



## **UK COMMITTEE DR GRAHAM'S HOMES**

*Charity Registered in Scotland SC 016341*

### **112<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REPORT**

**For the year ended 31 January 2020**

# 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](http://www.drgrahamshomes.co.uk)

## Annual Reports and Summary Accounts For the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020

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Thank-you to Chris Christenson for our cover picture

### **Notice of Annual General Meeting for 2021**

Our 2020 AGM has been cancelled due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic.  
We invite friends and supporters to join us next year in Edinburgh.

**Wednesday 12 May 2021 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,  
but this is a firm date for the diary.

## Honorary Presidents

The Moderator of the General Assembly,  
The Church of Scotland

The Primus,  
The Scottish Episcopal Church

## The Board of Trustees 2019 – 2020

<b>Chair</b>	Margaretta Purtil 67 Brangwyn Crescent, Merton Abbey, London SW19 2UA Tel. 020 8715 0929	Email: <a href="mailto:purtils@btinternet.com">purtils@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	James MacHardy "Roseisle", Sawbridgeworth Road, Hatfield Heath, Essex CM22 7DR Tel. 01279 730711	Email: <a href="mailto:jamesmachardy@yahoo.com">jamesmachardy@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Committee Secretary</b>	Frances Dent 12 Glamis Drive, Dundee DD2 1QL Tel. 01382 668700	Email: <a href="mailto:drgrahamsuksec@gmail.com">drgrahamsuksec@gmail.com</a>
<b>Sponsorship Secretaries</b>	Ian & Angela Russell Hazelgrove, The Common, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8NS Tel. 01483 272108	Email: <a href="mailto:sponsorship@drgrahamshomes.co.uk">sponsorship@drgrahamshomes.co.uk</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	James Gibson 44 Aytoun Road, Pollokshields, Glasgow G41 5HN Tel. 0141 423 8290	Email: <a href="mailto:treasurer@drgrahamshomes.co.uk">treasurer@drgrahamshomes.co.uk</a>

## Other members of the Board of Trustees

John Ball   Frank Dunn   Anne Hoggan   Aileen Fraser  
Amanda Grant   Shona Hume   Alistair McCabe   Jenny Moore  
James Simpson   Jim Simpson   Pat Simpson   John Webster

## External Appointments

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

## From the school Principal

Dr Graham's Homes under lockdown



Greetings from all of us at the Homes. I am writing with an update of the current situation. We are all very well by the grace of God.

I am in regular touch with all concerned. Though all advice maintains that isolation is the key, it is not possible to oversee the functioning of Dr. Graham's Homes confined to my home. I do daily visits of the SMC and as much of the campus as possible. We have meetings and review meetings to monitor and assess the situation continuously.

As far as food is concerned there are enough stocks of dry rations. For fresh supplies like vegetable and fish the Department is managing locally. Initially, there was a scarcity of medical supplies all over but this has now eased off. I have blocked specific articles at different medical outlets such as medical soap, liquid dettol, liquid disinfectant solution and surgical masks. These will be available to us as and when required. For the time being we have sufficient stock of the same.

It is heartening to note that the North Bengal Medical College has been declared a testing facility and the hospital at Rambhi, which lies between Kalimpong and Siliguri has been earmarked as the designated Isolation facility.

All the children are well and happy. The food being served to them is very good under the prevailing circumstances. All our teachers are interacting with the students online and so the academic aspect is also being taken care of.

Prior to the lockdown those parents who wished to take their children home were granted permission. Currently, we have 55 supported boys and 51 supported girls who are on the campus at Dr. Graham's Homes. 32 supported boys and 34 supported girls went home with their parents. We are preparing for the UK committee a comprehensive and classified list of names and relevant details of the sponsored children.

We continue to pray that God will see us all through these extremely trying times.

*Neil Monteiro 1 May 2020*

### **Dr Graham's Homes today**

The current strength of the Homes in total is 1,215 students. Of these there are 690 day scholars, 178 paying boarders whose families support their attendance, and 267 supported students. Of these, the UK currently supports 162. The campus is now operating 15 cottages 8 for boys and 7 for girls. Lucia King is the cottage for infants, staffed by a very capable House Parent heading a team of trained and trainee children's workers.

Each of the boys' cottages has two house parents, while the girls' have one house parent. The cottage parents are supported by one Girls' Cottage and one Boys' Cottage Supervisor, and there is a Senior Hostel for class XII students.

There is a Kindergarten, Junior School and Senior School. Tests, exams and formative assessments are regular features in each term for all classes. Additional coaching and remedial classes are also offered. Year X students are presented for Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) and class XII for Indian School Certificate (ISC). A 'preliminary nurses' course and a 'nursery nurses' examination is available.

We have seen considerable change in the Homes in the last few years, with increased commitment from the staff and much improved standards of housekeeping and safeguarding. As well as the children, the 'in excess of 100 year old' buildings give both Kalimpong and the UK committee a challenge, but this is being addressed in several ways including an annual team of GO volunteers refurbishing cottages every January and February.

The school complement of 71 teachers managed by a senior management team, the Headmaster, Senior Teacher the Head of Junior School and Head of Kindergarten School, in addition to the Department Heads. They are supported by a School Counsellor and a Teacher for Additional Needs. Technical, support and office staff, complete the picture. It is notable that over the whole campus, through every department from cottage to teaching and estate work, 64 staff are OGBs. Each class averages around 40 students. Most classrooms throughout the School, from the kindergarten and junior to the senior sections are airy and bright in terms of natural light, and classes display students work on the walls. The laboratories are very well equipped and the infrastructure is the best in the region. On account of the fact that Dr. Graham's Homes has the best faculty in the district, a large number of students pursue class XI and XII at Dr. Graham's Homes.

