



Kalimpong Association UK

Summer 2014 Newsletter

“What good is the warmth of
summer, without the cold of
winter to give it sweetness.”

John Steinbeck





INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE HELD IN KOLKATA

24TH - 27TH NOV 2013.

The four day Conference was held at the Birkmyre Hostel and hosted by the Board of Management. Delegates from the following Committees and OGB Associations were present:

Board of Management; from Dr Graham's Homes, Mrs Hilda Peacock and Col. Pradhan; Canadian Council; committees from Victoria (Australia), Japan, Ireland and New Zealand; UK Kalimpong Association, Sikkim OGB Committee, Kalimpong OGB Association, OGB Heritage Foundation (Nepal) and the OGB Committee of Kolkata.

The previous Conference which took place in 2008 was also held in Kolkata. This was rather unfortunate as it meant that only the few delegates who made a fleeting visit to Kalimpong were able to see the Homes and meet children and staff.

We also missed out on seeing the renovation work completed following the earthquake. It would have been of special interest to see the Chapel which has been taken over by the Heritage Commission - although reconstruction work on the building has yet to commence.

I believe it is essential the next Conference actually takes place at the Homes. We are all aware as to why the meetings could not be held in Kalimpong on this occasion, but perhaps it may have been wiser to postpone the Conference for a few months as it was so important that delegates had a real opportunity to see the Homes under working conditions and actually view the progress made on Cottages and other buildings.

While actual minutes of the Conference are naturally confidential, discussions centred largely on Management and Finance. Indeed it was resolved to put a strong Management Team in place while no one was left in any doubt as to a financial crisis which needs immediate attention. While management, administration and finance are naturally the responsibility of the Board of Management, finance is a responsibility that is shared with the Overseas Committees of the Homes which have been towers of strength since their inception.

While the contribution made by the Principal, Mrs. Hilda Peacock was duly noted, she is due to leave shortly. DGH now has a new CEO to replace Mrs Peacock namely: Dr John Abraham (Previously Principal of Scottish Churches College) and a new Bursar replacing Col Pradhan.

GO - The new OGB network

Twelve OGB's participated in the conference and one of the most exciting outcomes was the resolution to form one global OGB association, to be called GO.

The aim of GO is to tap into the enormous potential of ex students scattered worldwide and to bring them together in one organisation.

Six months on from the Conference, GO is becoming a reality! Its development by a small and diverse group led by Ken Hammond from Aberdeen, is at a stage where the structure and systems are firm and key stakeholders are now working hard to ensure that our objectives, processes and safeguards are all in place.

**GO will formally be launched
in Kalimpong at the Homes Birthday,
this September.**

The GO website, which will be the main platform for information, networking and communication, will be launched very soon, hopefully during June.

Thuten Kesang, in New Zealand, has already collected a database of OGB contacts worldwide. Please email Thuten to make sure you are on the list

office@kesang.pl.net
Kesang@ak.planet.gen.nz

Key to the success of GO is its ability to connect with current OGB organisations with similar objectives and to communicate, support and exchange ideas via an alumni website. To effectively make a difference in the support of the Homes, the Global OGB Association will seek OGB representation in the Homes governing bodies i.e. The Board of Management and the Local Advisory Committee.

The Global OGB Association's office bearers will be elected members drawn from the alumni. Its Executive will include leaders of existing OGB organisations.

Membership of GO will be free and open to OGBs, Staff and KPG Friends. In addition to supporting its alma mater, it will be there to strengthen alumni ties through networking and reconnecting.

Margaretta (Byers) Purtill

President

The Kalimpong Association (UK) London

Dear fellow OGB's

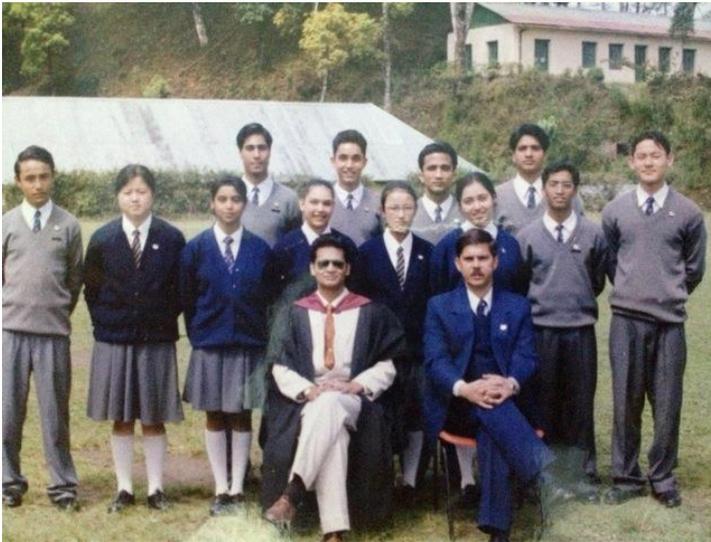
For those of you who have already joined GO, our new Global OGB Association thank you.

