



UK COMMITTEE DR GRAHAM'S HOMES

Charity Registered in Scotland SC 016341

113th ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31 January 2021

UK Committee Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong, India

Charity Registered in Scotland SC 016341

Registered Address: 44 Aytoun Road, Pollokshields, Glasgow G41 5HN

www.drgrahamshomes.co.uk

Annual Reports and Summary Accounts For the Year Ended 31st January 2021

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Preliminary Notice of Annual General Meeting for 2022

Our 2021 AGM is being held on Zoom on Wednesday 12 May, but we are hopeful that we can meet together in person next year. Please hold this provisional date in your diary.

Wednesday 11 May 2022 11:00 am

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

Coffee served from 10.30 Curry Lunch at 12.45

More details will be announced in our December newsletter

Honorary Presidents

The Moderator of the General Assembly
Church of Scotland

The Primus
Scottish Episcopal Church

Honorary Vice President Rev John Webster

The Board of Trustees 2020 – 2021

Chair	Margaretta Purtill 67 Brangwyn Crescent, Merton Abbey, London SW19 2UA Tel. 020 8715 0929 Email: purtills@btinternet.com
Vice-Chair	Anne Hoggan 7 Robertson Road, Cupar KY15 5YR Tel. 01334 656992 Email: annehoggan2019@gmail.com
Committee Secretary	Frances Dent 12 Glamis Drive, Dundee DD2 1QL Tel. 01382 668700 Email: drgrahamsuksec@gmail.com
Treasurer	James Gibson 44 Aytoun Road, Pollokshields, Glasgow G41 5HN Tel. 0141 423 8290 Email: treasurer@drgrahamshomes.co.uk

Other members of the Board of Trustees

John Ball Frank Dunn Aileen Fraser Shona Hume
James Simpson Jim Simpson Pat Simpson

Sponsorship Secretaries	Ian & Angela Russell Email: sponsorship@drgrahamshomes.co.uk Hazelgrove, The Common, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8NS Tel. 01483 272108
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External Appointments

Independent Examiner	MILNE CRAIG Abercorn House 79 Renfrew Road Paisley PA3 4DA	Solicitors	BALFOUR & MANSON 54-66 Frederick Street Edinburgh EH2 1LS
		Bankers	BANK OF SCOTLAND 75 George Street Edinburgh EH2 3EW

Welcome from our Chair



Dear friends and supporters of Dr Graham's Homes

We are slowly coming out of a unique period in our history, and it won't be long before we can get used to being in the wider world again. Remember that no action is too small or too insignificant for God. His grace in all parts of our lives calls forth a response from us, no matter how unimportant or trivial it may seem. May he guide and protect us all as we continue to support the children in the Homes following in the footsteps of our Founder Dr John Anderson Graham.

In this magazine I would like to introduce you to some members of the new Board of Management. The Board has responded to criticism and new members include representatives from the International Committees and GO, our OGB Association, as well as prominent Indian educationalists. There is a renewed commitment from our committee, GO and the Board to work together to find solutions to the challenges facing the Homes today, which you can read about in the following reports.

Thank you for your continued support of our cause.

Margaretta Purtil Committee Chair

Introduction from our Committee Secretary



The Homes, over the last few months, have had to make many changes to adapt to the pandemic. Meanwhile, the UK Committee has also undergone a number of changes to adapt to changing times. Thankfully, these are positive changes, including increased communication with the BOM, a new governance structure and a change in status of one of our long-serving trustees.

One positive feature of the pandemic is our newly acquired skills in virtual meetings. These skills, along with the restructuring of the Board of Management in India, mean that the UK Committee and the BOM are able to liaise with each other in ways not even imagined in the past. Our Chairman, Margaretta, now sits on the Board as the representative of the International Committees. Margaretta is also on the BOM Committees responsible for Sponsorship, Finance, the Birkmyre and Restoration & Maintenance. Other regular communication between

the UK and DGH is via Anne Hoggan with the Safeguarding Committee, Jim Gibson with the Finance Committee and the Sponsorship Secretaries' ongoing contact with their Indian counterparts. All of these links have been invaluable during the difficult months of the pandemic and they will put us in good stead for the future, as we work together to provide care and education for needy children.

The second positive change to our committee is the transition from being an Unincorporated Association to a Limited Company. The new company has now been formed and the application for charitable status is underway. We will soon be using the slightly different name of *Dr Graham's Homes Kalimpong (UK)*. You have probably seen more details about this in an email/letter circulated in March. Our thanks go to Frank Dunn and the Governance Working Group for the huge amount of work which has been required. Some of the formalities will be completed at the EGM on 12th May.

The third change is that Rev John Webster decided in December that it was time for him to step down as a Trustee. He had served as a Trustee, with only a few short breaks, ever since the mid '70s when he returned to the UK after some years in the dual roles of Chaplain and Farm Manager at the Homes. He has always been a real stalwart of the Committee and his service included two stints as Chairman. Alongside his Trustee duties, John has masterminded bike rides, 3Ks tours and many other activities to raise funds and generate interest in the Homes. The Trustees, and I'm sure also many OGBs and supporters, are extremely grateful to him. Fortunately, we are not losing John as he has been appointed a Vice-President. We will still have the benefit of his experience, wisdom and friendship.



This year our AGM will be a virtual event and I hope that many of you will be able to attend. We anticipate that later in the year we will be able to travel and meet in person. I look forward, therefore, to meeting you at one of the events advertised at the end of this magazine, including my own garden which will be open in aid of DGH. In the meantime, please contact me if you need any information or if you have some Dr Graham's news to share.

Frances Dent Committee Secretary

From the President of the Board of Management



Once again, it is that time, when thoughts are put into print, and action on the ground is put out in the public domain, through the widely read and circulated UK Newsletter.

Dr Graham's Homes, with its uniqueness, has its own, distinct challenges and yet, is endowed with so many strengths and blessings. These come from the people who have vested their love and concern for the institution, through their time and commitment. The beneficiaries will always remain the children of the Homes who, with their winning smiles, give greater courage and conviction to all those who work for their well-being and betterment.

While the danger of a second wave of the virus looms large, and which has the potential to be even more deadly than the first, we have to continue in our mission to cater to the needs of the children. That remains firmly uppermost in our minds. The Board of Management remains steadfast in their resolve to tackling the issues at hand and planning for long term solutions to enable the Homes to not only sustain itself, but to stride into the future as a 'school of choice'.