The school academic year runs from mid-February to early December, with a two-week summer break and several additional religious holidays.

**Neil Monteiro** Headmaster

## UK Committee Chairman's report

Margaretta Purtil



Reverend Dr John Anderson Graham believed that the Homes was to be a place that not only represented a solution to the problems of a particular community, but that through its work and influence, the children might take with them a way of life, that would extend far beyond Kalimpong.

His death signalled the end of an era. An era of compassion, love, and service during which thousands of children received love and affection, and grew up with dignity and self-respect. Dr Graham provided the inspiration for those who succeeded him to continue with his good works. His spirit lives on and remains the driving force of all those now engaged in supporting and running the Homes.

A telegram sent to the children by the Rev Dr Graham read:

“The world is in difficulty and this is the call to us all to do all we can to help. You, dear children have your part to play and it may be a big part. The way for you as for all of us, is to live just as Jesus lived, to follow him in His loving, unselfish, generous life of service to all, to bear witness to Him and His way, in everything we do. So shall we best help the world out of its difficulties by helping to bring God’s Kingdom to come - Your loving friend, J. A. Graham.”

Since then the Homes has grown from strength to strength. There have been times of great difficulty. Often the Homes has been plunged into many a crisis. But the benefactors, staff and students have amazingly rallied around to help the Homes return to stability, and the example of Daddy Graham continues to inspire all those associated with the Homes. It strengthens our resolve to look ahead, despite the odds against, and to bring comfort and hope to the children; to help them live a life of dignity and love.

And so - The UK Committee has made it their mission to help maintain Dr Graham’s legacy. Its main endeavour is the Sponsorship of the under privileged child in India. This is why we are here today, as well as being our Christian duty. This is what the UK Committee will continue to do - but we cannot do it without your help. The road will be rough but we must continue to help those children who need us and rely on us to give them a better life.

## The choir performs in Kolkata

Every institution has traditions integrated deep in its core values and the Homes is no exception. Annual, much looked forward to events, include the beautiful floral arrangements of the Cottage Garden Competition and the Mountbatten Plays, but the one thing that Dr. Graham's Homes has been renowned for is the beautiful voices of the children displayed during the annual singing competition, the true prestigious moment in every cottage boy or girl's school life.

The Homes has had a choir since its inception and has a long history of performing at prestigious events both in Kalimpong and Kolkata.

The new Choir Master, Stefan Francis, writes:



Being the fourth generation of my family to have studied at the Homes, and the third to work here, is an absolute honour.

When I was a member of the school choir I had the privilege of being part of many momentous occasions in Kolkata and I am delighted to report that this tradition is being restored.

Last year, the choir returned to Kolkata after a break of many years. They were invited to perform at the Annual Conference of Anglo-Indian schools at Loreto House and also performed at St. Paul's cathedral and St. Andrew's church. Having completed three successful performances, they are now eager to continue performing on many such occasions.

I would like to join Stefan in thanking the Board of Management, the Principal and specially the students in the choir for their support, dedication and time.

I can proudly say that Dr. Graham's Homes flag flies high – and always will!

**Margaretta Purtill** UK Committee chair

## Meet our new Sponsorship Team

Ian & Anji Russell



On a cold damp day in February 2020, we found ourselves at Kings Cross Station London, boarding a train to Edinburgh. We were travelling there to attend an interview for the post of Sponsorship Secretary for Dr Graham's Homes. Although the advert we responded to was for one person, we had made the unusual offer of 'two for the price of one' – to echo Aristotle's suggestion that "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts". We are both quite different in many ways, but we believe that the gifts and abilities that God has given us

complement each other extremely well. We both however, have a real passion for education, for the underprivileged, and for ensuring that people feel valued and cared for.

Edinburgh was wet but the outlook turned out to be sunny when a few days later we were offered the position. We were delighted to accept and so here we are!

We would like to tell you a little about ourselves as we embark on this partnership and journey with you. As so often happens we met at college, while training to be teachers. We then spent our careers as teachers and headteachers in different Primary schools in West London and Bath, whilst raising our two daughters, Anna and Naomi.

In 2006 God opened an opportunity for us to work abroad – something that had been on our hearts for a number of years. In August that year we found ourselves moving to China to live and work in a culture that was both fascinating and alien to us. We were there for four years working in education and learning to use chopsticks, much to the amusement of the Chinese! As for the language, well that is another matter....

Following a further year spent working in Seoul, South Korea, the UK beckoned and home we came in 2011.