As we develop the structure and the web site, things will become more clear for everyone. In the meantime those of you who have shown an interest, please consider where you can help the Association in the future, so that the ultimate benefit will be the Children of the Homes, we need your INVOLVMENT in this Association.

I would make ONE PLEA with you all, please don't look at the past mistakes and let us GO FORWARD and see where we as a product of that GREAT INSTITUTION we call Dr Graham's Homes, can UNITE and see where we can help the next generation of children for the next 100 years. I am sure that Daddy Graham would hope that one day his children will come and save the Homes, let us then UNITE and work for our dear Homes. Let us make daddy's dream come TRUE.

Best wishes and Tashi Delek,

Thuten Kesang



Bradley Mawer, OGB tells his inspiring story

Batch of ISC 1999

As far as I can remember, my first interaction with the family of Dr. Graham's Homes was when Aunt Baker visited the flat my parents were renting in Kidderpore, Calcutta some time in the winter of 1986. I recall looking at Aunt entering the lane and we ran to the door to greet her. My dad was away on work and it was just Mum and we three boys. I was 5, my second brother, Craig was 4 and the youngest Sheldon was a newborn baby. I have no memory of what happened the rest of that day but a few days later I found myself at the Birkmyre Hostel waiting for an interview with the Principal, Mr. Brooks.

I don't recall much of what they had asked me back then but I do remember doing extremely well at Arithmetic, which seem to have left a lasting impression on them.

A few days later we came to know that I had been accepted to the Homes and therein begins the journey of my life.

The day to leave for the Homes arrived and my mum was very sad and crying for most of the day. I didn't really grasp what boarding school meant and I was just excited to take a train ride to a new school.

Sealdah station was full of crying kids and parents, all rushing to get their final goodbyes in before the whistle blew. The journey to Kalimpong got more and more tiring and scary and midway up the hills, I probably fell asleep as the next thing I remember is being in the SMC hospital with a couple of other new kids. I was kept in the hospital for about a week and then sent to Wales Lodge. The kids were very hesitant to make friends with me at first since I was the new boy and hadn't been around last year but that soon changed and very soon we were all one big family and that feeling has remained a big part of my life.

My first class teacher was Mrs. Dhondup, a soft-spoken and caring person. I enjoyed my classes and never really felt homesick. Sports and playtime was as much fun as Maths and music class. There was always something to do and that routine and rhythm of life was something that I totally enjoyed – not just during my first year but also for the rest of my school life.

Unfortunately for us, the Hills agitation broke out in 1988 and we had to spend the first few months studying at the Birkmyre. Even though that was enjoyable, it didn't feel anything like the Homes and having spent one year at DGH, I had already began to feel like a 'kid from the hills'. Calcutta was no longer home and I longed for the time to be back on campus.

1988 brought about a few changes that I can recall. Mr. Brooks resigned and Mr. O'Connor took over. I was sent up to Calcutta Cottage from Wales Lodge and so the next leg of my Homes journey had begun. Calcutta cottage in those days had a large number of Anglo-Indian sponsored children and my seniors were very protective and generous towards me and the other younger sponsored kids. They encouraged us to take to sports and school activities and I remain ever grateful to them for that. The late Ignatius Myers and Oscar Baptist were inspirational sportsmen and my first heroes in life.

Cottage life was fun and challenging at the same time. I enjoyed the routine of life. The constant involvement in some sort of activity suited my personality and needless to say there were countless occasions when I would find myself in trouble, either for being part of a group that would raid the tuck cupboard or for making a nuisance of myself in some other way. Either way, I was always in the mix. I always enjoyed my studies and in fact would get bored after finishing my homework within the first few minutes of prep time.

Unfortunately, cottage time was mostly spent assisting my good friend Freddie in the kitchen preparing tea or some meal

for our house parents. While it did mean that we got some extra tea and grub, it also meant that a lot of playtime had to be sacrificed and I totally disliked those responsibilities. Those were probably the only times that I disliked cottage life.

