



Kalimpong Association UK

Winter 2011 Newsletter

A Note from the Principal

Dear friends,

Let me begin by thanking you for giving me this opportunity to share a few of my thoughts in your newsletter.

I came to Dr. Graham's Homes in the middle of August and got ready to join on the 1st September. Of course, no mention of my work and stay in Dr. Graham's Homes would be complete without a mention of the earthquake. By now the damage to the infrastructure and the huge losses incurred is public knowledge, but the earthquake was for me an affirmation of God's hand on the school. We are more than 1,000 people living on this campus. It was amazing to think that an earthquake of the magnitude of 6.8 on the Richter scale, and one which lasted for more than 20 seconds, went by without a single child or staff member receiving as much as a scratch! If that isn't testimony enough of God's gracious hand on us, I don't know what is.

These last two months have gone by quickly. Every day has been an exciting and a new experience for me. The children here are loving and trusting, and I am deeply conscious of our role as teachers and care-givers to honour their trust and be good stewards and instruments of God's love.

I look forward to raising standards of academic work and I believe this can be done by empowering the teachers. I have already begun the first in a series of workshops to train and update our staff on the academic requirements for the Board exams. However, this is not my

only concern. That the children under our care become happy, healthy and well-balanced individuals – people who can take their place in the world and people who back into society as much as they have gained from it – is what should be our ultimate calling, and to this end I pledge my support.

I take this opportunity to thank each one of you for your support to the school and your affection for the children. I wish you all a blessed Christmas tide and may 2012 bring us nearer to our goals.

Hilda Peacock, Principal.



Do we know what Christmas is truly all about?

Doesn't Christmas sometimes just move you to tears? Despite all the activity of Christmas, as you and I reflect on the message of Christmas, wordless awe sometimes just wells up. What a wonderful story! We are loved! God, our Creator, the Supreme Lord of the Universe, humbles Himself to become one of us! A Babe is born and we can see the face of God! We stand in awesome silence! We kneel in humble gratitude! We want to hug the whole world! We decorate creation with lights! Being loved, our hearts overflow in generous love of others. Isn't this what gift-giving is all about? At times, our world is so embarrassed by being so loved by God that we try to ignore it. We pretend that it is too child-like, we relegate it to children. People want to make it just a celebration of winter and solstice. We know the truth because we are God's beloved children. As our hearts overflow in generosity, I ask you to help DGH. We can all help by making a difference in a child's life. There are still Anglo-Indians who are struggling to feed, clothe and educate their children. We need your help to sponsor the fortunate ones who are able to get into the school in 2012. When you are at home – warm, comfortable and safe – and your heart overflows in generosity, spare a thought for the ones less fortunate than yourselves. You, me we all can help make a difference in their lives. Please consider being a sponsor and try and be as generous as God, in whose image we are created. See the Babe in the manger reaching out to you, in the name of His brothers and sisters who are hurting because of poverty, hunger, violence, ignorance, and injustice. Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin. Any help you could give could be the difference that makes *all* the difference. I pray that this Christmas season be a time of deepening your awareness and embrace of God's unconditional and generous love. Let us kneel in humble gratitude. We ask ourselves today: is life worth living? The answer is only in loving and giving. For only love can make mankind. And kindness of heart brings peace of mind. Cherish the Lord's blessings this holiday season! May we be thankful for all we are blessed with!

Merry Christmas one and all.

Margaretta Purtill [President]

111th Christmas at The Homes

Jim Simpson – Chairman, UK Committee

We who live at a far distance from Kalimpong are doubtless imagining just how awful things must be at The Homes just now in the aftermath of the earthquake that struck in the early evening of 18th September. How is everyone managing in what must be the most difficult of conditions in which to live and work? I have no on-the-spot knowledge to pass on, and indeed my last sight of The Homes was on a very wet monsoon-soaked morning at the end of September when we set off down the mountain, dodging landslips, on our journey back to an equally wet UK. At that time, damaged buildings – but happy children – were to be seen all around; but so too was the question “where do we go from here?” So what really is happening now?

