Homes and also the shutting down of many cottages to facilitate the upcoming collage. *Most of the answers given were again not very satisfactory and the result was a very heated discussion.*

I was very pleased to hear from the newly appointed CEO, Dr Abraham, who has been on the compound for only three weeks. He assured us his top priority is to make sure the school functions well so that parents will want



room 21. Many questions were answered unsatisfactorily by Board members about the situation in the Homes and the new college which is to be built in the school compound. Once again there were lots of questions about the college building and the

to send their children to the Homes. But in order to do that he needs to put in place many things to improve and make it happen and he asked the OGB to assist the Homes financially to implement his ideas. The GO members have requested him to supply in detail

his requirements, so that the GO management team can look at the projects and make funds available as and when the decision is made to fund these projects.

GO membership at large will be asked for donations to fulfil the requests made by Dr Abraham. This will come to you via email or it will be on our website www.dghogbs.com for all to see.

There was no programme that afternoon apart from another Dine and Dance for the OGBs arranged by Kalimpong Association, again far away on Dhurpin Hill. This time many didn't go because there were no taxis arranged to bring us back to our hotels. During the day we took the opportunity to visit some of the cottages and also those cottages which were shut down.

I particularly wanted to see the water tank next to Wiston cottage that was built a few years ago. The project was undertaken by the Irish Committee with help from New Zealand committee. The project was supposed to supply water for most of the compound and had a budget of 42,000 Euros. I was told this was not in use at present. **I was very disappointed to see the lack of maintenance of this very expensive project.** Then went and had a look at Fraser Hostel. It was all overgrown.

The extra building going up beside Fraser looked like no work had been done on it for months. The lack of general maintenance in the Homes compound is very disheartening. I

am absolutely baffled, when we are overstaffed with state workers. What do they do for their handsome wages ?

26th September: We took the opportunity to take the two boys we sponsor from New Zealand to town for the day. To do this I had to get the boys to sign a form by three people, before we could take them to town. I have been working for the Homes for almost 45 years and yet we have to go through all these exercises to take the two boys out. Don't they trust us anymore? Anyway, I am sure the boys enjoyed themselves and we bought them lots of things they wanted and had a very good lunch at the restaurant chosen by them. We brought them back to the Homes by 3.30 pm.

So let me finish of my report by saying it was great meeting so many of you at the Homes during the Homes Birthday celebration from 22-26 September.

Summary

Our GO meeting on 23rd September, was well attended by the OGBs and was a great opportunity for the GO team to brief all of you about GO and what the Association is set up to



do for the children of the Homes. I know many of you registered with GO that day. Thank you.

Many of our members are members of your local OGBs Association in various countries. May I request that you ask your local Chairman/President to have their Association join the **Global OGBs Association**. especially the Associations in Nepal, Bhutan Sikkim and all the OGB Associations in India. If we work together, we can do far more to help the children of the Homes.

It would be great if one of the above Indian sub-continent OGB Associations would take the initiative and call a conference of all the local associations and try to establish a UNITED front. Once we are UNITED, we would request a few influential OGBs who live in India to be on the board of the Global OGB Association.

After all, together we are the stake holders of this GREAT INSTITUTION called Dr Graham's Homes.

Merry Christmas one and all.

Thuten



Pauline delivering Mr. Brook's greetings





Batch of 1990





Rev. Henry Simon, Angelo Alva and Margretta Purtil



Sunday service in the Jarvie Hall on 20 September



Class of 1990



The choir

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS AT HOMES

Father & daughter
Jennifer & Robert Street



On an April Sunday afternoon in Shillong, as we sat on the lawn enjoying the garden, Dad asked me if I'd like to take a trip to Dr. Graham's Homes in Kalimpong. I of course, said yes!

My Father is a busy and hard-working man, yet he always makes time for his old school. On September 24th the school celebrated the 115th birthday of its founder, Dr John Anderson Graham. We participated in the five yearly gathering of OGB's and a full four-day programme for alumni.

We were a travelling troupe of twelve people, ten of whom are OGBs. (I did not attend the school) We set off from Shillong in three SUV's on Sunday the 20th September at 10 pm.

This is a highly, strange, time of the night, to start a road journey, and in India, of all places!