Some nights we had to go to Heathland just to get some milk or sugar and those were scary walks with jackals howling all around. Nevertheless, I made it through junior school with the right mix of success and failure and my fair share of 'jhaps' and 'canings'. The only reason I longed to be in senior school was to get to wear long pants to school as shorts in the winter months were a real torture.

Senior school was a lot of fun and a really busy time for me as I often found myself involved in some school activity or another. Cricket, Dramatics, Debates, Quiz, Boxing, Athletics were some of the activities that I enjoyed being involved in and being part of the school team in most of these extra-curricular activities meant that representing DGH was soon something that I took a lot of pride in and probably for the first time I realized how lucky and privileged I was to be part of such a wonderful institution. Needless to say that in the classroom I continued to be a noisy, annoying student and more often than not found myself in trouble with the teachers. My academic results continued to be in the top bracket though and looking back I think I was just unable to contain the enthusiasm and zeal I had inside me to be involved and occupied with something at all times.

It was while I was in Class VIII that finally a teacher had had enough of me and told me to stand on the bench and lectured me on how it was kids like me

who were ruining the school. I was accused of cheating on tests and openly criticized as a parasite that was heading for National Open School. I remember standing on the bench and thinking that wasn't that. I was proud to be a student of DGH, proud to be a sponsored child. I decided then and there that I would have to prove my teacher wrong. I decided at that very moment that for the next four years of my schooling that I would be the stand out pupil, that I would make my school proud of me, that I would make my teachers proud of me and that I would make a difference. That criticism was the turning point of my school career and my life.

I went on to become a School Prefect and then School Captain and represented the Homes at various events and I would like to think that I was honest to my responsibilities and while I know that I wasn't always well-liked along the way, I stayed true to my calling and treated everyone with fairness and did justice to the roles and responsibilities that I was given.

The one blotch remains the Athletics competition of 1998 when I openly showed my disappointment at the hostel relay being cancelled at the last minute. I did apologise for my reaction but to be fair that was a careless piece of decision-making by the authorities that failed to understand just how much these activities meant to all of us, especially when we are in our final year at the school.

Carol Service of 1998 was the final school event for me and I remember not being able to

hold back the tears. I felt totally devastated that my time at the Homes had come to an end. DGH was my home and the staff and students were my family. Every day I had spent for the last twelve years on the HOMES campus was special and unique and I wasn't ready to leave and step out in to the world. If I had one wish, it would be to re-live those twelve years again. Undoubtedly, those are the most treasured days of my life.

Fifteen years have since past and while life has taken many twists and turns, my biggest motivation is to continue to make a difference to my school. I would like to thank my classmates, teachers, house parents, friends and most of all, my sponsor, Ms. Lily Murphy for making my school days the treasure chest of my life.

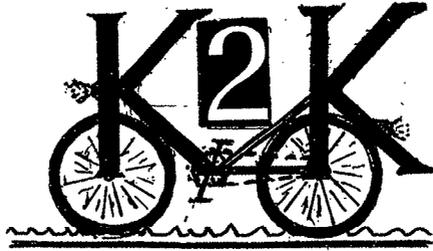
I hope that we can all join together to steer the Homes in to the future and beyond. There is not doubt in my mind that I got to study and live in the very best institution in the world and nothing or no one will ever be able to convince me that there is a school either here in India or anywhere around the world that is better than Dr. Graham's Homes.

Home is where the heart is and my heart will always be in DGH.





Delegates to the International Conference meet outside the Birkmyre



From:
John G. Webster,
Planetree, King's Cross,
Isle of Arran KA27 8RG
Tel. 01770 700 747
email: johngwebster@live.co.uk

A GREAT CHALLENGE !
A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE!
A MARVELLOUS HOLIDAY!

The bike packed for the flights to Kathmandu, I left Arran on MV Caledonian Isles on Wednesday, 12th February.

Due to wind, rain and hail training had been spasmodic but the anticipation of cycling in shorts and sunshine for a week in Nepal and India was a constant inspiration. Greater by far however was the inspiration and profound encouragement given by the many generous donations pledged by relations and friends. I was, and am, humbly grateful. By Saturday, 15th all 13 cycles had assembled selves and re-assembled bikes in the Tibet Guest House, Kathmandu ready for a 6.30am start early next morning in an attempt to avoid the traffic congestion.

All along it had been stressed that this was not a race but a fund raising exercise to be enjoyed! Each day we planned for a 7am start. 2 hours cycling, with a break for refreshments, followed by 1 hour, another refreshment break, 1 hour more and stop for lunch. Thereafter a further hour or whatever to take us to our evening camp-site. We were soon to discover that this was no "camping sauvage" holiday.