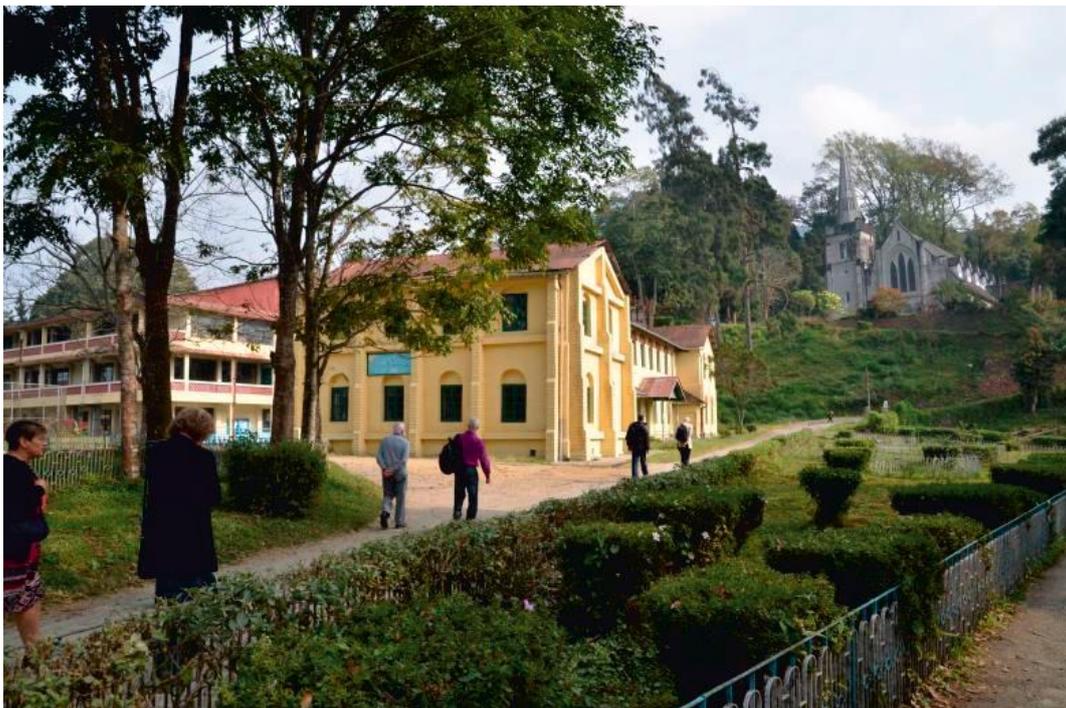
During, and since that time, Anji has continued working as an Independent Schools Inspector, and Ian has embarked on a second career as an Operations Manager, first in a charity for homeless and vulnerable people in Bath, then latterly for our daughter's business. We have also both been involved in a number of voluntary roles with local organisations and charities. We now live in Cranleigh, Surrey and are part of our local church where Ian regularly leads worship.

And so to Kalimpong, India... the more we read about the amazing work of Dr Graham and his incredible legacy over the last century, the more impressed we are. It is a privilege to be invited to become part of this work and we are excited and very much looking forward to getting to know the children, their sponsors and correspondents, and all others involved in Dr Graham's Homes.

As we write this message we are starting the 3rd day of the Covid-19 lockdown here in the UK and, when considering the world's situation, we are reminded of many psalms, especially Psalm 46:10-11

“Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth.”

The Lord Almighty is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.”



## **The challenge to maintain sponsorship levels**

Each year in late autumn, we receive from the Board of Management a list of potential candidates for sponsorship. The 2019 list, names twenty children of various ages who are in desperate circumstances, some orphaned, some single parented, all deprived and all in need of support and education. The role of the UK Committee is to link these children to suitable sponsors and start a relationship that can last for ten or more years.

Sadly, the decline in available sponsors over the last few years has required us to advise the Board of Management that the time may come when the UK Committee will be unable to support new entrants. The number of children supported by our committee has for the first time dropped to below 200. We are determined to reverse this trend.

This year we have agreed to take on 11 of the needy children on the list, and if sponsors are not found, they will be funded by our reserves. This still leaves nine nominated children that our current finances will not stretch to. We have asked the other Overseas Committees in Canada, Australia, Japan and New Zealand to help and we have also asked GO, the alumni association.

Our own trustees have been challenged to either find a new sponsor or take on a child themselves. We are a fund-raising committee and plan to re-focus on this area of our work. Our trustees have been asked to come up with ideas to raise funds. These could be sponsored events, bike rides, walks, climbs, runs, swims, slims etc or speaking about the Homes, talks to Rotaries, Guilds etc (a presentation package is available) or, coffee/tea events, soup and sandwich lunches, open gardens.

The UK database now securely holds some 1,300 contacts. Our supporters are our strength and it is marvellous that so many people have an interest in Dr Graham's Homes today. We are optimistic that with the help of friends we can raise the number of children we are supporting to previous levels and continue to rise to the challenge, as our committee has been doing for the last 113 years.

Please do consider sponsoring a child. We will be glad to give you more details.

**Ian & Anji Russell**  
**[sponsorship@drgrahamshomes.co.uk](mailto:sponsorship@drgrahamshomes.co.uk)**

## Committee Secretary's Report

Frances Dent



Our AGM plans have been overtaken by the coronavirus pandemic. However, the cancellation of our meeting is insignificant compared to our concern for the welfare of children and staff at the Homes. Although the Trustees have been unable to meet physically since February, we are in regular contact with each other and with the Board of Management.

We have ascertained that the Senior Management at the Homes have received adequate advice about how to protect the Homes from the virus. We know that 106 supported children are still living in their cottages; the others have gone back to their families for the period of isolation. Suitable arrangements have been made at the Homes for social isolation and for medical care if needed. At the time of writing this, we are not aware of any child or staff member who has contracted Covid-19. Our committee is in regular contact for updates on the situation.