The following write-ups from the Chairs of the different subcommittees will provide you with a glimpse into the time and effort being put in and the quantum of work being carried out. The challenges are daunting, but the members remain secure in their belief that working together as a team, looking ahead and building on the foundation, in pursuit of continuing the legacy of Dr Graham's Homes, a legacy of love, is the solution.

The Board of Management, at a recently concluded virtual meeting, resolved to explore avenues and develop the infrastructure and assets which could generate income to sustain the institution, develop the Homes and making it self-reliant and grow in the years to come as a charitable Christian Minority Educational Institution in accordance with the aims and objectives of our Memorandum of Association.

The Board of Management will always be grateful for your advice and support and I am personally indebted to the members of the Board of Management, who give of their time, freely and willingly, to bring about the desired changes, that will impact the institution we love so much and the lives of all the children under our care. A word of appreciation to the Principal, the Bursar, the Headmaster and the team they lead on the ground, for making every effort to translate plan into action.

True happiness is found in our gratefulness for God's goodness in our lives, no matter our circumstance. And the best way for us to practice gratefulness is by thanking God in EVERYTHING, for all He has done, is doing or will do in our lives. 'I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything'.

With all good wishes

Michael Shane Calvert

President of the Board of Management

New Sponsorship Committee at the Homes

A new Sponsorship subcommittee of the Board of Management was set up in October 2020. This committee will liaise with the UK Sponsorship Secretaries. The Committee met formally online for the first time on 6 November and has been meeting informally on a regular basis since then. I can report that during the year, the sponsored children of classes X and XII who are due to take Board Exams were sent back to school on 16 November for extra coaching and revision of the syllabus. Subsequently, on 17 February, an additional 44 sponsored children returned to Kalimpong.

The Committee has also interviewed and interacted with new applicants for sponsorship and their parents and short-listed 21 for sponsorship in the new academic year 2021-22. This list was submitted for UK Committee approval.

The remaining Sponsored Children will return to Kalimpong as soon as the appropriate approval is sanctioned by the West Bengal government, and in the meantime the services of the Matron of the Birkmyre hostel are being utilised to make home-visits to sponsored children still in Kolkata.



The committee is regularly in touch with the School Management Team to monitor and be updated on the Sponsored Children.

Ian Myers
BOM Member

The other members of this new BOM sub-committee are Mrs Denise Smith, Mrs Suchitra Guha, Mrs Pauline Singh, Dr David Reid Syiemlieh, Mr Sunirmal Chakravarthy, Mrs Pempa Y Hishey and our own Margaretta Purtill.

Academic Report from the School



Mrs Hilda Peacock, BOM member and former Homes Principal, reports on how the school has been managing during the first months of 2021. Classes are being conducted online using Zoom or Google Meet with the teachers also sending lessons later the same day on the WhatsApp Class Groups for the children to revise and copy notes. Most students are attending classes regularly, but with the younger ones, it can be a problem if their parents or guardians are pre-occupied.

Kindergarten Section

The academic session for the Nursery commenced on 15 February, with four online classes daily, each of 30 minute duration. The teacher has reported syllabus coverage of around 30 to 45%. Classes Lucia King to II commenced on 20 January also with four 30 minute classes daily, with reported syllabus coverage of around 35%.

Junior School

Classes for year groups III to VI commenced on 20 January, also with four 30 minute daily sessions and syllabus coverage of 25 – 30%. The teachers are regularly checking students' work, and the first unit tests are in progress (March) using Google Forms software.

Senior School

Classes VII to X commenced the academic session on 20 January, also with four daily 30 minute sessions. Physical classes for classes IX and X began on 15 February with 8 periods per day (using an odd-even system) and for classes VII and VIII online classes increased to 8 per day. Most teachers have reported syllabus coverage of 25 to 30%, with the English and 2nd language teachers of X reporting completion of 40 to 45% of the syllabus.

The first unit tests are in progress (March). Classes VII and VIII are doing the test online using Google Forms, with classes IX and X in person as they are present in the school. A few students who have not been able to return to school are being sent the question papers and are doing the tests from their home.

Class XII commenced their session on 1 March with physical classes (odd-even system) with teachers reporting about 15% coverage of the syllabus this month (March). English and 2nd language teachers report completion of 40 to 45% of the syllabus.

The teachers of the ICSE / ISC batches have also been conducting physical doubt clearing sessions. The class VII and VIII boarders are also being taught by the teachers in the school.

Mrs Hilda Peacock

BOM member and former Homes Principal

23 March 2021

Safeguarding at the Homes taken to a new level



Formalising a Safeguarding Process at the Homes has moved on considerably since my last report. The UK Committee Safeguarding Subcommittee has had two meetings (by Zoom) with the Board of Management in Kolkata. A report follows from Sunirmal Chakravarthi, our very able partner on the Board of Management.

Thanks to Ian and Anji Russell, our Joint Sponsorship Secretaries, the 'Joint Safeguarding and Protecting People Policy 2020' (available on our website) is complete and has been approved by the UK Committee. Contributions have been included from the Board of Management and the Principal at the School.

The Board has drawn up Guidelines for use in the school based on the Joint Policy. These Guidelines were completed in January and copies issued to all Staff (translated copies are being made available for the workers). Both documents have annual review dates. In addition, the School has appointed a Senior Woman Teacher as Lead Safeguarding Officer.

Now that some of the pupils have returned, the next step is implementation of the Guidelines. Already a start has been made with workshops being planned for Staff and Senior Pupils. All this progress is very good news and we hope, tightens up an area that has been of concern over the years. The Sponsorship Secretaries have regular phone conversations with the Principal and any safeguarding issues are and will be reported.

I thank you all for your support to our Committee and Dr Graham's Homes. I am sure you will be encouraged by the news in this report, and the one following.

Anne Hoggan UK Committee

New Safeguarding arrangements at the Homes



It is with great pride and pleasure I can report that the concept of safeguarding is now firmly in place at the Homes - both in theory and practice. The first positive step was taken when a Safeguarding Committee of the Board of Management was created. Discussions among members of this committee were incisive and extremely helpful in drawing up a policy document to be implemented in the school.

A complete study of the prevailing conditions at the Homes from the perspective of safeguarding was closely studied. The invaluable help and inputs from Ms Anne Hoggan, Chairperson of the UK Subcommittee on Safeguarding and the insightful suggestions of Ian and Anji Russell, Sponsorship Secretaries, went a long way in drawing up the School Policy.