Well, precisely because it is *Incredible India*, our neighbour Assam had called for a Bandh, or a roadblock, in the Bongaigon area, which unfortunately for us, was right bang, smack, in the middle of the area we had to drive through to get to Kalimpong. Also, as Murphy's Law would have it, the bandh was called just a few hours before we were due to travel. We left that night. No choice.

We drove through the night for ten straight hours. It was an exhilarating driving through the dark hours and into the dawn, so as to be clear of the Assam border by sunrise.

You are immediately struck by the ascent into the hills when you drive across the Coronation Bridge over the River Teesta. The school is a further forty-six kilometres ahead from this point, yet it is always pleasurable and advisable to stop and take a break at the riverside restaurants and order a plate of steaming momos.

This is not my first visit to the Homes. Three times previously, Dad and I have driven there and usually with an OGB friend, as company. It is pleasing that now there are more hotels and guesthouses you can choose to stay in, but the familiar chaos of Kalimpong's centre, with its tedious traffic jams on it's narrow roads must be endured, as it

is the only way to get to the school. Twenty minutes later, you ascend a winding road, up a mighty hill, that welcomes you to the beautiful premises of Dr. Graham's Homes.

From an observer's point of view, the registration for the event, suggests a very high attendance.

The Birthday Celebrations covered four, programme-filled days of varying events for all OGB's to involve themselves in. Choices ranged from sporting events such as swimming and football to inter-cottage singing competitions, interspersed with special lunches and dinners.

The inauguration of the Internet hub is worthy of note and was donated by the batch of 1990.



Everyone who attended put their best foot forward, taking part in all activities with good cheer and gusto, reviving the nostalgic "good times" of their youth. It of course, transcended into the evenings. The first formal, dinner I attended was on the 23rd evening, at the School premises in the J.P.H. Wing, hosted by the Silver Jubilee Batch of 1990. Many familiar faces walked up and acknowledged us.

A lot of these people are friends of my father. Their names echo through the years and a great bond is maintained between them. Many are teachers with great jobs and lots of global exposure. Then there is the Homes' camaraderie, shared amongst all OGBs. So much so, that they collect whatever resources they can and donate generously to their treasured Homes' coffers.

We moved away from the dance floor and into one of the big classrooms serving that night as the drinks area. My Father beckoned me to meet three gentlemen he was standing with.

It was after a few minutes conversation with one of these gentlemen, that I noticed behind us the condition of the windowpanes. Many were broken and some had shards of glass still in them - a health and safety hazard. There was dirt on the walls, dim lighting and the desks and chairs were in a very poor condition. I resumed my conversation with the gentleman, whom incidentally, happened to be Mr Banerjee, the present Homes' Headmaster.

September the 24th was a busy day. Made especially so, by the preparations for the evening Ball at Sinclairs Hotel. Smart red and black was the dress code for the evening and most adhered to the code. I met a lot of people that night, some I haven't seen in twenty years. It was a very good evening, with a huge turnout.



The hall itself was beautifully decorated, with a backdrop of landscaped gardens outdoors and mood lighting indoors. It made for many good conversations and photographs.

The next morning, we attended the Extraordinary General Meeting in the school at 10:30 am, called to continue discussions started at the inaugural Annual General Meeting of GO.

As an observer at the meeting, if one is to try and qualify where the meeting's robustness came from, it lay in the dissatisfaction of so many OGB's present with the Board of Management of their treasured Homes.

In today's world, a School's premises and its facilities give off clues as to what kind of place it is. For example, a classroom's windowpanes should have glass in the panes, especially at the Homes to protect you from wind and fog streaming into the classroom, as you dutifully sit there and try to listen to your teacher.

The diet and nutrition of the boarding students is important. Sunday service

with singing for all in the beautiful Chapel, is another. The Management Board members having the interests of the unique Homes at their core, is another.

Sadly and unacceptably, one cannot say it is the case, with any of the above-mentioned scenarios, and this is the source of the discontent that is hanging heavy in the air with many OGB's. That same day, we stopped and talked with a few Year 9 boarders. They told us how hungry they always are. This resonated most deeply with me.

We bid our farewells to the OGB's after the Extraordinary Meeting, with promises and ideas for improvement floating all round. Our travelling troupe then tootled down the hill, strung with stories, to have a marvellous lunch at an OGB's home close to the School.

Looking back, firstly to the Ball, many OGB's mentioned that I might now consider myself, an adopted OGB. I feel it a deep privilege.