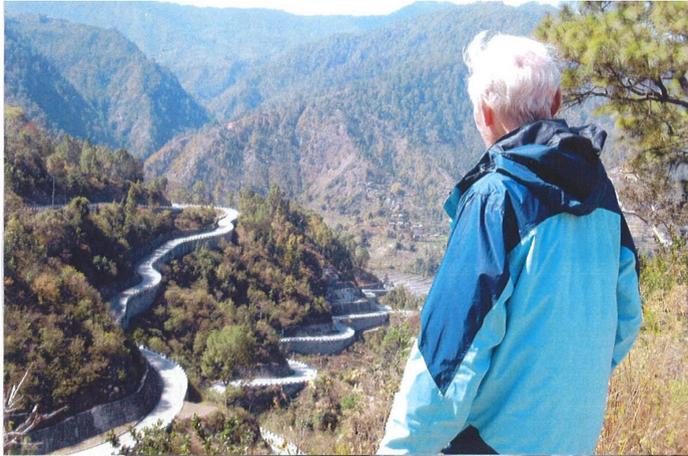
At the end of each day we arrived to find the camp-site already set up in every respect -- individual tents for all, thermal rest mattresses, sleeping bags, hot showers, (Yes!), tea and biscuits, 3 course dinner and bed with hot water bottles. In the morning bed tea/coffee and a basin of hot water for washing followed by porridge, muesli, toast, butter and preserves and a cooked breakfast before the day's off, cleansed, refuelled and replenished.

But back to the beginning! I had fantasised about sunny days and cycling in shorts but Kathmandu became cold and wet and many of us bought rain proofs in the Bazaar -- just as well.

Weaving our way through the traffic, out of Kathmandu, it began to rain. Wet and very cold, 4 hours later, we arrived at the lunch stop to find a shelter tent already erected. We gradually dried out and warmed up. The afternoon cleared up and dry, and warm sunny weather became the norm for the next 6 days.

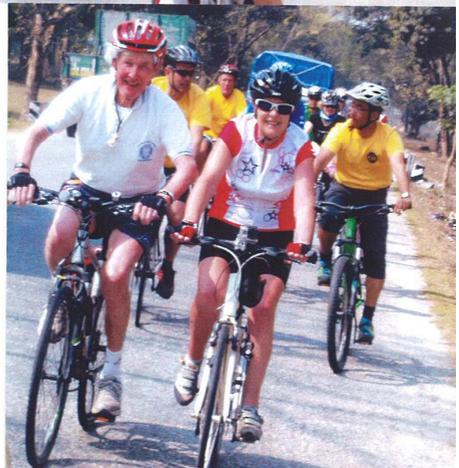
The 350 mile 7 day ride began with 2 days of hills followed by 4 days on flat good roads with the final day up to Kalimpong.

Surely, one of the best ways to experience another country is from the saddle of a bike -- one sees so much at leisure, breathes the air, hears the sounds, meets the people and slowly moves on.



THE
ROUTE
FROM
KATHMANDU

ON THE WAY



The final day consisted of 3 sections, (i) a lovely peaceful ride at dawn through the forests, (ii) a rougher undulating up hill road along the River Teesta before (iii) the BIG HILL and the 10 mile climb of some 3,000ft. to Kalimpong and Dr. Graham's Homes. The first of these sections, as on previous occasions, I enjoyed immensely. The second we were held up for an hour because of a landslide and on the subsequent loose gravel I had my only fall but survived to proceed to the mountains ahead.

This was my fourth time on the hill and I was feeling good. I hoped for a good ascent – cycling some and walking some. But soon, all too soon, the energy flow ebbed and there was "little left in the tank". I cycled a little, walked a lot, rested often and longed for the summit.

Jennifer had joined me the day before – her fare to Kolkata very thoughtfully, generously and personally paid for by members of the UK Committee – and she had followed me up the hill in the back-up vehicle. At one resting place she counselled me, "please give up, put your bike on the vehicle and jump aboard". Sensible counsel as always but "pride ruled my will" as my reach strove to exceed my grasp.

But I was very much aware I was keeping the rest of the group waiting on the outskirts of Kalimpong. I told them on the phone, "don't wait any longer. you must go on". Gallantly they waited and great were the cheers of relief when I eventually arrived. Their waiting was over.

A cup of tea and we were off again on the very last lap. The welcome began!

The main street of Kalimpong had been closed to traffic and the school band marched before us through the town with the route lined by crowds of Saturday Bazaar shoppers. All bikes were then pushed up the last climb to Dr. Graham's Homes to enter the school compound where masses of cheering pupils lined the route to the finish outside the main school hall. It was all exceedingly humbling.