We continue to offer prayerful support to all those working at the Homes in these troubled times. Please remember in particular the Principal, the Bursar and the Headmaster. They are seen here in more relaxed times, on a day when they demonstrated care and affection for the children as they took part in a walk up Deolo Hill. (left to right: Mr Pravin Pradhan, Mr Neil Monteiro, Col Ashok Gogoi)



Committee changes: Fiona Cranston resigned as a Trustee in October 2019, and Fiona's superb contribution to our committee is highlighted on page seventeen. We are delighted to welcome Ian and Anji Russell as Job-share Sponsorship Secretaries, and they introduce themselves on page eight.

Virus permitting, I look forward to meeting many of you at one of our autumn events, or in my own garden at our open days in October in aid of DGH.

**Frances Dent**

# THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

for the Year to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020



Our accounts for the year ended 31 January 2020 show income of £281,778 and a deficit of £8,558. 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 17 April 2020; 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.

**Jim Gibson, UK Committee Treasurer**

## UK COMMITTEE OF DR GRAHAM'S HOMES, KALIMPONG

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**Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 January 2020**

### **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 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 Committees in Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. The affairs of The Homes in India are governed by a Board of Management based in Kolkata. Mrs Guha, a member of the Kolkata Board of Management, has been appointed to represent the interests of the UK Committee on the Board of Management, but the position has not worked out as planned and is being reviewed. The UK Committee's principal source of income is funds raised from supporters, whether by regular donations or fundraising efforts, to provide sponsorships for children in need. This enables us to meet our full financial commitment to supporting the children and students for whom we are responsible.

## **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 162, with a further 39 students at further education colleges. This compares with numbers supported in the previous year of 170 at school and 63 in colleges. The children who are supported come from disadvantaged backgrounds, and care is taken to match children 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.

Repairs to the infrastructure of the Homes following the damage caused by the Earthquake of September 2011 have been largely completed, apart from the Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel, which we hold to be the soul of the school. The West Bengal Heritage Commission has undertaken to fund and project manage all structural repairs and refurbishment works to the chapel; while restoration work started in January 2019, progress since has been exceptionally slow. We have been delighted to contribute £22,679 to the cost of refurbishing the Central Kitchen, a further £5,000 to the Irish Committee, to assist them with a major project to refurbish the Kindergarten play area, and £2,346 towards the cost of instruments for the school pipe band. These funds have come partly from the balance of money in the Earthquake Fund and partly from gifts given in memory of Dr Maurice Shellim of Kolkata and Miss Winifred Hinderwell of Troon. In addition 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. While legacy income at £38,000 in the year was much reduced compared with the previous year of £78,679 we have also received around £3,000 of “in memoriam” gifts, for which we are very grateful. We continue to appreciate donations from church services and Guild meetings. Fundraising income this year has been relatively modest at £3,396. Although the annual London Curry Lunch has been discontinued we did have a successful Supporters’ Reception in London in October, and hope to continue this as an annual event. In addition, local supporters have raised funds through holding coffee mornings or garden parties, participating in sponsored walks and selling local history books. The sale of DGH greetings cards has over the years raised a lot of money to sponsor children but has now become uneconomic and so the remaining funds from the card company have been given to the UK Committee and are now held within restricted funds.

### **Interaction with The Homes**

A number of trustees have visited the Homes during the year to maintain relationships with the Board of Management and the Senior Management Team at the Homes, and have been favourably impressed with the achievements of the pupils, both academically and in extra curricular activities.

We look forward to welcoming Ian and Anji Russell, who will join us as Joint Sponsorship Secretaries on 1 May. Ms Nichola Pereira has done well in the role of sponsorship Liaison Officer at the Homes, but sadly she left in March 2020 to take up a position in a Governmental Rural school. We wish her well.

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. To this end we support the salaries of the sponsorship liaison officers, at both the Homes and at the Birkmyre Hostel in Kolkata, where the role of sponsorship Liaison Officer is critical in ensuring that students are making effective use of their study time. The situation at the Birkmyre has remained fluid during the year and we are in close touch with members of the Board of Management regarding students' progress.

### **Political situation in India**

The underlying political situation in India in general and in the Kalimpong and Darjeeling districts in particular is fragile. There has, however, been a measure of stability during the year.

### **Committee management**

Trustee meetings have been held regularly to review aspects of fundraising and to consider how best to support the needs in India. A Governance Working Group has been set up to review the way in which the Committee operates. We have been in close contact with the Board of Management concerning specific needs and priorities at Kalimpong. As noted above, a number of Trustees have visited the Homes; these visits provide liaison with the Board of Management and Homes staff, and help to deal with matters concerning the children who are supported through the UK Committee.

### **Outreach**

The Charity participated in the "Heart and Soul" event run by the Church of Scotland during General Assembly Week in May 2019, and retains strong links with the Church of Scotland family, in particular with church Guilds, and we appreciate the fact that the Moderator is one of our Honorary Presidents. Contacts with potential new

supporters have been made at events such as the London Reception and by the efforts of those who have engaged in fundraising events.

### **Investments**

The investment policy is to ensure a good level of income consistent with security of capital and accessibility of funds. Responsibility for investment management rests with the Treasurer. 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 and the portfolio is well diversified. At 31 January 2020, our portfolio was valued at £965,595 compared with £896,773 at 31 January 2019. The current yield on the portfolio is 3.2%, but as noted below the value has decreased significantly since the year end due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Financial Review**

#### **Principal sources of funds**

The Charity's activities and developments continue to be dependent upon funding from a core of committed supporters, both individuals and groups, 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. In addition funds are received from legacies, and the committee acknowledges with grateful thanks the amount of £38,000 which has been received during the year.