Five members of UK Committee have travelled to India since that day, and all are telling of the great work that has been done to ensure that, whatever else, Dr. Graham's Homes remains in “business as usual” mode. To that end, all concerned on the ground made a colossal effort to achieve Phase 1 recovery target of putting in place individual bed, board, education, and leisure that for the children makes their school their home. It was essential that all of the children experienced normality on their return from the Puja holiday on 11th October – and that their parents were equally reassured. Whatever else, it was vital that the memory of such a traumatic event was put as far towards the backs of young minds as possible. The leadership of our Chairman and the project management of the CEO have ensured that happened – and within a mere three weeks of the disaster!

Today, I understand from the visitors, that the four cottages that have been repaired so far – Woodburn and Elliott, Grant and Willingdon – together with the two new, temporary, dormitories and the seven temporary classrooms formed in the old Central Kitchen building all provide first class accommodation that is noticeably more comfortable, brighter, cleaner and welcoming than most of the old buildings have ever been recently. Same goes for Ahava, Wellesley House and the Computer Centre, all of which are providing transient accommodation for the girls. True, many of the boys are still doubled up in Centenary and

Murray – but no longer tripled up – but that too will soon be resolved as work continues under the Phase 2 programme that aims to put things even more back to normal, and indeed better than what used to be normal, by the time the new academic year begins on 13th February next year.

It is now becoming clear that the optimism of the earlier weeks which led us to forecast that all would be restored to former glories by about the end of 2012 was ill-founded, albeit sincerely so. Cash flow and construction issues will surely combine to extend that ideal programme considerably. However, rest assured that by the end of all these reconstruction works Dr. Graham's Homes will have been restored to something that is way beyond what was its former glory, I am sure.

I write this knowing that at this precise moment the end-of-year Candlelight Service and Leaving Ceremony is under way in the Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel. All of us can well imagine what is going through the minds of the Seniors as they step up for their leaving bibles. I am sure they will also turn their minds at some point in the evening to that extra miracle that they have witnessed in 2011 – that of seeing and experiencing their Homes surviving an earthquake without a single injury, or worse.

Truly the Homes is being looked after from above. Christmas is with us once again.

DGH Earthquake Appeal

Dr. Graham's Homes is a school and home set up in 1900 for orphaned and abandoned Anglo-Indian children in Kalimpong. Today the school caters for over 400 supported children and more than 1060 other children, where they are brought up to imbibe traditional and good values and receive a modern education. The uniqueness of Dr. Graham's Homes is that children of all age groups are housed together in cottages where they grow up as a family, with the older children looking after the younger ones. There are 22 large cottages at the Homes which house the children as well as a lot of other educational and administrative infrastructure and accommodation for residential staff spread over about 140 acres.

Since the school supports such a large number of supported children, its budget allows for no surplus, and it functions on a "non-profit" basis,

and has in fact been eating into its limited reserves to keep the school going in an environment of increasing costs and rising wages.

Consequent to the earthquake which struck on Sunday 18th September, a total of 5 cottages have been very badly damaged, declared unsafe and advised by reputed structural engineers for major repairs/reconstruction, which may cost us between about Rs 50 to 60 lakhs each. 5 cottages, 5 educational and other buildings, and the Chapel have been badly damaged and will again require major repairs costing anything between Rs 20 to 30 lakhs each to repair. In addition, 5 cottages/buildings have suffered moderate damage and will require repairs which may cost us about Rs 10 lakhs each; there are also about 11 buildings which have suffered lesser damage and may require repairs up to between Rs 1 to 5 lakhs each. We have, therefore, been forced to shift children who were residing in the badly damaged cottages to other vacant accommodation, to tide us over the crisis. We have been constrained to deploy our available cash reserves to carry out emergency repairs/modifications to buildings to facilitate shifting, ensure the children's safety, and to try to re-open the school immediately after the Puja holidays so that their education is not disrupted.

However, to resolve the problem we are desperately in need of funds to restore and renovate the infrastructure to its original shape.

We appeal to you for any assistance you or your organisation could possibly offer to help us in our endeavours to restore Dr. Graham's Homes to their original condition.

In the interests of transparency and greater efficiency, a special account has been opened in IDBI Bank, Russel Street, Calcutta, for the purpose. The Dr. Graham's Homes Kalimpong Disaster Relief Fund, account number 001210400027578, will be managed and monitored at the highest level in the Board of Management. Donors are requested to donate directly into the account and to no other recipient.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely

Lt. Gen. JR Mukherjee (Retd.)