Mention also should be made of the road trip. In spite of huge landslides, road bandhs and terribly large potholes that ruin your lower spine (unless you happen to have Mercedes suspension

under you!) we experienced a round trip of two thousand kilometres, all in the Monsoon rain! It was a fantastic drive from Meghalaya to West Bengal and back.

However, the juxtaposition that stands out most from the celebrations is this:

How, when the windowpanes, buildings and toilets aren't being maintained to a standard, that the Board answer is down to a lack of funds; that they cannot carry out necessary maintenance works on the already standing School buildings, including the Kathleen Graham Memorial Chapel, which for a few years now, has held no service ...

Yet, at the same time, the Board suggests the starting of a whole new College.

The OGB's at the celebrations have expressed their concern and we hope and pray that the required steps are taken to reinstate the Homes into its erstwhile glory.

The phrase, "per ardua surgo" appears applicable here.

A blessed Christmas to you all, OGB's!

**Jeannette Street
Shillong 2015.**

Reunions at the London Birthday Party By Beryl Richardson



Jellabies! Yum, Yum

The last one I had eaten was in 1959, and now at the Homes Birthday Reunion in

London in September this year.

What a memorable and enjoyable time that was to be sure and, of course, the jellabie was secondary to the meeting up with former pupils and staff. Thank you to all those who worked behind the scenes to make this occasion such a success.

It was a wonderful time for me, made possible by my son Paul, who took me, and was responsible for putting my old photos, taken 60 years ago, online. These were picked up by Norman Freeman whom I had the pleasure of meeting at the reunion.

What a joy to meet up with Nola Beacher who has so faithfully kept in touch with me throughout the intervening years since we cared for our precious little ones in the 'Pink family' at Lucia King in 1955-57. After that, for myself, it was House Aunty at Thorburn and then Housemother at Elliott Cottages. I understand there were some from these Cottages who were there when I was and I'm sorry I didn't get to meet them at the reunion. Their names, I'm afraid, had faded from

my memory – Audrey Morris (Elk), Leonie Appleby (Goudine) and Rosa Foo (Nichols). Perhaps they will again come and say ‘Hello’ to me at the next reunion. Yes, I hope to be there, even though I will be nearly 90 years old!

Now, how did I come to DGH in the first place? It all started with a holiday at a Young People’s Conference Centre at Hildenborough Hall in Kent. Whilst there, a notice was pinned on the board informing guests of need for staff at the Homes. Although I was a nursery nurse I wasn’t interested in working in India, so had no inclination to respond.

However, a short time later I had the most vivid dream in which I was standing on the beach beside a long pier. At the end of the pier there was a steamer which was about to embark. As I watched it pulled out and sailed away. I was panic-stricken, knowing that I should have been on that boat, sailing away to India. After waking from the dream I had no peace until I applied to go and serve at DGH. How grateful I am to have had that prompting, and how gracious of God to enable me to obey.

I would like to close, as I did at the reunion, with a reminder to us all from Shweta and Bradley, included in the Christmas 2014 Newsletter. I quote:

“For 114 years our dear institution has stood the challenges of time. We were built on the faith that our Founder had in God and I believe that if

each of us have that same faith we can lead the Homes for another 114 years and beyond.” May God grant that to the blessing of many more.

Beryl Richardson (nee Moat)

**Nola Becher (nee Ball-Rabell)
would like to add a comment**

It was so nice to meet up with Auntie Beryl Moat, now Richardson, at the reunion after 59 years. She just hasn’t changed. We were so lucky to have such a lovely, kind person, to be in charge of the “Pink Family” at Lucia King.

I have been keeping in touch with her and spent a lovely holiday with her mother and brother, back in 1957-58, not sure of the date, when I was so unhappy, all alone, down here in Chichester. They were such a lovely, caring, loving family. Hence their lovely daughter and sister. God bless you Auntie Beryl and thank you for being such a wonderful friend.

Auntie Beryl you were the best!



More from the London Birthday party from Norman Freeman

On Saturday 26 September just under 60 of us met at Hinde Street Methodist Church Hall, London to celebrate the 115th Homes' Birthday Celebrations.

I eagerly awaited the arrival of Mrs Beryl Richardson (nee Moat) and her son Paul. I have been corresponding with Beryl for a few months now. I introduced myself and took them over to the table where Ellena Christie (Chapman) took down our names and that of our Cottages. We found a table and began to meet and greet others.