#### **Results for the year**

The year's results have to be seen in context of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic which has appeared since the year end and has reduced the value of our investments by around £140,000 as at the time of writing.

The Statement of Financial Activities reflects a deficit of £8,558 (2019 – deficit of £26,316), consisting of a surplus of £57,672 (2019 – surplus £28,612) relating to Unrestricted funds, and a deficit of £66,230 (2019 – deficit of £54,928) relating to Restricted funds. Ordinary donation and sponsorship income (excluding legacies) showed a reduction of £23,339 to £190,008, the reduction being due mainly to a large gift received in the previous year from a trust which was winding up. Legacy income in the year was £38,000 against £78,679 in the previous year.

The largest contributor to the result for the year was investment gains of £91,730 (2019 - losses of £12,574), but as noted above these gains have disappeared since the year end and so it is more realistic to ignore the figure of gains of £91,730 and view the result for the year as an overall deficit of £100,288. 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 £1,208,177. After taking account of the fall in the value of investments since then, the Balance Sheet remains healthy with total funds of over £1 million.

### **Utilisation of funds**

The purpose of the Restricted funds has been 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 they face are continuity of income, fluctuations in foreign exchange, 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 £751,142, representing an amount 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.

The political situation in India remains volatile. 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 scholarships.

Child support, involving individual and personal links with children in need throughout their school careers, is our Unique Selling Point. We will continue to work with the Board of Management in India, offering advice and the benefit of experience to help with the efficient running of The Homes and 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.

On behalf of the Trustees

**Margaretta Purtil** Chairman

### **We bid farewell to a loyal Trustee**



**Mrs Fiona Cranston**  
retired from the U.K.  
Committee in October 2019  
after 12 years membership.

Fiona, a grand-daughter of  
Daddy Graham, (Dr. and Mrs.  
J. A. Graham) brought  
considerable knowledge and  
expertise to our Committee.

Fiona, for many years, was heavily involved in the successful annual London Curry Lunch held in the halls of St. Columba's Church of Scotland, Knightsbridge. Fiona and husband Ian were also instrumental in the card company over 12 years. This company provided Christmas cards and notelets which raised thousands of pounds over the years for the support of needy children.

We sincerely thank Fiona and Ian for their valuable contribution to our work and wish them well in the future.

## UK Committee Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong, India

### Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 January 2020

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2020 Total	2019 Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Income from</b>				
Donations and legacies	79,033	148,975	228,008	292,026
Charitable activities	3,396	16,855	20,251	18,058
Investments	18,631	14,888	33,519	38,935
<b>Total income</b>	<b>101,060</b>	<b>180,718</b>	<b>281,778</b>	<b>349,019</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Raising Funds	22,248	-	22,248	20,416
Charitable Activities	60,183	299,635	359,818	342,345
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>82,431</b>	<b>299,635</b>	<b>382,066</b>	<b>362,761</b>
Investment gains / (losses)	91,730	-	91,730	(12,574)
<b>Net income / expenditure</b>	<b>110,359</b>	<b>(118,917)</b>	<b>(8,558)</b>	<b>(26,316)</b>
<b>Transfers</b>				
Transfer to sponsorship	(52,687)	52,687	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>57,672</b>	<b>(66,230)</b>	<b>(8,558)</b>	<b>(26,316)</b>
Balances brought forward at 1 February 2019	693,470	523,265	1,216,735	1,243,051
Balances carried forward at 31 January 2020	751,142	457,035	1,208,177	1,216,735



## UK Committee Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong, India

### Balance Sheet as at 31 January 2020

	£	2020 £	2019 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Investments		965,595	896,773
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	7,722		56,850
Cash at bank	275,302		287,071
	<u>283,024</u>		<u>343,921</u>
<b>Current Liabilities due within one year</b>			
Accruals and deferred income	40,442		23,959
	<u>40,442</u>		<u>23,959</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		242,582	319,962
<b>Total Assets less Liabilities</b>		<u>1,208,177</u>	<u>1,216,735</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
Restricted funds		457,035	523,265
Unrestricted funds		751,142	693,470
		<u>1,208,177</u>	<u>1,216,735</u>

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

Margaretta Purtill Chairman

James N Gibson CA Treasurer

17 April 2020

### Souper support for Kalimpong homes



Helpers in the kitchen some of whom have been volunteers for 13 years.

We are grateful to the Friends of Dr Graham's Homes on the island of Arran, who arrange an annual "Soup and Sandwiches" get-together.

This year was the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive event. Held in Brodick Church Hall, guests enjoyed delicious soup, sandwiches, chat and a fabulous raffle. It was good to see familiar faces and new faces as well.

We would like to thank everybody that participated. The event raised £753 and generous donations increased this to £1,200: an amount almost enough to support a child at the Homes for a whole year - a very rewarding day.

## The 3Ks Kolkata, Kathmandu, Kalimpong a much loved annual event



John Webster writes: “India! Who wants to go to that place?” This common response frustrated and saddened me for I had discovered right from my first visit to Kolkata in 1964, amidst the cacophony and crowds there was a wonderful acceptance and welcome from a cheerful and fun loving people in the midst of apparent poverty.

Then, I was on my way, with Jennifer and our family, to Dr. Graham's Homes for the first time, to work as Chaplain and Farm Manager. In Kalimpong, we experienced a further warm and cheerful welcome from staff, pupils and an industrious local Nepalese people employed by The Homes. It was in 1973, that we reluctantly departed Dr. Graham's Homes and it would be twenty years before we were able to return. My love for India and Nepal had not abated and the idea of a future organised tour to introduce India and her people to others took root.