Based on inputs from the UK Safeguarding Committee (with whom a virtual meeting was also organised), especially the persons named above, and the insights and suggestions of our own Committee members, a Child Protection Policy for The Homes was drawn up. This document was subsequently printed in the form of a booklet. The cost for printing was sponsored by Ratna Pradhan Lt Col CB Pradhan Memorial Charitable Trust in order to save costs to the school. The booklet was officially released by the President and Chairman of the BOM, Mr Shane Calvert, during the third School Managing Committee meeting.

This booklet has since been distributed among all teaching and non-teaching administrative staff, under official acknowledgement. The Nepali translation has also been completed for distribution among the service staff and the same will be released at the next School Management Committee meeting in the middle of April.

The Board of Management has also approved and set up a School Safeguarding Subcommittee headed by Ms Jeena Raghavan, Senior Teacher, and comprising three other teachers and an independent social worker. I am happy to report that the School Subcommittee, which will also function as the Internal Complaints Committee, has met twice thus far. They first met to study and familiarise themselves with the the Child Protection Policy. Thereafter, they have met to study and make a risk assessment of the prevailing situation at the Homes. They have now been tasked with arranging for training workshops for teachers to start with, and also for children in different age and gender groups. A similar series of workshops will also be organised for service staff in due course. Also, I am pleased to report that the school, under the direction of the Safeguarding Committee of the BOM, has now

introduced Visitor Identity Cards as well as car stickers to identify and permit only legitimate visitors with prior appointments.

In conclusion, I am happy to report that we have made a strong and positive start but the Safeguarding Committee is fully aware that we have 'miles to go' in creating ideal conditions. I am, however, confident that we will leave no stone unturned in an effort to make the Homes a safe, happy and secure place to study and work in.

Sunirmal Chakravarthi BOM member



News from the Birkmyre

For those who have grown up in Daddy Graham's Homes, their city home was Birkmyre the grand heritage building standing tall on the high street of Kolkata.

Amidst the Corona crisis the BOM Birkmyre Subcommittee has been working to give Birkmyre a face lift, cleaning and sprucing up the hall, the dining room, the dormitories and rooms on the top floors. Most of this has been managed from a few donations and creative use of what was left of old furniture. The fire equipment is in place and the fire drill was held in the presence of the committee and people have been trained to use the equipment in a crisis. We have started on a long journey to bring the Birkmyre back to its pristine glory and are now looking at options and long-term solutions which we will bring to the Board. In the meantime, we continue our efforts to ready the hostel to take in as many girls as we can accommodate, once colleges open again.



As well as the renovation work, our subcommittee took care of admission procedures for the new children being supported by the UK Committee. We distributed Christmas hampers to the supported children who live in Kolkata, and more recently made transport arrangements to send the children of the higher classes back to Kalimpong so that their studies don't get affected.

If any of you are travelling to India, make Birkmyre your first destination before you go up to the Hills.

Denise Smith BOM Member

Homes finances in a historical perspective



I am pleased to report that in a recent survey, the Homes ranked third in the region in terms of a number of parameters including Quality of Education, Boarding Arrangements and above all, our extensive campus. The school, which started as a home for Anglo-Indian orphans and destitute children, has now developed into a fully fledged school providing quality education to children from all strata of society and affiliated to the ICSE Board. The overall welfare of under privileged children is our central focus and sports, hobbies, debates, drama, arts and crafts and music are given as much importance as academics for the all-round development of the children.

The Homes used to get its funding from the Tea Companies at the behest of Dr Graham himself and donations from other private organisations but, as the number of under privileged children increased, the funding was managed through donations from committees established worldwide by Dr Graham, with sponsorship being central to fund-raising efforts. In the 1960s funds were augmented with the introduction of fee-paying students, initially from Sikkim and Bhutan under Government Scholarships, followed by children from Calcutta, Shillong, Nepal and also local students from Kalimpong and Darjeeling, but donations from the various committees worldwide and sponsorships have remained an important source of income. With the passing of time, the Overseas Committees have now reduced to four with only the UK Committee maintaining previous levels of support. The Homes now need to find new ways to bridge the gap.

The challenges facing the Homes today are multiple and the time has come for the Homes to critically re-analyse its sources of funds, fund raising activities, and its overall financial management. The BOM is preparing an initial financial audit, which will be ready this month. After this, we look forward to a thorough Forensic Audit which we are grateful to the UK Committee for funding.

We are grateful to GO, the Global OGB Association, which has volunteered to provide financial and also material aid, particularly in the area of cottage renovation. The support provided by the OGBs and Overseas Committees has been substantial and laudable. We are very grateful.

Jayshree Pradhan BOM Member

The Annual Accounts

Jim Gibson, UK Committee Treasurer



Our accounts for the year ended 31 January 2021 show income of £236,824 and a surplus of £3,588. The Independent Examination has been completed and we reproduce below an extract of key sections of the accounts, namely a Summary Report of the Trustees, the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet.

The summarised financial statements have been extracted from the full financial statements which were approved on 19 April 2021; they do not constitute the charity's statutory financial statements and may not contain sufficient financial information to allow for a full

understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. Copies of the full financial statements are available free of charge from the Treasurer, whose contact details are shown on page 3.

UK Committee Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong, India

Extract Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 January 2021

Charitable Objectives

The objective of the Charity is to raise money for the education and welfare of children at Dr Graham's Homes in Kalimpong, India. The Homes give care, guidance and education to deprived and disadvantaged children from West Bengal and the Darjeeling Hills country, usually, but not necessarily, of Christian Anglo-Indian descent. The Charity's principal activity is to encourage and provide sponsorship of children and to engage in fundraising ventures to meet the objective of raising money for The Homes in India. The UK Committee shares this task with other Overseas Committees, while the affairs of The Homes in India are governed by the Board of Management (BOM) based in Kolkata. The UK Committee's principal source of income is funds raised from supporters, whether by regular donations or fundraising efforts, in order to provide sponsorships for children in need.