Forthcoming event	Forthcoming event
<p>The Kalimpong Association (UK) Charitable Trust</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">AGM</p> <p>Donations of items for the Raffle would be most welcome</p>	<p>The Kalimpong Association (UK) Charitable Trust</p> <p style="text-align: center;">112th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION</p> <p>Donations of items for the Raffle would be most welcome</p>
<p>Saturday 16th June 2012</p> <p>The meeting starts at 1.30pm sharp</p> <p>Methodist Church Hinde Street, London W1</p> <p>Doors open at 12.30pm Tube: Bond Street</p>	<p>Saturday 22nd September 2012</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1.30pm</p> <p>Methodist Church Hinde Street, London W1</p> <p>Doors open at 12.30pm Tube: Bond Street</p>
The hall MUST be vacated by 5pm	

Dinner/Dance – NSW Committee

DGH Earthquake Appeal

4 November 2011

On September 18, the news reached us in Sydney that Kalimpong and the Homes had been struck by an earthquake. We could not imagine the carnage, the fear, the destruction and dislocation it would have caused. Our immediate emotions were sadness, isolation, empathy, and concern. What can we do? The Sydney NSW Committee knew that the OGBs in Sydney (we older lads and lasses) would have to rally and ring acclamation to dear Kalimpong in this hour of need.

We met at a pre-planned momo and thukpa fundraising ‘Homes Birthday’ lunch on the 25th September 2011. This is an annual event that brings all the OGBs together for a good old feed and reunion.

With our appetites satisfied after our tasty lunch, we all sat down to see a DVD presentation (put together by Alan Carey) – our Homes, with picturesque views of the hills and mountains, cottages and classrooms, and the memory of our dear staff and school friends spanning over 40 years. We all felt blessed and it was a time for celebration.

Suddenly, the mood changed while watching the presentation.

We saw pictures of damaged buildings and destruction caused by the earthquake. We also knew that it would have caused massive interruption to all the staff and students. Sadness and shock made way for a resolute response to find a way to raise funds to assist with restoration and repair.

The Sydney NSW Committee had only ever attempted small fundraisers in the past, but now we knew that we had to attempt something on a big and ambitious scale – something that had to be bold and daring. Apathy was not an option. This was going to be our one chance to dig deep as well as get the support of all OGBs.

The Anglo-Indian community in Sydney came to the forefront and supported our cause right to the successful end. With a large fundraising effort and a rapid response required, we agreed to the date of 4th November for a dinner/dance as the best option.

Immediately, we swung into action, steadied into our starting blocks and instantly, the race had begun to organise and plan this major project. Logistically, this required much planning, resources, and communication. We needed a venue, plus invitation tickets were required to be printed and sent out. Pre-payment was also necessary before the event. A band suitable for dancing and a popular menu for the dinner was required. Donations for lucky door prizes and raffles, plus memorabilia to be auctioned were essential. Selling of raffle tickets also became a priority. Seating and setting up tables in the hall had to be organised. We would somehow need to be in constant communication regularly throughout the next five weeks via email.

A sense of disbelief overcame us as the evening finally came and the guests started to arrive. There was a somewhat quiet confidence and assurance that the night we had meticulously planned, would be enjoyable and successful. We warmly ushered in and welcomed our friends and supporters. Before long, the band “Face 2 Face” played and the guests swarmed to the dance floor and everyone seemed to be in their comfort zone, dancing the night away.

We took time out to welcome everyone and read the thoughtful and sincere greetings kindly sent by the UK Committee.

It was now time for a meal that was well prepared by the popular L & C Catering (exquisite A.I. Tucker) and kindly donated by Linda, Carl, Cheryl, and Errol Chater. Everyone shifted their attention and followed their noses toward the aroma of the authentic curries wafting from the serving area. The queues moved quickly and soon our guests were tucking into an appetising and satisfying meal.

The band continued to play favourite songs as the diners rhythmically and artistically danced with their partners; the night moved along smoothly with our very capable MC.