Alistair McCabe, of McCabe Pilgrimages, had, through his parents, experience of The Homes, and in 2001 and 2002, organised by him I led two tours to Delhi, The Taj Mahal and surrounding tourist attractions concluding with a visit to Kalimpong and The Homes. Later in 2002, with Bufo Ventures, an experienced Nepal Trekking firm, a tour to Kathmandu along with a trek in the Himalayas was evolved.



These Tours had all been very worthwhile but the authentic Indian experience of Kolkata had been lacking, and in November 2004 the first 3Ks tour was born. Since then (including two memorable Tours including Bhutan) a two to three week tour to Kolkata, Kathmandu and Kalimpong has been an annual event.



In Kolkata we used to visit the slums, but this became too “voyeuristic”, whereas Mother Theresa's Home and Care Centres, The Scots' Cemetery, Open-Air Markets, a Sail on the Ganges, Street Strolls and Sunday Worship have all been integral.



Off North to Nepal and Kathmandu where disembarking from the 'plane literally brought an invasion of fresh air, clear skies and the sight of the eternally snow clad Himalaya. In Kathmandu we are lost in the fascinating myriad of narrow streets and shops and visit three Heritage Sites. Over the years 4 Day Treks to Namche Bazaar at around 13,000 ft., on the Everest Base Camp Trail and optional Flights to Everest itself have added to the experience.





A short flight South takes us to “Safari” in Chitwan National Park. Elephant Rides into the Jungle to meet rhinos, River Trips in dug-out canoes witness crocodiles on the Banks and exotic birds in abundance and a Bullock Cart Ride to a “Tharu” Village are all part of the experience.

We drive East to India and journey by Jeep up the Himalayan Foothills to Kalimpong (4,500ft.) and to Dr. Graham's Homes. This visit is the main objective of our journey, and the party is taken on intensive tours around the campus to visit the wide range of activities relating to the care of U.K. supported children. It becomes apparent, remembering the poverty in Kolkata that here is something “you can do”. At least two of our present Trustees had their first experience of the Homes on a 3Ks tour.

From Kalimpong our Jeeps wind their way to Darjeeling at 7,000ft. We visit a Tea Garden, experience a ride in the “Toy Train” and enjoy the luxury of the “Colonial” Windamere Hotel with grand views of the ever present Himalayan Snows.

The Tour concludes with the essential and delightful experience of an Indian train journey when, returning to the Plains, we board the overnight “Sleeper” back to reality of Kolkata where our journey began two and a half weeks ago. We have become “enriched” by our travels and more aware of our own home comforts.

**For some, the 3Ks Tour  
has created a further  
3K experience.**

**“Koncern,  
Konsideration and Kapital”  
leading to the Kare  
of under-privileged children.**



## A participants view of a 3Ks Tour

Lynne Watt's personal experience of the last 3Ks tour



My husband, Stewart, and I moved to Troon in 1985, attending Troon Old Parish Church where John Webster was the minister. For many years, we raised funds for Dr Graham's Homes, a name engraved on my heart but I never thought I'd visit. In May 2019, we read an invitation from John to join his last 3Ks tour that November. Stewart was equally keen, and we booked straight away.

Unfortunately, John couldn't make it. Disappointing for him, and also for the group who knew of the enthusiasm, fun and adventure he brings to every situation. His engagement with the locals, porters, guides, drivers, farm workers and Homes children was renowned, as well as his constant concern about the poverty (reflected in very generous tipping). We also missed out on the usual highlight of a final 3Ks evening, his spectacular egg trick! Stepping in to considerable shoes at short notice, Aileen Fraser became our leader and did a superb job, with seventeen adults to keep in check, assisted by knowledgeable and helpful guides.

On November 1<sup>st</sup> we flew to Kolkata which was an assault on the senses: noisy, dusty, busy but colourful, with smells which were very pungent to our delicate Scottish noses. On day four we flew to Nepal's capital, Kathmandu, full of wonderful temples and enjoyed a safari camp. After three nights, we crossed the border and approached Kalimpong in a convoy of jeeps – the special place we longed to see and the main object of our journey.

Two of our party were educated at the Homes. Harry, now eighty-five and suffering from Alzheimers, was able to relate stories of his time there, and Maureen, who was happy to revisit her old cottage. Although we arrived on a school holiday, a special outdoor Assembly was arranged for us. We then visited several cottages. We were blown away by the wonderful singing of the wee boys in Wales Lodge and, of course, we loved our visit to Lucia King. After three full days in Kalimpong, we moved to Darjeeling, tea country, and to Kolkata on a memorable overnight train journey.

What an amazing experience! Stewart and I would love to go back. Thank-you to John and Aileen and all the wonderful people we shared this awesome journey with.

**Namaste! Lynne Watt**

## **OGB WORK CAMP AT THE HOMES**

Former pupils making a difference



GO, the OGB association, undertook their 4<sup>th</sup> annual cottage refurbishment programme over a five week period in January and February (before the pandemic struck). 37 volunteers took part under the leadership of Pauline Singh (Brooks) and effected repairs to Elliott, Bene, New Thorburn and Woodburn cottages.

The Go management team would like to thank all who donated financially, and with their time, to make this possible. These cottages are now shiny and new, and the hope is that the school maintenance team will build on this kick-start.