We had arrived and were welcomed, formally, by the Principal, Mrs Hilda Peacock.

It was estimated that 13 cyclists had raised nearly £30,000. This is sufficient to give nurture and education to 2 needy children for their total school life (or 25 children for one year).

Together we had enjoyed fun and fellowship and, in a small way, succeeded in keeping "the wheels of Dr. Graham's Homes turning".

We had marched through the Bazaar to the band playing the school song but the opening line, "Forward oh YOUTH for ever advancing" somehow didn't ring true for one cyclist whose years had already been advancing more than 80 times!

Worship with the school on the Sunday morning, when 13 cyclists were able to give thanks to God for all that they had enjoyed and achieved together, was the most perfect climax.



THE CYCLISTS

WITH CAMP STAFF

13 CYCLISTS !

18 STAFF !



GLEN COE?

CAMP
SITES





An Invitation to visit Dr Graham's Homes in Kalimpong

A Journey to Kalimpong 9 - 19 March 2015

For the first time the UK Committee is organising a holiday specifically to visit Calcutta and the Homes. The holiday has been designed with sponsors in mind and is the ideal opportunity to meet the children you have been sponsoring.

Anyone with an interest in the Homes will be made very welcome.

The tour will be escorted by members of our committee guaranteeing unrivalled access to this remarkable institution. We fly from Heathrow, Manchester or Glasgow to Calcutta. Time to see the sights before heading north to Darjeeling and Kalimpong and the main object of our journey, an in-depth visit to Dr Graham's Homes. Here a proud history of supporting needy anglo-Indian children continues with around 330 pupils being given a future thanks to the generosity of supporters around the world.

The holiday is being arranged by Alistair McCabe, a committee member and director of McCabe Pilgrimages, on a cost-price basis.

McCabe's will be happy to send you a brochure and full details

Call Freephone 0800 107 3 107

Email: alistair@mccabe-travel.co.uk

SEDHAR'S SPONSORED WALK



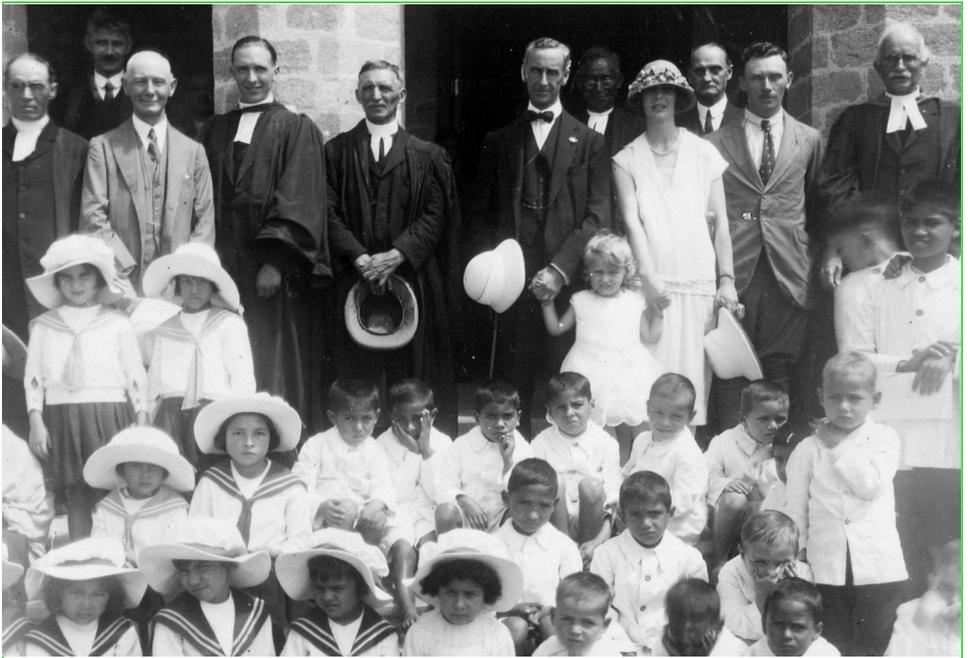
Dear Friends,

Sedhar just completed her sponsored walk in India for Tenzing C., a young Tibetan boy (DGH) undergoing treatment for leukemia, who is now back at school. All together the walk was 46km from Mcleod Ganj to Triund and then on to the snow line of the Himalayas. You can support the continuing treatment of Tenzing by giving online at <http://www.justgiving.com/TenzingC>

Many thanks to those who have already done so.