Another popular attraction for the evening was calling the winners of the door and raffle prizes. The auction attracted much anticipated bidding. In no time, the dinging of the cash register was reaching fever pitch as generous bidders out-bid each other in a frenzy for a win-win situation.

The following items were kindly donated for auction:

- A signed photo of Sir Donald Bradman’s Centuries (original signature);
- A “Frame by Frame” of Sir Garfield Sobers – there was a signed photo at the back to authenticate it (limited edition);
- A 2010 signed jersey from the Panthers Football Club (one of our “A” Grade National Rugby Teams).

All 3 items raised \$2,500 at auction.

We were inundated with gift donations and so we were able to give away many prizes on the night:

- We had 5 prizes for the raffle;
- We gave away 8 Lucky Door prizes; and
- 6 ‘Lucky Spot Dance’ prizes.

Everything for the night had been generously donated, by OGBs and non-OGBs. Our only outlay was the cost of the band.

Some side attractions included:

- A gentleman promoting Sheridan pickles on the night who also sold candy floss; proceeds from the sales were generously donate to the Homes;
- We had a professional photographer present on the night, and he too donated 10% of his sales to the cause.

All this boosted the kitty.

The Sydney NSW Committee would like to thank Linda, Carl, Cheryl, and Errol Chater who worked tirelessly, enthusiastically, and passionately. To all our guests and friends, we are humbled by your generous support. Thank you so much. To the OGBs, we all say “well done”. We dared to dream and so the evening was a huge success as we reached our target of 300, with 306 tickets sold.

To our utter amazement we raised in excess of \$18,000.

In a nutshell, Alan Carey (ex-student – Assam Cottage) described the night perfectly when he said “I was absolutely overwhelmed with the sheer success. The night was a smorgasbord laced with so many special ingredients such as dedication, love, belief, and passion. There was pride, joy, hard work, generosity, tasty food, fun, laughter, a great band and Master of Ceremonies, awesome dancing, and so much more. The ambiance was worth bottling and memory worth preserving and will be so treasured by all who

came. It is a great cause for the restoration and repair, and also a sincere expression of our love for our Dear Homes.”

Most of the OGBs rallied together at the end of the function to clean up and make sure everything was shipshape before we called it a night. We even took time off to take a group photo of the OGBs, sadly a couple had left by this time.



Left to right: Back row – Alan Carey, Samuel Macey, David Michale, Peter Macey, Gerry Perry, Praveen Mohandhar, Chris Nagle

Centre row – Clyde D’Cruze, Carl Chater, Errol Cooke, Errol Chater, Raymond Reade, Ujjwol (Eugene) Pradhan, Ivan Holland

Front row – Rochelle McDonald (Griffin), Dawn Van Steensel (Holland), Jenny Scholfield (Wise)

The Sydney NSW Committee has arranged to send the funds to India via the Victorian Committee.

We hope that our donation will in some way help towards the rebuilding work in our much loved Dr. Graham’s Homes.

Jean Burn’s Trust

It is a year since Auntie Jean’s death, and in her memory, the Jean Burn’s Trust was set up. Its intention was to raise enough money to admit Auntie Jean’s bairn (Scottish for child) to the Homes for the entirety of her/his education. This was discussed with Auntie Jean before her death and she was overjoyed and humbled.

When Auntie Jean passed away, the flood of messages on Facebook and via email were a testimony to the beauty and love of a wonderful Scottish lady, strong in faith and love who dedicated her life to the children of Dr. Graham’s Homes. This continued throughout the latter years of her life in Scotland. Her

Woodburn girls, former staff, Gap students and me, a Mansfield girl, continued to feel enriched by her love and advice. It seemed that it would be easy to raise enough funds to help a child throughout the years of her/his life in the Homes. Sadly this has not transpired yet. The total on JustGiving today stands at £2,100. This money is being used to continue the sponsorship of two children who are at the Homes already and were sponsored by Auntie Jean.