I then noticed Nola Beacher (Ball-Rabell) and her sister Diana Nuttall walk in and I invited them to join our table and introduced them to Beryl and Paul. It was quite emotional for Nola meeting up with her after almost 60 years. They sat next to each other.

Pemma (Pamela) Fox, in the absence of Margaretta, took the Chair and we began with reading out the names of OGBS and staff that had passed away during the past year followed by a minute's silence in their memory and then an opening prayer. Pemma then introduced those were attending for the first time. There were several in the gathering that came over to meet Beryl as she had been either House Aunty or House Mother to them.

Homes' Birthday Greetings were read out from those absent and after this Pemma asked us one by one to say who we were and something about DGH. We all enjoyed that as one or two of us had something hilarious to say.

Vince Purtil, Margaretta's husband mentioned that he was an ex- Calcutta Cottage boy (that's the only cottage whose name he could remember!) and that had all of us in splits of laughter as he was not an OGB. **Beryl spoke last, and encouraged us to remember that DGH was founded on Christian faith by "Daddy" Graham** and had lasted for 115 years. If each and every one of us continued to have that same faith, we can lead the Homes for another 115 years and beyond that.

After that we enjoyed aq delicious meal of curry and rice with accompaniments prepared by Leonie Appleby (Goudine) and Juliana Duckworth. There were a great many helpers including John Duckworth, Rosemary Baker (Pearson), Rosa Foo (Nichols) and Patrick Appleby as well. There were jars of pickles, salads, green chillies, yogurt, dips etc. etc. Later we had jellabies and the beautiful Homes Birthday Cake made by Rosaland Woodlard and cut by Vince. How could I forget teas!

We all joined in the singing of The Homes' Rallying Song led by Kevin Tucker, John Duckworth and myself.

Thanks must be given to the Munro sisters, Linda & Cynthia who faithfully sell the Raffle tickets. Not forgetting Donald Edwards who takes our Group photograph and over the years has taken many pictures and produced DVDs as well, of DGH related events. Many thanks to any others who have helped out and may not have been mentioned. Finally A big thank you to one and all who attended and made the gathering a happy and memorable occasion.



The Reunion in DGH from Glynis Johnson

This September I decided to visit India one last time as my class the Batch of 1973 was having another reunion in Kalimpong to coincide with the Homes Birthday. I was excited to see some of my batch mates, some of whom I had not seen for 42 years!

A reunion of batch mates who could not make it to KPG was held at the DI club in Calcutta. Larry Westley joined us for an evening of fun along with OGBs Warren Snelleckz, and Allan Carey who was in India with his lovely wife, and Yvonne Hughes who had travelled with Brenda Hasseldine from Australia and Sushil Mantri and his wife Surita.

The following day, Brenda, Yvonne and myself travelled by the Darjeeling mail from Sealdah to Jalpaiguri. On arrival we met Joanna Taylor and Kathleen Lesley and travelled together up to Kalimpong. We stayed at the *Roots and Shoot* Guest house run by Preetama, an OGB who was a wonderful host.

It was such a shame that it rained for the whole six days that we stayed in Kalimpong. Even the weather could not dampen our spirits as we were keen to explore the campus and catch up with other OGBs.

The following day we made our way to the School to register and were so excited to be on the school premises. The Batch of 1990 hosted most of the events and I must say they did a fantastic job!

Yvonne and I spent the rest of that day visiting different parts of the campus and were very saddened by some of the things we saw. In particular, the state of some of the cottages that were closed and in a real state of disrepair. The one that upset me the most was Assam as my husband Charlie Johnson and his brothers were Assam boys.

I couldn't bring myself to take any photographs of the cottage as they would have been very distressed to see the state Assam cottage was in. The other building that brought tears to our eyes was the Church. It had been very badly damaged by the earthquakes and cannot be used for worship any longer and I felt particularly sad as I used to be a member of the choir and loved the church, it was my favourite building in the whole school.

The following day was the Swimming Gala and I must say the standard of swimming was excellent. A lovely tea was also put on by batch of 1990 for all the OGBs. In the evening was the inter-cottage singing competition which was very enjoyable.

We were disappointed, though, that there was no competition between Fraser and Willingdon hostel as neither of the hostels were in operation any longer. This used to be the highlight of the Singing Competition.