On behalf of Sedhar.





LOOKING FOR MY GRANNY

I am writing to you as I have been researching my granny's life.

She was at Dr Graham's Homes from 14 about 1912 to 1925 when she left. We have her bible which was presented to her on leaving.



I am wondering if there are any school records, or records of children who attended then. My granny had 3 older brothers and 1 older sister. We are sure the oldest brother also went to the school.

You can see with my granny in the middle row on the far left, under the big hat.

This might be of interest for your site and history of the school.

I would be very grateful for any information you might have.

Best Regards

Helen Pebbles

LOOKING FOR ESTHER YOUNG



Do you know anything of Esther Young, I understand she lives in Fulham London. If not can you find out, her nephews are looking for her. She is John Young's sister. He died early according to his sons. Her two nephews are looking for her.

Latest information received from Errol Webber is: Lucy Young is in Queensland but has lost touch with Ester years ago! Her married name is Andre, her hubby's name is Michele and her son is Jean Louie Andre. Lives in Fulham.

Any information on the above would be appreciated.

Please contact Gail Collins (USA) on email:
<mailto:benzchick1224@hotmail.com>

MP

When God solves your problems,
you have faith in His abilities;
when God doesn't solve your problems,
He has faith in your abilities.

Obituaries



Robert John Crow

1915 - 2014

From Thuten Kesang and his family in New Zealand

Hello everyone, my name is Thuten Kesang and I am a Tibetan. I live in New Zealand. I am sorry that I could not be with you today to pay my respects to Uncle Bob in person.

I first came to know Mr Crow in 1958, when he was a Board member of Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong, West Bengal, India. He was visiting the school at that time. He was on his way to town but didn't know how to get there, so I accompanied him and while we were walking, I asked him if he could be my pen friend as I had no one to write to. My parents were in Tibet and I did not get any letters from them. Then he gave me his address in Calcutta. I used to write to him regularly and he used to correct my English by rewriting what I had said, so I used to keep a special book in which I wrote the sentence he wrote, so next time I wanted to say the same thing, I used to copy what he had written. I used to call him uncle Bob and he asked me to give him a special Tibetan name, so I decided to call him Pola (which I thought was uncle at the time, but it's actually means grandfather in Tibetan) I used to

collect stamps, so he used to ask me questions on some country and if I got the answer right, he used to send me the stamps. This way I learned about many countries through his questioning.

I lost my parents in Tibet during the Chinese occupation of Tibet in 1959. I was left behind in India as a refugee in Dr Grahams Homes, Kalimpong, where I was studying. That year I was asked to leave school as my Indian guardian informed me that the money my father had left behind with him had ran out and he could not pay my school fees. I wrote to Mr Crow and told him that this could be my last letter as I was asked to leave, because there was no money for my education. I received a telegram from him stating "Son, don't do anything, I will make the arrangements for your school fees."

Uncle Bob came to the rescue and paid all my education and from then on I went to his house in Calcutta for school holidays. When I finished school in 1962, he found me a job in Calcutta as an apprentice printer. I could not pay my hostel bill as my wage as an apprentice was too low, so once again Mr Crow came to the rescue.

Before he left India, he left enough money for my hostel bills for three years during my apprenticeship and my wage was my pocket money etc.

There are many old boys from Kalimpong, who are scattered all over the world, who have benefited from the help uncle Bob has given them.

What I am today is due to Mr Crow, he has been like my father to me for nearly 55 years. He has been to New Zealand twice to visit us and my wife and I visited him in Scotland last year.

My wife Gwen and her sister met up with him again in 2001 when they went on a tour of England, Wales and Scotland. At that time he was living in his apartment in Morningside, and he took them to lunch at his club on the Royal Mile.

The last time I spoke to him was on Christmas evening.

I used to always tell him that the financial help that he has given me, I can never repay, but I will promise him that I will do whatever I can to help others who are in need of help and I am proud to say that I am doing what I promised him, by helping others in need, like the Tibetan refugees in India and Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong for the last 40 years and am still doing so today. Since arriving New Zealand I and my wife have helped about 6 Tibetans in India for their education and today we still sponsor a monk and a little Tibetan girl in India.

Margaret Webster

13 Dec 1923 – 29 April 2014

Margaret Ewart Landels Webster (nee Ingles) died peacefully after tender care and support on 29 April 2014. The



loving wife of the late John S Webster she was a loyal and devoted mother much loved by her 6 children 17 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. Ken Webster Margaret's eldest son writes:

On the 19 December 1944 she married John Speirs Webster 2nd. Lieutenant Royal Engineers. The following day he left to continue his war service. Stationed in Burma he spent leave at Doctor Grahams Homes; on demob he decided to return there as a teacher.