Achievements and Performance

Support for the Homes

During the year the Charity continued to provide a significant level of support to The Homes in India. The number of children supported was 160, with a further 30 students at further education colleges. Face to face teaching of children and students has been interrupted by the Covid pandemic but the teaching staff have made great efforts in providing on-line schooling. Colleges have also been providing on-line tuition. The children come from disadvantaged backgrounds and are matched with supporters, who are encouraged to maintain an individual and personal link with the children who have been assigned to them throughout their time at The Homes and, if appropriate, in further education.

The committee has been working with GO, the Global OGB Association, to effect ongoing repairs to the cottages on the campus. Sponsorship income is our main source of income, but we receive income from a large variety of sources, and we are grateful to all those by whose loyalty and ingenuity it is generated. Legacy income of £19,669 in the year was much reduced compared with the previous year of £38,000, but we have also received "in memoriam" gifts and donations from church services and Guild meetings, all of which are much appreciated. Fundraising income this year has been £14,346, largely from the response to a "2020" challenge to celebrate the 120th anniversary of the founding of the Homes in 1900.

Strengthening safeguarding and interaction with The Homes

While it has not been possible to visit the Homes during the year, the Covid pandemic has encouraged us to develop stronger relationships with the Board of Management and the Senior Management Team at the Homes. This has resulted in positive developments including:

- working together on the challenges presented by Covid;
- the formation of a safeguarding subcommittee which has co-operated effectively with the BOM;
- issuing a public statement on a teachers' strike and changes affecting the BOM;
- proposing to the new BOM an independent review of the Homes, as well as agreeing to fund both this and a forensic financial audit;
- and increasing cooperation with the International Committees and the Global OGB's ("GO").

These developments have led to a generally much more transparent relationship with the BOM, which is now beginning to address various key issues.

We were delighted to welcome Ian and Anji Russell as Joint Sponsorship Secretaries on 1 May 2020. They have done a power of work in getting to know the Homes Senior Management Team, liaising with them despite the Covid pandemic, and ensuring that the children whom we sponsor are safe and well cared for.

The UK Committee is continually seeking to ensure that the Senior Management Team at the Homes functions effectively for the good of the children whom we support. Regarding Extended Sponsorship, the situation at the Birkmyre Hostel has remained fluid during the year and new arrangements for the support of college students are being trialled; these involve a partnership with Mission of Mercy India (MOMI), who are more able to engage in management of students' academic progress and offer pastoral support.

Committee management and constitutional changes

The Trustees met regularly during the year to review aspects of fundraising and to consider how best to support the needs in India. Our Governance Working Group considered possible amendments to the way in which the charity is constituted and concluded that it should change from being an unincorporated association to become a company limited by guarantee. Accordingly, a new company has been incorporated under the name of Dr Graham's Homes Kalimpong (UK) and approval will be sought at an Extraordinary General Meeting of members of the existing association on 12 May 2021 to effect the transfer of assets to the new limited company. We believe that this will bring us into line with modern charity practice and will help make us fit for purpose for the coming years.

There has been frequent liaison by Zoom and other virtual means with the Board of Management and Homes staff, concerning specific needs and priorities at Kalimpong, and ways of helping our supported children. The Covid pandemic has also had the advantage of enabling the trustees to communicate remotely and efficiently. The onset of the pandemic necessitated a greater use of subcommittees within the committee and this has brought a number of benefits, including ongoing cooperation with the BOM over finance and work on the Chapel, a successful outcome to the process of interviewing for the Sponsorship Secretary post, and progress made on the proposal to change over to a limited company structure.

Outreach

Although, because of Covid the 'Heart and Soul' event run by the Church of Scotland during General Assembly Week in May was cancelled, the committee retains strong links with the Church of Scotland family, in particular with church Guilds. We appreciate the fact that the Moderator and the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church are both Honorary Presidents. Contacts with potential new supporters have

been made by the efforts of those who have engaged in fundraising events. A virtual 'Tea Party' has been organised as a fundraising event in February 2021 and has attracted widespread interest and support.

Investment Policy

Our investment policy is to ensure a good level of income consistent with security of capital and accessibility of funds. Our stocks and shares are held in safe custody through Killik and Co, stockbrokers, who provide investment advice when requested. Our holdings are managed with a view to obtaining a balance between income and growth. At 31 January 2021, our portfolio was valued at £1,045,550 compared with £965,595 at 31 January 2020. The portfolio is well diversified and the yield is 2.6%.

Financial Review

Results for the year

The Charity's activities continue to be dependent upon funding from a core of committed supporters whose donations and fundraising activities provide sponsorships for particular children. Over 70% of the funds required to meet our annual commitment to The Homes comes from these sources. We gratefully acknowledge the amount of £19,669 received in legacies during the year. The Statement of Financial Activities reflects a surplus of £3,588 (2020–deficit of £8,558), consisting of a surplus of £74,350 (2020–surplus £57,672) relating to Unrestricted funds, and a deficit of £70,762 (2020–deficit of £66,230) relating to Restricted funds. Ordinary donation and sponsorship income (excluding legacies) showed a reduction of £13,946 to £176,062, the reduction being due to some extent to an ageing demographic of our supporters.

The largest contributor to the result for the year was investment gains of £89,322 (2020 - gains of £91,730), representing a substantial recovery from the fall in value which the portfolio experienced at the onset of the Covid pandemic in March 2020. We have continued to draw down restricted funds in order to cover sponsorship costs. The results for the year enable us to maintain reserves which will be required to meet increasing costs at the Homes. The net assets at the year end were £1,211,765.

Utilisation of funds

The purpose of the Restricted funds is to provide money for sponsoring children at The Homes, and it is the Committee's intention to use these funds over a period of years to supplement funds received from individual supporters which do not cover the full cost of the sponsorships provided.

Statement on Risk

The Trustees consider that the major risks which the charity faces are continuity of income, fluctuations in foreign exchange, the continuing impact of the Covid pandemic, threats to the quality of care for its beneficiaries, political uncertainty in India and local factors affecting the management of the Homes in Kalimpong. The potential impact of these risks is minimised by regular correspondence with supporters and monthly review of sponsorship funds received; sending remittances to India on a quarterly basis in order to even out exchange fluctuations; and regular contact with and visits by Trustees to the Homes to discuss operational issues.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the Charity to maintain unrestricted reserves which have arisen from past operating results at a level which equates to no less than six months income. It is considered prudent to keep this level to allow for possible difficulties with funding or to provide finance for special projects. At the year end, unrestricted funds amounted to £825,492, representing an amount well in excess of one year's ordinary income. The Trustees regard this as satisfactory.