On the day of the Birthday celebrations the weather broke and the children enjoyed their buns and jelibies outside. In the evening the batch of 1990 hosted the Birthday Ball at the Sinclair Hotel – a masked ball with a red and black theme. Des Myers organised a fund-raising auction with OGB's donating great items.

We spent two more days in Kalimpong and attended two meetings on the campus relating to the various changes taking place in the school, in particular, the introduction of a Teacher's Training College on the campus.

The first meeting had to be aborted as the Chairperson Margaretta (Purtill) decided that the proceedings were getting too heated with many OGBs very upset with the Board about the changes taking place in the School. It was noticed that the Chairman Mr Mukerjee did not attend any of the birthday gatherings considering that it was a special event.

Another meeting was held the following day and this meeting was more constructive, although the general view was that the OGBS were against the Teachers Training College being built on the campus. Various questions were put to the Board but in the absence of the Chairman we did not get any answers.

The journey back to Calcutta was not a very enjoyable experience. It was so hot when we got on the train as the air-conditioning did not kick in until the train started moving. Suffice to say I did not get much sleep.

We arrived early that following day. That evening Sushil and Surita organised a farewell dinner at their beautiful apartment for our batch and other OGBS in Calcutta. The drinks flowed and the food was delicious. I was due to leave for the UK early the next morning, so we said our goodbyes and a few tears were shed!

In spite of the changes taking place in the Homes we had a great reunion and rekindled our friendships and enjoyed being with our classmates, reminiscing about the good old days!

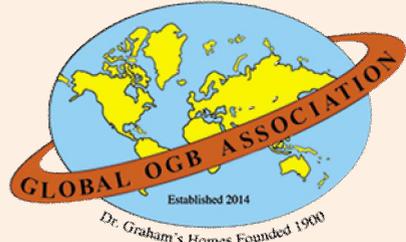
Glynis Johnson



Global OGB Association

GO Highlights since May 2015

Many thanks to Margaret a for giving us the opportunity to share some GO news



New Homes CEO

GO welcomes new Homes CEO Dr. John & Minnie Abraham. The arrival in September of the new CEO and his wife at the Homes is long overdue. Dr Abraham's job description as CEO of the Homes extends his role to overseeing the development and implementation of the college. Mrs Abraham will take on the role of the Head of Sponsorship at the Homes. The challenges ahead are enormous and we trust that the BOM will empower Dr. Abraham accordingly and provide the necessary resources to allow him to carry out his work. GO has been in touch with Dr Abraham and have offered its support.

GO General Meeting 23 Sept

A successful inaugural general meeting was held at the Homes. All GO Officers attended bar the Chairman! Margaret a Purill stepped in as Acting Chairperson and did a fine job!

Dr Abraham and Col. Thapa were the key speakers and spoke to the ca 100 strong OGBs in the room about the current state of the Homes and the development of the College.

The OGBs expressed concern at the plight of the Homes and the establishment of the College for which six colleges / hostels have been set aside including Willingdon, Fraser, Wiston, Hart, Centenary and Elliot. This drew much criticism from OGBs present and a call to stop the college has been initiated.

College in the Homes

GO has taken onboard the concerns of OGBs worldwide at the current state of the Homes and their objection to the development of a College at the Homes. 'Homes First' must be the cry!

A letter has been sent by the GO Chairman addressed to the DGH Board of Management, to reconsider plans for the Homes and stop the college.

See: www.dghogbs.com/KLHBOM.html

Details of the College plans can be found in the DGH website www.drgrahamshomes.net/college.php

GO website: <http://www.dghogbs.com/>

GO Projects

- GO** launched the School Leavers Loan scheme end September. The scheme assists OGBs in financing their training / skills development when taking on employment. The loan is repayable once the OGB begins earning a salary.
- GO** has agreed to share with the UK Commi ee, the cost of some 700 blankets assigned for the Homes - ca Rs. 3 lakh/ 3,000.
- GO** has contacted Dr Abraham, Homes CEO, for details of opportunities GO plan to support. Many of the opportunities are what we consider 'quick wins' that will bring early benefits and go some way towards supporting clearer communication channels and a centrally based administration. These include Internet / Wifi connectivity on the compound, computers, costs for licensing operating system software, purchase of database management system and dental chair/equipment for the hospital.

Dr Abraham has asked Overseas Commi ees and OGBs to assist in the introduction of a twinning/exchange of teachers programme.