The Kalimpong Years: Doctor Graham's Homes 1949-53

The dates may have been 1950-54. I was two and my brother Alan a babe in arms in 1949. My eldest sister Jennifer was born there in 1951. I have few memories of this time, so I am grateful for assistance from people who were part of DGH during this period.

I do remember the return of Hilary and Tensing who were garlanded in front of a huge crowd after conquering Everest in 1953.

DGH had a huge impact on mum and dad who made life-long friendships with many colleagues and students; some visited their homes back in Scotland, or exchanged annual Christmas cards.

John Christie and William Grierson in sending their condolences told me how much mum and dad meant to students. John said mum “played a crucial part in ‘watching’ over the welfare of us boys”. He recalls how “Mr Webster, (Webbie) ably supported by mum, did so much for us boys and girls to make our boarding stay in DGH so happy and productive. ‘Webbie’ was the Science and Chemistry teacher who invited the Fraser Cottage boys to Wales Lodge for regular Saturday night tiddly winks football league championships. Mrs Webster “always provided a slap-up treat to us hungry growing boys! We boys always looked forward to such evenings.”



Webbie and George Patterson got the Homes represented in the Kalimpong Town Football league at the Mela ground and one or two matches in the Ronaldshay Park.



John and William also recalled ‘PB’, James Purdie the assistant Superintendent to the Founder. PB retired to Carnwath in Scotland and remained a family friend. I recall as an art student being asked to paint PB’s portrait which dad hung in his study.

Whatever Kalimpong and DGH had it certainly tied people together. From mums autograph book I can pick out names Iris Cassini 9/50, Lucy Sinclair 11/51, Joy Stewart 12/51, N Duncan 6/53, Jim Duncan 7/53, Jean Duncan ’53, Mollie McCabe ’5/50, PB 10/53, initials

MWR SGR CRR JVR PSR on 30/10/53, Hugh Baillie 11/53, Effie Cunningham 12/52.

The following photo is on Alan's 1st birthday, is of Mr and Mrs Duncan Snr, mum, Alan, Iris Sheena, Molly Duncan, me and Elsie Dexter. Mum and dad later visited Australia to catch up with DGH colleagues and in their later worldly travels may have met many ex DGH personnel.



The following photos are of groups of DGH students who may be familiar to some readers:

Jennifer and her friend Shuvra, who was also born in Kalimpong, visited DGH several years ago and recalls that it was around Christmas when they walked up to the Homes. There was a stunning view to the mountains of Kanchenjunga. While walking around, a housemother came out of a house, but the children were all away home for the holidays. They were invited in for a cup of tea, when Jennifer noticed it was Wales Lodge, our house.

On returning to Scotland mum and dad, after a brief period in Glasgow, set up home in Glenrothes then a small

but rapidly growing new town. Dad pursued his teaching career while mum raised the family, which by 1959 had grown to 6 children. Mum and dad were major figures in introducing and establishing a Baptist Church in the town. There were frequent visits from people who were introduced to us as 'old boys' and who I remember as fun to be with.

Dad's career progression led him to the post of vice -principal at Falkirk Technical College, the largest in Scotland. On his retirement he and mum moved to Edinburgh, then Lauder before moving back to Edinburgh in 2001. In each location the church was a central part of their lives. Dad was always a prominent member of the Baptist Men's Movement. Mum



was a teaching assistant and a tireless volunteer, latterly in The Eric Liddell Centre in Edinburgh.

As well as continually expanding their network of friends, they continued their links with DGH old boys and girls: Rosemary Baker, Eston Kilgour, Donald Todd (deceased), Charles Sidey and Nancy Frizzel attended dad's funeral in 2002. Through contact with Maragretta Purtilla I was able to inform Rosemary, Eston and Charles about mum's passing. Each shared memories of DGH and visiting mum, enjoying her homemade lemon curd.

Mum cared for her family in what was very much a man's world, a challenge she struck out against most of her life in her own quiet determined way. She accepted with grace the many traumas of parenthood and put her heart and soul into raising her 6 children. Mum had a total faith which guided her, but she accepted us as individuals in our own right.