Plans for Future Periods

The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic is bound to be significant for all businesses and charities, reducing income and causing major changes in their ways of working. The immediate priority of the UK committee will be to maintain close liaison with the Board of Management to ensure that the welfare and protection of the children under our care is maintained. We are pleased to report that there has been no outbreak of Covid at the Homes and that while a number of children have been taken home to be with their families, those who have remained at the Homes are being well looked after.

The underlying political situation in India in general and in the Kalimpong and Darjeeling districts in particular remains volatile, and there are threats to the continuing existence of the school as an institution for disadvantaged children. Inflationary pressures continue to affect the Indian Economy, and these will inevitably affect the funds which we are required to send to India. We are working with the Homes to ensure that there is full justification for any increases in Homes costs, as these will in the longer term require to be reflected in an increase in the funds provided for sponsorships. Child support, involving individual and personal links with children in need throughout their school careers, is our *raison d'être* and we will continue to work with the Board of Management in India to ensure that The Homes can deliver a high standard of education to all its pupils, together with appropriate vocational training for less academic pupils.

The coming year will continue to present the Committee with significant challenges. There has been a gradual decline in sponsorship in recent years and there are many other charities with similar aims competing for public support. While the Homes has an excellent location in the Hills, a noble mission and a committed group of alumni, there is a need to rethink its overall management and strategy if it is to remain competitive and avoid future decline. The committee will continue to work with the Board of Management to do all it can to support the school in its efforts to increase numbers of boarders and upgrade facilities. Our expectation is that this will attract more sponsors, thus enabling us in the future to give the chance of a good education to many more children from underprivileged backgrounds.

On behalf of the Trustees

Margaretta Purtill, Chairman 19 April 2021

UK Committee Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong, India			
Balance Sheet as at 31 January 2021			
	£	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed Assets			
Investments		1,045,550	<u>965,595</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	9,950		7,722
Cash at bank	174,640		<u>275,302</u>
		<u>184,590</u>	<u>283,024</u>
Current Liabilities due within one year			
Accruals and deferred income	<u>18,375</u>		<u>40,442</u>
Net Current Assets		166,215	242,582
Total Assets less Liabilities		<u>1,211,765</u>	<u>1,208,177</u>
Funds			
Restricted funds		386,273	457,035
Unrestricted funds		825,492	751,142
Total Funds		<u>1,211,765</u>	<u>1,208,177</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf.

Margaretta Purtill, Chairman James N Gibson, CA, Treasurer 19 April 2021

UK Committee Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong, India**Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 January 2021**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£
Income from				
Donations and legacies	49,893	145,838	195,731	228,008
Charitable activities	14,080	266	14,346	20,251
Investments	16,574	10,173	26,747	33,519
Total income	80,547	156,277	236,824	281,778
Expenditure				
Raising Funds	20,969	-	20,969	22,248
Charitable Activities	25,984	275,605	301,589	359,818
Total expenditure	46,953	275,605	322,558	382,066
Investment gains / (losses)	89,322	-	89,322	91,730
Net income / expenditure	122,916	(119,328)	3,588	(8,558)
Transfers				
Transfer to sponsorship	(48,566)	48,566	-	-
Net movement in funds	74,350	(70,762)	3,588	(8,558)
Balances brought forward at 1 February 2020	751,142	457,065	1,208,207	1,216,735
Balances carried forward at 31 January 2021	825,492	386,303	1,211,795	1,208,177



Students returning to school after the protracted Covid enforced break

Sponsorship Secretaries' Report

Ian and Anji Russell

Much has changed in the UK since our article in the last newsletter, which was written just before Christmas 2020. Many of us have had one or both vaccinations and have survived yet another lock down, though some have not been so fortunate. However, in the last few weeks, we have seen wonderful signs of spring slowly appearing and are beginning to enjoy the lighter evenings, reminding us of better times to come.

The Great DGH British Tea Party



As sponsorship secretaries, we have been very busy since the last newsletter, as have many of you, raising money for the children at the Homes, through

'The Great DGH British Tea Party'

This was a sponsored event held during the month of February whilst many of us were in lockdown. As well as raising money, we had a really valuable time getting to know many of

you a little better. We enjoyed several tea-time zooms and were in touch with people in Scotland, England, USA, Canada, Australia and India, and we marvelled as we heard about the many events that people had arranged, all of which together raised an incredible amount of money.

This Tea Party month was a fun and productive time and was supported by so many of you. We are delighted to announce that, at the moment, with Gift Aid, the total amount raised now exceeds **£46,000!**



Thank you to everyone for supporting and encouraging us as we ventured (somewhat nervously!) into our first fundraising event. More importantly thank you for showing your commitment to the Homes and your love and care to all the sponsored children.

Our sponsored children

Life has also been busy at the Homes. In the December newsletter we mentioned that the Class XII children, who are taking their Indian School Certificate (ISC) exams this year, were just returning to the Homes, along with the children from Class X, who are taking their Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) exams this year. They have all settled back well, and are working hard studying for these exams, now scheduled to be taken in May and June. Due to Covid-19, it is as challenging this year as it was in 2020 for children to make any definite plans for their future. We have written to each of this year's school leavers (ISC 2021) and have had a lovely letter back from each one, in which they have given us their contact details so that we can stay in touch as they tentatively take their next steps after leaving the Homes. Please do pray for them as they start this important stage of their life journey.



ISC 2021 boarders, happily back at the Homes, preparing for their exams (photo March 2021)

Some of the other children are also now back in school, being educated and cared for in ways that, although challenging at times, have been carefully thought through to keep everyone safe and happy. They are glad to be back, and we do hope that many more children will soon be following their school friends back to Kalimpong. As we write this, the West Bengal government has still not announced a time when further classes can return. We will, of course, let all sponsors and correspondents know when their sponsored child returns to school.

If you have heard from us that the child you sponsor or correspond with is back at school, please do write to them by email, via us, and we will send it on. (Please note: before sending your message, we will remove your personal contact details in order to safeguard both you and the children.)

You will be pleased to hear that the UK Committee has now taken on the responsibility of supporting 23 new children at the Homes this year. We are very pleased to have several new sponsors, as well as the money raised through the Tea Party, to support them during their first year and beyond. The new children are currently taking on-line classes wherever possible and will join the Homes as soon as they are permitted. We are always in need of new sponsors and correspondents so please do let us know if you, or anyone you know, would like to take on these very special responsibilities.