If any OGB can help with this, please get in touch with Margare a.

GO Membership

Some 325 members are registered on the website. GO has decided against annual membership subscriptions and has agreed that funds will be raised as and where specific opportunities are identified and via the website. This will not only allow OGBs choice but also a sense of ownership.

Our future actions are very much guided by our membership - if you have not already registered for GO membership, please register online by visiting <http://www.dghogbs.com/forum/index.php>

WE THANK OGBs AND FRIENDS
for their support of the Homes and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

GO Management Team
December 2015

GO donations now online

You can now donate to GO online safely and securely, using credit/debit cards. The funds are transferred to the Bank of Scotland Global OGB Association account. To donate please visit the GO website or use this link to take you directly to the online page. Details of GO projects are on the site.

<https://dghogbs.charitycheckout.co.uk/>

Obituaries



Ann Colquhoun 1930 - 2015

It is with great sadness to inform you of Ann's passing following an illness. She passed away peacefully at around 10.30 pm on 12 October at the Marie Curie clinic in Edinburgh.

She was a remarkable individual and a wonderful teacher - not many like her are with us today.

I hope to attend her funeral and, on behalf of GO, will place a wreath.

Kind Regards,

Ken Hammond

I was very sorry to hear about Ms. Colquhoun's passing away. Though she never taught me, I met her on her several visits to Kalimpong, the last time being just a couple of years ago on May Fair. She was a wonderful, sprightly soul, and I could see why her students worshipped her.

R.I.P., Ms. Colquhoun.

Sushil Marda

I have received the sad news of Ann's passing. I am sure she is now in a better place.

Sincere thanks to Jim and Pat Simpson for visiting Ann and keeping all of us on the UK committee informed.

James Machardy

Ann was a very committed and feisty lady whom I will remember with great affection.

Jane Burniston

It is with great sadness I received the news of the great loss in the demise of Mrs Ann Colquhoun. I fondly remember the very dignified lady when she visited the Homes while I was serving as Headmaster.

May her soul rest in peace and may God give courage to all those who mourn her passing away.

Shane M. S. Calvert

I am very sorry to hear that dear Ann passed away. She taught me in kindergarten and she was there throughout my schooling in Kalimpong.

The last time I saw Ann was 2013 at the International Conference in Calcutta.

As we say in Tibet, when our dear ones pass away “May their soul find rebirth soon”

Thank you, Ken and Margareta, for representing GO at her funeral

Best wishes and Tashi Delek

Thuten Kesang

Fitzgerald (Gerry) Arnold

Margareta kindly forwarded the sad news of Gerry's death. When his wife Pat was alive we regularly visited No 46 and had many reciprocal meals with them. We also went to Pat's funeral in Stony several years ago. We do feel very sad at Gerry's passing and the current date stands at 29th July and presume that by now the funeral is over. We trust that it went well.

Please accept our friends and our own personal profound sorrow at Gerry's passing. He was our Association treasurer for many years and we held several committee meetings on Kalimpong business for many years under his excellent stewardship of the Association's finances.

With fond memories of Pat & Gerry.

Ellena & John Christie

Connie Wilkinson Hart Housemother

I am very sorry to hear that my dear Auntie Connie passed away. We exchanged cards every year and when we were in Scotland a few years ago, I spoke to her and then she was 92 I think ? I was going to ring her again when I am in Ireland this September.

Auntie Connie came to our wedding, She was then living in Singapore, I have some lovely photos of her at our wedding. The world has lost a great Christian lady, who dedicated her youthful life, caring for children of Dr Graham's Homes. I will miss her Christmas card this year.

As we say in Tibet , when we have lost a loved one “ May her soul find rebirth soon”

Thuten Kesang



Wendy Wilson batch of 1992 Woodburn girl



Wendy was a serving teacher in the Homes, when she died suddenly of a cardiac arrest on 27 November. She was only 43.

A sensitive, quiet lady who was always positive, she was the sole bread-earner of the family supporting her mom and her brother who is undergoing medical treatment in Vellore. She was a wonderful person and will be missed by her friends and students. She was facing a lot of stress in her final days at school and in her personal life. Her early passing is really tragic.

We were saddened at the untimely demise of OG, Wendy Wilson yesterday morning. The funeral service was held in the chapel this afternoon, followed by the burial at the cemetery. Warm regards to both of you.