She coped with adversity and crises with common sense, compassion and humility. She had an inner strength, projecting a kind and calm disposition. Mum was generous and had a loving, mischievous spirit. She was a stalwart friend yet always self effacing and modest

When in 2002 dad passed away she remained a lady of great dignity and poise. With the passage of time she was diagnosed dementia and in March 2009 she moved into care. Slowly the frustrations at forgetfulness became more frequent. Names had gone, words slowly vanished but her eyes told the tales. Sparkling as she smiled at our young children or catching us out if we

thought she was not aware of our presence. Eyes bright for a biscuit. Busy fingers still twitching, ready to be held and touched. I was privileged to hold her hand as without pain she passed peacefully away.

A selection of photos from mum and dad's albums and their time with DGH:



Do the group photos bring back memories for any reader?

OUR NEWSLETTER'S FEEDBACK

Thank you for your Christmas newsletter. We really enjoy the newsletter you send us every year. It is really regrettable that I could not attend the International Conference. I had a heart surgery this past May but now I am fully recovered and leading a normal life. Best wishes,

Sakuyo Sugimoto

President of Japan Committee

From John Dempster

Thank you very much for the newsletter. It was really great to receive it from you and as usual it was impossible to put down before reading every single line. As soon as I had finished reading it, I forwarded it to Douglas and Yvonne Van Steensel, Patrick Freese, Linda Cameron, Rita and Andy Saunders, Brenda Haseldine, Yvonne Hughes, Errol Webber, Betty Robinson, Richard Stokoe, Valerie Appleby, Eddie Augustine, Cheryl and Errol Chater, Charlotte Stokoe, Jeffrey Fegredo, Joy Surin (Samson), and David (Reid) Syemlieh my Calcutta cottage junior who is now working for the Indian Govt.

I arrived home last night, avidly read the newsletter, and then forwarded it to all, after which I went to bed. Well, this morning, after waking, I checked the email and three from the above list replied to thank me for forwarding it on, and I think I'll see if I can patch their emails in here:

Reply from Andy and Rita

Thank you John and Christine. We have really enjoyed all the snippets in the newsletter. I was enthralled to read about Lorraine Raphael. I remember her very well as a little girl and I was one of the Seniors. She was a sweet and shy little thing. And ofcourse it was lovely to read Rosalind Fox's trip to the UK. She was my class mate as well as a Mansfieldite.

A further reply...

Thank you John for the newsletter. Thoroughly enjoyed reading the issue, in particular your note of the reunion in September and the letter of Rosalind Fox meeting up with Charles Johnson (they were my classmates). I read with interest the visit of HH the Dalai Lama. I should add here that three weeks ago I attended one of his lectures in Delhi. As he was walking past us he took my outstretched hand. I got the warmth of the handshake. I felt blessed.

I was in Calcutta last week and made it a point to visit the Birkmyre. The Secretary was entering the hostel when I arrived. We had a chat. More important was a discussion I had with three very talented college students who had passed through the Homes.

(john@jcdempster.com)

Thank you, once again, for your great work in putting together the newsletter, and thank you, too, for sending it on to me.
Love and best wishes

John and Christine

Forthcoming Event

AGM. 14th June 2014.

Doors open at 12noon.

Meeting commences 1pm sharp.

Room **MUST** be vacated by 5pm

Guest speaker Ken Hammond, OGB

Member of the UK Committee

Birthday Celebrations

September 20th 2014.

Doors open 12noon.

Room **MUST** be vacated by 5pm.

The **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** is **THE** place to come and air your views, if you do not attend then nothing can be acted upon.

Your Committee is here for you,
not the other way around.

14th June 2014 it is vitally important that we have a good turn out as this will be the '**make or break**' of the Association. All Members have already received the 2013 AGM Minutes which, in-itself, is self-explanatory and also highlights the exact position the Association is in.

PLEASE MAKE AN EXTRA SPECIAL EFFORT TO ATTEND, IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED.



Next time you're stressed,
take a step back, inhale & laugh.

Remember who you are & why you are here.
You're never given anything in this world
that you cannot handle.

Be strong, be flexible,
love yourself & love others.

Always remember, just keep moving forward

* **NEW FEATURES FOR OUR NEWSLETTER**

We are looking for some new features for our newsletter and need your help! Could you make some suggestions e.g. ðA day in the life of ...ð or snapshots, latest achievement or things your children or you have done which made you smile. We are looking for upbeat, heart warming, positive stories so if you have any please email Margareta : m.purtill@sfct.org.uk



Don't forget, you can find us on the web

www.kalimpong-association.co.uk



Kalimpong Association UK



www.twitter.com/kalimponguk

Many thanks for taking the time to read this newsletter.

If you would like to contribute to the next newsletter, please contact:

Mrs. Margaretta Purtill: margaretta.purtill@sfct.org.uk

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