### **Reflections of an OGB volunteer**

A warm feeling of being home always seeps through me when I return to Dr. Graham's Homes, my home from the age of 2 years. The trails I tramped still being used by children of today, they see the same Kanchenjunga range and grow and flourish in the same fresh air of the hills. This is a special place worth preserving and nurturing.

The winter work camps are a wonderful opportunity to fulfil obligations by committing time, finances and the work of our own hands to help restore, renovate and modernise the cottages for children.

We are aware the workshop cupboards are bare and that the Homes budget barely covers staff wages, leaving little for maintenance of the vast infrastructure of the Homes. There is a need to invest in the structural repair of buildings, upgrading of the electrical circuitry, plumbing, drainage and guttering. Our work, although cosmetic, makes the cottages more habitable and can attract more fee paying boarders, bringing in much needed funds for the more important repairs.

We hope that the alumni can be a great source of support and with the co-operation of the school management team, and the Board of Management a greater resolve will enable the future of the Homes to be secured.

### **Vanda Campbell**

OGB, work camp volunteer, and former UK Committee member

## Woodburn Cottage transformation

Woodburn cottage was totally transformed by the OGB work party in January. In just a few weeks, the leaking roof was removed and replaced, and new guttering installed. The Dining Room was re-bricked, plastered and painted. The bathroom plumbing was replaced, new sinks installed and the dormitory windows replaced.



Before and after pictures of the roof and Dining Room show us what IS possible!



**This work was funded, planned and implemented by Woodburn girls.**

Special thanks go to Drenko Pureval, Alison Yunnus, Tilly Fernandez, Choden Dorji, Joanna Taylor, Annie Hilton, Dechen Zam, Sedhar Chozam and their supporters. We are grateful to Tshering Dorji, Project Leader, and his student helpers and professional staff from Losel Gyatsho Academy, Bhutan, and local coordinator Paljo Tshering with his assistants, Sonam Gompu, Udai Gurung and Rajni Pradhan.

## Dr. Graham's Homes archives

Trustees are frequently asked about access to records contained in the archives at the Homes. I am pleased to say that the entire archive will shortly be professionally digitized. Last September, I was contacted by John Wood, a Grandson of an OGB, and asked if it was possible to obtain family records. I contacted the Homes and surprisingly on reading them, John found out that his Grandfather, Albert Harrington, had two brothers also at the Homes. This is John's report of a memorable and nostalgic visit.

**James MacHardy**

### John Wood's nostalgic visit to Kalimpong



I grew up hearing stories from my Grandpa, Albert Harrington, of his school in the foothills of the Himalayas. Sadly, Albert passed away two years ago. Looking back, I thought Kalimpong was a made up name! It is only recently, that I appreciated that the place is very real. I headed to India at the end of October to try and discover more about my family's history and background.

I am very grateful to James MacHardy for helping me locate family records in the school archive. After some incredibly helpful conversations, I had contact from the school itself and booked a two night stay in the Ahava Guest House, located on the Homes compound. I felt incredibly lucky both with James helping me make contact, but also the opportunity to actually stay at my Grandpa's old school. Maria Biswas greeted me at Ahava, and was absolutely lovely. That first evening, she gave me so much information including newsletters from the school and history books. Surendra is a fantastic cook, and the food was wonderful; exactly what I had hoped for. I can't lie; it felt quite emotional being where my grandfather spent a lot of his early life.



After breakfast, Maria took me on a tour of the school. We met the Headmaster, Mr. Pradhan and also Mr Monteiro the Principal, who showed me around the school's museum, and helped me find my Grandpa's records of admission. It felt pretty amazing to see the place where he and two of his brothers were admitted on the 2nd February 1945.

I visited grandfather's cottage, Heathfield, and on my Nan's request I picked up a stone for her memory. All the way around, from the Aunties and Uncles who look after the cottages and the students, to the workers on other parts of the campus, everyone was unfailingly cheerful and keen to tell me about the school. The athlete in me enjoyed seeing the swimming pool and watching the kids playing football in their breaks.

On my final morning, I hiked up Deolo hill. It was a beautiful clear morning and it felt very spiritual to be on top of the world and remembering my Grandpa. The views from the top are absolutely stunning, including the Homes below, the Hanuman Mandir, and the Buddhist temple – all adding to the melting pot that makes the Homes location so unique.

My visit to the Homes was one that I won't forget, and I really can't wait to return. It's a beautiful place, and the people working there are lovely, and beyond helpful.

**John Wood**  
**Grandson of Albert Harrington**

## Elena – A Nurse’s Tale

... continued from 2018!



Those of you who are regular readers of the UK Committee’s Annual Report may recall an article I wrote for the May 2018 issue telling of our meeting with nursing graduate Elena whom Jim and I had supported through Duncan Teaching Hospital in Bihar. Jim followed up with a feature in the 2018 December Newsletter about all of our nurses – pupil-graduates from The Homes, including Elena, who were in training at that time.

I am delighted to write about Elena once again, updating you on her subsequent career to date. I

sincerely hope that this article will encourage other youngsters graduating from the Homes at this time to take up a nursing career. Worldwide there is such a need – and in India in particular.

Elena, who had been sponsored through our Australian Overseas Committee, graduated from The Homes in December 2010 – a year in which she had served as Girls Captain of School. We had met Elena previously and, to cut a long story short, undertook to support her through college. After three years at nursing school Elena graduated with a GNM qualification (General Nursing – Midwifery) and took up a post at Maharaja Agrasen Hospital in Siliguri where in due course she became a theatre sister in their ICU. In late 2017 she enrolled for a two year post-graduate degree course at St Fernando Nursing College in Siliguri where she studied for a BSc in Nursing. We pick up the story from there.