Delphine Emmanuel

1953 - 2015



Born to Douglas and Doreen Freeman, Della was sent to the Homes' in 1956 aged three and a half to join her elder siblings

Norman and Richard. She was at Lucia King and then Mansfield Cottage under the watchful eye of Aunty Frances Flannigan. She left DGH in 1970 after

successfully completing her MSF Exams and also doing her Commercial.

Delphine was a very cheerful and friendly girl. "She was talented in several ways", says her younger sister Yvonne, "a good runner, could draw well and had a good eye for colour co-ordination. She was always the life and soul of the party and a very good actress.

Her first job in Calcutta was at the Pilkington Glass Factory before she moved back home to work for The Indian Iron and Steel Company which she retired from in 2013.

Delphine married and started a family of her own with the birth of her daughters Denise and then 3 years later Deirdre. Both girls also went to DGH and were in Mansfield Cottage.

Della, as she later came to be called was one of the strongest women you could've ever met and despite poor health retained her sense of humour and that indomitable spirit.

Della loved her family and was protective of her friends and loved ones. She loved birds and had a flair for writing. She could knit and type faster than anyone I know. She loved gardening, music and dance.

After her retirement her health gradually declined. She was admitted into Apollo Gleneagles, Calcutta in July where she suffered a massive heart attack and succumbed to it.

May angels watch over you till we see you again.-Your loving daughters Denise and Deirdre.

Deidre Rebecca Singh
Batch of 1992

Nigel Graham

1927 - 2015



It is with sadness that we report the passing of Daddy Graham's grandson, Nigel.

Nigel's father, Jack Graham worked for tea merchants Duncan Bros and as an infant, Nigel spent three years in India before returning to the UK for his education. In 1945 he joined the Army, trained briefly in India and was commissioned into the Highland Light Infantry. His was a life of farming, army and local politics.

Nigel married Margaret and celebrated their Golden Wedding in 2000 but she became ill in 2002 and died in 2006 after a period of very poor health. Nigel was remarried in late 2007 to Sue Mackay.

He was a man of many and deeply held interests which often found expression in being involved in local and national organisations.

The Homes, founded by his grandfather, were always dear to his heart and he and Margaret visited Kalimpong for the centenary celebrations. He was proud of his family heritage and a great fundraiser.

Nigel is survived by his wife Sue, and children Mary, Johnnie, Anna, and Neil.



The Katherine Graham Memorial chapel was opened as an exception for the funeral of Wendy Wilson. As you can see the chapel was full to overflowing on this sad occasion, as the school said their good-byes to a well loved teacher.

Stop Press !

Good news from Henry Simon in Kalimpong!

Dear Margareta,

Here is a picture of our Elliot kids after fellowship this week. They were so happy to receive the news that they are being allowed to return to their cottage next year. Regards, **Henry**



*Cheers to a new year
and another chance for
us to get it right.*

2016 Happy New Year 2016



Dear Margaretta

Thank you for the August Newsletter. I thoroughly enjoyed reading the variety of articles.

I guess all of us who tried to purchase stamps in a Calcutta post office would understand exactly what Mike Hruska wrote about regarding his re-acquaintance with this service in 2006. When my family visited Calcutta, Assam and Kalimpong over 3 months in 1984, I brought along some glue precisely for the purpose of sticking the stamps to the envelopes and postcards.

After being led that merry dance purchasing the stamps for quite a number of postcards that my children had bought to post to their schoolmates, I left the queue/s in the Park Street post office and set ourselves up (I had my three young children with me) in a sort of corner.

One held the stamps, another held the postcards, and one squeezed out the glue onto the back of the postage stamps and stuck the stamps onto the postcards etc. We had about 18 postcards to affix stamps to, and each postcard required at least two stamps, and when we had finished, on looking up we found that a queue (actually a crush) had formed behind us because the word must have gone out that postage stamps could have glue squeezed onto them right `here`.

On looking at the crowd, I handed the tube of clear adhesive to the nearest person and slipped away.

Kind regards

John and Christine

Dear Margaretta

Many thanks Margaretta – and hearty greetings to all . Another great newsletter – will forward to the Canadian Council.
Congratulations Margaretta, Alistair and Nada on your efforts and all very best,
Arifin (Graham)
Canadian Council

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY
London Birthday Celebrations
24th September 2016



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 photos, latest achievements, 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 : purtilis@btinternet.com

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