At this time there are 170 children being sponsored by the UK Committee and/or their personal sponsors. 81 of them are currently back at the Homes attending classes, whilst 89 are still at home with their families studying online. 10 children will leave the Homes later this year for further education or training.

Our sponsored students

The students who were once pupils at the Homes, and who are currently in further education as part of our extended sponsorship scheme, have also had a challenging time this year pursuing their further studies. They appear to have adapted well and are now quite familiar with studying on-line, however, they still do not know when they will be returning to face-to-face teaching. We are in touch with all of them and value the contact that we have with them. For the students who are finishing their courses this year we are making sure, as they enter the world of work, that they have an opportunity to be mentored by former pupils of the Homes, and so keep in touch with the DGH family as 'alumni'.

There are currently 24 students who are being sponsored during further education, either by the UK Committee or by individual sponsors. At this time, we expect that six students will graduate from college or other training courses this summer.

Meeting together

Many of you have told us that you miss getting together 'in person' with other supporters at the various events that have been a part of the DGH year. Zoom is not quite the same, although it does have many advantages! We just wanted to let you know that we are hoping to bring people together in regions in the not-too-distant future. Frank Dunn, one of our trustees, is looking at the addresses in Scotland to see how he can link people in regions, and we are also looking at addresses in England to see how we can do the same. As neither Frank nor ourselves can be in every 'group' we will be looking for some people to co-ordinate these groups. If you would be happy to help with this, please do let us know. We would love to hear from you!

'One of the secrets of life is that all that is really worth the doing is what we do for others'. **Lewis Carroll**

Thank you again for your love and support as you share this commitment with us for the many children and young people in our care.

We hope that you stay safe and well throughout the rest of 2021. We are also hopeful that we might finally meet many of you in person this year, and that we might, at last, be able to visit the Homes ourselves.



Ian and Anji Russell

Joint Sponsorship Secretaries

Dr Graham's Homes

01483 898088

sponsorship@drgrahamshomes.co.uk

Special request:

A story to tell?

During the Tea Party month, many of you shared some wonderful stories of your experiences at the Homes, either when living there, working there, or visiting. Others shared stories about family connections.

We are hoping to collect as many of these stories as possible, with a view to putting them together into a collection.

If you have a story to tell, and would like to send it to us, we would love to hear from you. Your stories can be short or long, handwritten or typed. Please email or post them to us, (or even call us and we will *try* and write your story down!)

Thank you!

Ian and Anji Russell

News from GO – The Global OGB Association

Former pupils making a difference



The good news is that GO is now registered as a Charitable Trust in India! This was a dream since 2016 and it is overwhelming to see it finally happen. This step will help us to monitor, receive, and spend our funds in a more systematic and process-led manner. With one bank account we will have a clearer picture of the funds and how they can be channelized towards specific projects.

Last year, GO stepped up to become more involved in the administration and operational aspect of the school, and this year, in becoming an NGO we have laid down one more brick to solidify the foundation.

The ongoing pandemic has really turned our lives upside down. It was traumatic for many, challenging for most and unsafe for all of us, so GO decided to postpone our annual Winter Cottage Renovation Programme planned for January 2021 to the following year.

As of now, Heathland has been identified to be one of the cottages that GO will repair and renovate. The team will be led by OGB Pauline Singh nee Brooks. The other cottage will be identified after the GO team members visit the campus on a reconnaissance. The plans are all 'work-in-progress' at this point. We are hopeful that travel will be allowed in January 2022. We will share further details soon on the GO website and the GO newsletter. All well-wishers are welcome to join us and to help us give something back to our beloved alma mater.

Anirban Bhattacharyya GO Chairman
ogbanirban@gmail.com www.dghogbs.com





Dear Anirban

Congratulations to GO and your Management Team on achieving a significant milestone by registering as an NGO in India. My special thanks to the core group who led the drive for GO attaining NGO status.

Slowly but steadily the GO modus-operandi to continue the legacy of Graham and support the needy Homes kids is bearing fruit. Since its launch in September 2014, GO, today, brings together hundreds of OGBs and Homes supporters; it

strategically operates from the sub-continent, nearer to the Homes; it has broken down barriers of communication with the Homes Management and Overseas Committees and it has placed a GO voice in the 'top table' to bring a much needed OGB input in BOM decision making. None of this could have been achieved without a dedicated and committed group of OGBs that is the GO Management Team - my personal thanks to you all.

As in any entity, the future is what matters! I wish you all the very best in continuing to deliver for the Homes and to especially ensure that all the hard work behind the recent IC document/manifesto results in a robust business and operating plan that will deliver significant long term improvements to our beloved alma mater!

Kind Regards and a very Happy Easter to all!

Ken Hammond

GO Patron and former UK Committee member



Pupils returning to school after the pandemic closure

Homes Birthday Present

24th September 2021

For more than 50 years, each year I, and I suspect many others, have celebrated the Homes' Birthday on 24th September. This, for me, was initially at the Homes with the children. Since then, each year, I've sent a message of good wishes.

**Recently, it struck me that I've
NEVER thought of sending a
Birthday Present!**

**I'm now 50 years in arrears
and it is
'Payback Time'!**



With the support of our Trustees/Directors, we will be launching

'A GLOBAL BIRTHDAY APPEAL'

to encourage all Friends, Supporters and Former Students (OGBs) to make a Birthday Gift to the Homes along with their good wishes.

Many cottages and classrooms are in desperate need of repair and renovation and money raised will be used entirely for this in order to re-create a Homes fit for purpose. The Board in Kolkata has enthusiastically agreed to this Appeal and will open a separate ledger in which to record all transactions.

Full details will be sent out later this summer. Perhaps in the meantime, you might consider setting money aside for your Birthday Gift?!

With every good wish

John G Webster and the Trustees

JARS FOR CHANGE

Since its launch to Friends in January 2009, this Appeal has raised £3,528.69! This is nearly sufficient to support a child in DGH for three years. However, response has now virtually ceased, and it is appropriate to close the Appeal, but not before expressing very sincere gratitude to all who troubled to 'Save their Change' to help 'Make a Change'. Contents of any part-filled jars may be forwarded, and I shall send in total to the Treasurer.

John G Webster



Annually, The Homes Birthday is celebrated all over the world on 24 September. At the end of this magazine you will find invitations to join us in London and Edinburgh.