Rather than follow a full-time college-based course of classes, which would have duplicated much of her earlier GNM course, Elena opted to focus upon fieldwork-based training, thereby to broaden her practical experience. During this time, she worked at both Madhepura Christian and Maharaja Agrasen Hospitals in Siliguri where she held staff nurse positions in ICUs, in the critical care unit, as well as in paediatric critical care. Later she took up an offer to train as a Nursing Tutor at the Paramedical Institution in Siliguri during which time she undertook, of her own accord, Christian-based voluntary work teaching in a Sunday School in a remote area in Matigari tea gardens.



In October 2019 Elena gained her BSc degree and in February this year graduated at a very colourful ceremony held at her parent college, Little Flower College of Nursing, in Bangalore. She had a memorable day – indeed the ceremony went on all day – and her only regret was that her family could not be represented. Indeed, I suspect that they had all helped towards Elena’s travelling and accommodation costs for Bangalore.

Elena has always had a wish to help those in need and we know of many examples of her caring nature coming to the fore. At one point she was spending her own personal time amongst families afflicted by leprosy, teaching them the basics of hygiene and hand-washing. Her dream is to be in a position to set up a care centre for the elderly, having witnessed how marginalised this important group can be from society as a whole. How appropriate is her dream today as the issues affecting the elderly have been brought so sharply into focus as consequence of the current global pandemic!

**In Elena’s words:** “The older generation are always left out or neglected, longing for someone to talk to and keep them company. They don’t want anything but time. I’ve always wanted to give them a listening ear. I often talk to lonely people when I walk around and I have seen the happiness in their eyes; by doing so little it means so much to them.”

Closer to her Kalimpong home, she visits The Homes whenever she can and indeed over the 2019 Christmas holidays met up by chance with the only two sponsored boys staying on campus throughout the holiday. She took them under her wing and organised outings and tuck for them to overcome the long days spent on their own!



Where next for this remarkable girl of whom we are immensely proud: a shining example of a “Girl from The Homes.”

**Pat Simpson – Trustee**

## 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 canape's  
An opportunity to gather and discuss all things Dr Graham's Homes!

**St. Columbas Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD**  
**Tuesday 27 October 2020 5 – 8 pm**



No reservation required. Please come, and bring a friend!

### Garden Opening in Dundee

**Saturday 17 October 6 – 8 pm & Sunday 18 October 2 – 5 pm**



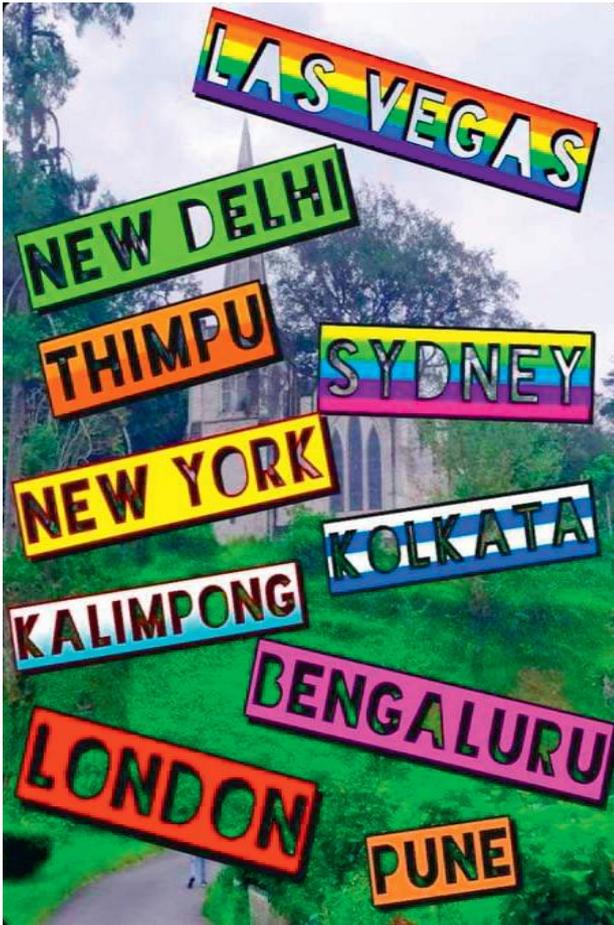
**12 Glamis Drive, Dundee DD2 1QL**

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 Founders Day

**St. Columbas Church, Pont Street,  
London SW1X 0BD**

**Saturday 26 September 2020**

**1 – 4 pm**

Annually, OGB's worldwide gather to celebrate Founders 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 OGB's. 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**

## 2020 has been nominated "Year of the OGB"

To celebrate, there will be a  
**HOMES BIRTHDAY CURRY LUNCH**

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

**Friday 25 September 2020 12 – 3 pm**

Tickets will be £25 per head, available from James MacHardy at address below from 1 July.

To reserve your place, please send a stamped addressed envelope to:

James MacHardy, Roseisle, Sawbridgeworth Road, Hatfield Heath, CM22 7DR

*with a cheque payable to "Dr Graham's Homes, UK Committee"*

**DR GRAHAM'S HOMES, KALIMPONG, INDIA  
1900 – 2020**



**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.