We want to make this year different, with a Birthday Present!

More details will be published in the summer.

2020 Challenge



In January 2020, the 'Year of the OGB', the UK Trustees were set a voluntary challenge to each endeavour to raise £2,020 by means of tried and tested money raising methods. Some suggested methods were talks about the Homes, sponsored walks, runs or cycle trips, handicraft sales, open gardens, coffee mornings, etc.



This was not a compulsory challenge but would be a worthwhile and a true demonstration of Trustee commitment to the UK Committee and the needy children in the Homes in Kalimpong.

I am pleased to record that, through the efforts of some dedicated Trustees, a total of £13,715 was raised. Particular thanks must go to the Bingo Night and the Open Garden, in what was a difficult year for public participation, and also thanks to the diligent Crochet and Patchwork members who made a great effort. All in all, a very good effort considering the challenges of the year and a sizable sum raised for sponsorship of underprivileged children.



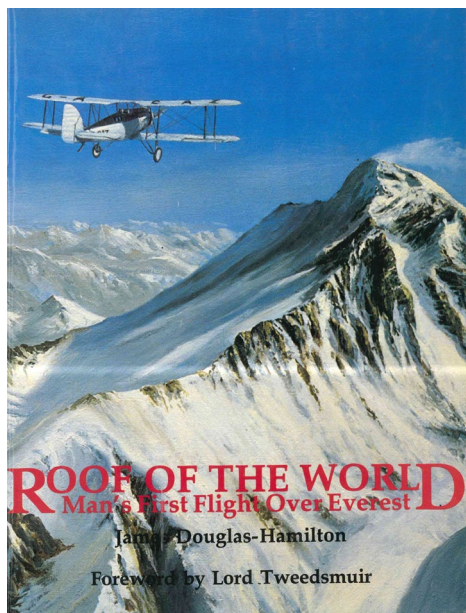
My sincere thanks go to all who participated.

James MacHardy



3 Ks Tour, 2022

In the Christmas Newsletter a qualified hope of a possible 3 Ks November Tour was expressed. It has now been decided that absolute travel safety could not be guaranteed for November. A possible tour in February 2022, still a good time weather-wise, is now a possibility and once again it would be helpful to hear from anyone who might be interested, without commitment, in what will probably be a final 3 Ks Tour. [Interest to johnwebster@live.co.uk](mailto:johnwebster@live.co.uk)



The first flight over Everest

A friend who is researching for some information, quoted a few lines from a book he had read:

‘Just before the first flight over Everest, a former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Dr Graham, at his Mission School at Kalimpong, asked Clydesdale to fly over the School in his Moth.

The event caused a sensation and when the children asked if they had seen something supernatural, they were quickly disillusioned’

My friend said he could only imagine this must have been ‘my Dr Graham’!

It is an interesting bit of history. In 1933, the Marquis of Douglas and Clydesdale became the first person to fly an aircraft over the summit of Everest. The flight was the climax of months of intensive planning and caught the imagination of millions, as news of its success was broadcast to the empire and beyond. The Times described the flight as “almost like exploring the rainbow.”

Two bi-planes flew together and the pilots were lucky to come back alive. They had only rudimentary oxygen equipment and reported clearing the summit by barely a hundred feet. Unfortunately, their camera equipment failed, but going against advice, a few days later they repeated the feat, this time taking amazing photographs. They had hoped to find traces of the climbers Mallory and Irvine, lost on the mountain some ten years previously. Nothing was seen, but twenty years later, their photographs helped guide Tensing and Hillary to the summit.

In the book, the Marquis is referred to simply as Clydesdale. The title is ‘Roof of the World’, written by his son James Douglas Hamilton and published by Mainstream Publishing. It is still in print and a recommended good read.

Anne Hoggan

The Passing of Time

As a committee, we are very aware that we are gradually losing touch with a generation who knew the Homes as Dr Graham founded them. Until the 1960s all of the children at the Homes were supported children. It has been a privilege to meet some of these people through producing the UK Kalimpong Association newsletter and now the UK Committee newsletter. These newsletters have been preserved on our website and, though not comprehensive in any way, are a wonderful collection of memories from people whose lives were transformed by their Homes experience. Sadly, the Association disbanded some years ago as the members were becoming elderly and fewer. Margaretta Purtill was their last chair, and is now chair of our committee. You will find the Association Newsletter Archive as one of the last items in the News section of our website. All of our UK committee newsletters can also be found filed under Bi-annual Reports, also in the News section. Following, are two life stories from the early days of the Homes.

Alistair McCabe Editor

Remembering Aubrey John Prince-Wright (John Wright) 1936 - 2021

by his daughter Deirdre



At age five, Aubrey and his four older brothers Ken, Pat, Harry and Leslie travelled to Kalimpong to attend Dr Graham's Homes, following the sudden passing of their father. Their two younger siblings, Pamela and Irvine remained with their Mum until they were school age when they also were educated at the Homes.

Aubrey spent 10 years at DGH and fondly referred to it as home, often reminiscing about the views of Kanchenjunga from the school sports fields. A keen athlete, he won cups at school sports events in swimming. At 15 he made his way to Calcutta to reunite with his Mum and attended Bishop Cotton Boys School in Bangalore before travelling to England in 1953 to seek his fortune.



He joined the RAF in June 1953 to do his two years National Service before transferring to the army in March 1955. As a marine engineer, his career included tours to Christmas Island, Aden and Bahrain, and two tours to Singapore with his family. His love for sports continued during his army career where he took part in sports day Athletic events and played hockey and tennis. His military career ended as an Instructor in February 1976 with Exemplary for military conduct and five medals for his service. The medals awarded were Long Service and Good Conduct, National Service, Coronation 1953, General Service with South Arabia and Borneo clasps and Pingat Jasa Malaysia (service to Malaysia award).

Aubrey met Mary Lenane in London in 1955 and they married on 7th April 1956. During their 57 year marriage they had six children and many grandchildren and great grandchildren. During the 1990s they visited the Homes on two occasions. His love for DGH lives on through his granddaughter Michelle who currently sponsors two children and has visited Kalimpong four times, including participating in the Bike Bengal and K2K fundraising cycling events. Aubrey's daughter Deirdre and grandson Andy have also enjoyed visits to the Homes.

Aubrey's career outside the army began in 1976 as a Commissioning Engineer for CCL followed by a move to Northamptonshire in 1983 to work for Hedemora as the UK Director of Operations until retirement. Aubrey's motto was you can achieve anything you want to in life if you work hard and be the best you can be.

Aubrey lost his beloved wife Mary in 2012. He moved to Southampton to be nearer his children and a new chapter began. Aubrey was never quite the same and, with declining health, moved to Sunrise Care Home in August 2019. Here he settled and became part of the Sunrise community until his sudden passing.

He will be missed, loved and remembered by all who knew him.

Deirdre Summers-Wright

Remembering Cynthia Ross 18 Oct 1921-28 Dec 2020

Edited from an article by her daughter Barbara



Cynthia was the eldest of eight children, born in Madras in 1921. Her family was Anglo Indian. Sadly, she was 15 when her Dad died. She obtained her teaching credential and began sending her pay cheque home to help her Mother raise the remaining seven children on her own. She got a job teaching in the Northeastern Himalayan Foothills, at Dr Graham's Homes, about as far from her home as possible in India. There she met the Maths and Science Master, Donald Ross and, at 24 years old, married my Dad in 1945.

Gordon was born in 1946. She told me he was so beautiful a child that she entered him in a Most Beautiful Baby contest in Calcutta, where he won the 1st prize! Mum continued to teach full-time while raising Gordon, so she got an Aiyah to help care for Gordon while she worked. In 1949, I came along. Life continued in the Himalayas as she raised the two of us and continued teaching.

When I was two, we moved to Leeds in England where Dad studied for his Masters degree in Education. I remember Leeds as cold and miserable. Queen Elizabeth was crowned while we were there. Cynthia's second son Clive was born there.

Mum was so relieved when Dad graduated and we returned to Kalimpong. We moved into Wales Lodge, then into Graham House, the large lovely home provided for the Headmaster. That was the position given my Dad once he'd returned from England with his Masters. Mum also busied herself with designing, sewing and knitting most of our clothes. She entertained a lot as the wife of the Headmaster and taught



herself to cook. There was some unpleasantness with some housemothers not accepting her Catholicism in a strong Protestant environment.



During visits of various dignitaries, Cynthia hosted and entertained them. She assisted with the visits of Lady Mountbatten and the Dalai Lama. She continued teaching throughout our life in Kalimpong and, until she died, there were several of her students from the Homes who kept in touch with her every year.

We left the Homes in 1958 with Dad determined to obtain a PhD in Psychology, due to his interest in the raising of the many pupils who were orphaned or permanently boarded at the Homes. He selected the University of Chicago, Illinois in the US. He was accepted and Mum packed us all up for the major migration. After the mild climate of the Himalayas, Chicago was a shock! Cold, windy and icy in the winter and hot and humid in the summer.



After Chicago, the family moved to the San Francisco Bay area where my parents reconnected with a pupil from Kalimpong, Keen Ahoy and his wife Breena, who had moved to Berkeley. Mum and Breena decided to collaborate on a cookbook of Anglo-Indian Cuisine. Sadly, the book was never

published, but they were featured in the Better Homes and Gardens magazine and the Cathryn Crosby Show (Bing's wife). Cynthia's dinners were legendary, and invitations coveted. One day I hope to publish the cookbook in my mother's memory.



That beat of life hummed along for Cynthia until her husband became quite ill in the late 80s and early 90s. Donald died after a year in a nursing home. Cynthia kept well until dementia set in when she was in her 80s. My Mum was 99 years old when she passed just after Christmas, tragically from Covid, but she certainly lived a long, challenging, interesting and admirable life.

Barbara Ross

OUR NEXT EVENTS

We are planning optimistically for life after Lockdown. We will all be following the news and these events will only take place if it is appropriate to do so.

London Reception

Friends and supporters are invited to an evening of wine and canapes. An opportunity to gather and discuss all things Dr Graham's Homes!

St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD

Tuesday 26 October 2021 5.30 – 8.30 pm



This is a 'drop in' event. No reservation required. Please come and bring a friend!

Garden Opening in Dundee

Saturday 16 October 6 – 8 pm & Sunday 17 October 2 – 5pm



12 Glamis Drive, Dundee DD2 1QL

Frances and John Dent will be opening their garden under Scotland's Gardens Scheme and in aid of Dr Graham's Homes.

A half-acre, south facing, garden overlooking the River Tay and Fife hills. Wander among shady trees and shrubs and discover water features and hidden areas in a variety of garden styles, all enhanced by vibrant autumn colours. Come on Sunday afternoon and have tea and cake or come on Saturday evening to see the garden transformed by coloured floodlighting and have hot drinks and nibbles in the marquee.

Live music, children's activities and plant stall on both days.

Admission £4 Refreshments £3 Children free



Homes Birthday Celebrations

Calling OGBs and friends of the Homes to celebrate Founder's Day

**St Columba's Church, Pont Street
London SW1X 0BD**

**Saturday 25 September 2021
1 – 5 pm**

Annually, OGBs worldwide gather to celebrate Founder's Day with fun, fellowship and of course a rendition of the school song and a birthday cake. The more the merrier! Do come and join Margareta and fellow OGBs. You will be made very welcome.

Do contact Margareta for further details, or to let her know you are attending.

Margareta Purtil
purtils@btinternet.com Tel: 0740 5968162

Homes Birthday Curry Lunch

**The Royal Scots Club, 29 Abercromby Place, Edinburgh EH3 6QE
Friday 24 September 2021 12 – 3 pm**

Indications are now more positive that we will be able to meet together in person for the first time in a long while, so we have firmly reserved our venue for a September lunch.

This event is already well subscribed, so please contact James to reserve your place and he will contact you nearer the time and issue tickets.

The price is expected to be £25 - £30.

To reserve your place, please either email or write to:

James MacHardy, Roseisle, Sawbridgeworth Road, Hatfield Heath, CM22 7DR
jamesmachardy@yahoo.com

Numbers are restricted so register your interest early to avoid disappointment

**DR GRAHAM'S HOMES, KALIMPONG, INDIA
1900 – 2021**



OVER A CENTURY OF CARING FOR CHILDREN

Founder -The Very Reverend John Anderson Graham DD, LL.B, CIE
Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 1931

Our picture shows a relaxed Dr and Mrs Graham with daughters Peggy and Isa in Kalimpong.
The Grahams had six children in all: two sons and four daughters.