I had a flying visit to Oxford two weeks ago and in the last of the autumn sunshine we raided the apple and pear trees in St. John’s College sports

ground (Sedhar made friends with the head gardener who gave her permission). Trish, who had also travelled from Scotland, helped us gather up the fruit that I shook from the branches. Poor Sedhar was hit unceremoniously by the biggest pear you ever saw as she held the ladder I was balanced on. I was then dispatched up the apple tree to pluck the gorgeous red fruit. We giggled like Homes kids again!!! Loaded with fruit we returned to the Ball family home and there the fruit was transformed into jam and chutney over the next two days. I returned to Scotland with 6 bottles to be sold at my coffee morning (to raise money for the bike run next year). It is with admiration that I report on Sedhar's culinary events to help the fund grow. The congregation at her church support her by buying lunch for £5 on one Sunday a month. Sedhar can gauge how much to cook as she organises her orders by email. On the weekend I was visiting she was up at 5am preparing fresh chicken curry, vegetable dishes and rice with mushrooms. Most of the ingredients are organic and grown in her allotment. On that day she made £53. Every little bit helps the fund grow.

Sedhar (Lady Ball) who initiated the fund reminds everyone that it is ongoing and that the JustGiving page remains live till 2014. For those who wish to donate but feel that they cannot afford, why not donate a small amount and continue visiting the website regularly!!! I am an

OGB, and Sedhar remains my dearest classmate and friend. I admire her dedication and pledge my support. Well done Sedhar and thank you to all who have contributed generously. Please, please can we help this fund grow for the child who will be needing this chance in life.

<http://www.justgiving.com/VandaBikeBengal>

Vanda Fraser (November 2011)



Barnabus

On Sunday, October 22, Principal Mrs Peacock talked to the congregation at the morning service (held in Jarvie Hall, post-earthquake). Her topic was the lesser known disciple of Jesus – Barnabus (Acts 4:36-38). She spoke with eloquence and passion and the congregation were silently attentive.

Her quote: "It takes more grace than one can tell to play the second fiddle well," I was touched by.

This quote so admirably describes people we know and love – gracious ladies – Elspeth Lamb, Jennifer Webster, and Marguerite Robertson – who have been content to let the men in their lives bask in the limelight.

Florence Snell

	<p>CTR Inc. (An IRS approved 'Not for Profit Organization') PO Box 6345, Monroe Twp, NJ 08831, USA http://www.blairrw.org/ctr/index.php Questions: Blair Williams – blairrw@att.net</p>	
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Dear Friends and Well Wishers

This is CTR's 14th year and I thought it would be useful to summarise our achievements.

In the USA we are a 'Not for Profit' and in the process of obtaining a similar registration in Australia. Our two main thrusts are:

- Providing monthly pensions to indigent seniors (over 350 in Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, KGF and Vijayawada)
- Education of needy children (over 220 in Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad and Vijayawada).

We will consider helping any Anglo-Indians in any part of India – that is our registered purpose. We are managed and run by volunteers – coordinators in Perth, Sydney, Melbourne, London, Toronto, Santa

Clara and Monroe Township (NJ) and projects in India are run by volunteers in the cities mentioned above.

Here are **some things we do not do**:

- Pay any volunteers – either in India or abroad, neither in cash or kind
- Seldom pay to advertise CTR or its activities, relying on persons and organisations to publicise our works
- Pay any staff anywhere.

This adds up to our administrative costs being less than 1/10 of 1%, so that your donation goes directly to helping others.

We have **two major concerns**:

1. The organisations we help in India are not self-supporting (over 80% of their funding comes from CTR)
2. As our generation moves into their sixties and beyond, we will not be able to continue to raise funds for India

Put together, we are concerned that when we pass on there will be little support for the less fortunate Anglo-Indian in India! Do send us your thoughts on how we can tackle this problem.



Some personal news:

Ellen and I will celebrate our 50th anniversary (yes golden) in December. Realising this has been surreal, as we cannot perceive the reality of being together for so long! But, be that as it may, we both feel we would not have lived our lives any other way. Check out our party on the website and if you can make it, do come.



Some exciting news:

Calcutta University has agreed to set up a separate section in their library for housing and administering an Anglo-Indian book (media) collection. This will ensure that some of the legacy of our community will be preserved for posterity. I am in the process of cataloguing all my books and articles (about 150) to send to Kolkata. In addition to the heritage, my main motivation for doing this is once I pass on, my books will be junked (this is not of any lack of love, just the reality of generational values). If you have rare books on Anglo-Indians and would like to donate them, please **send** me their name, author, publisher and year of publication, to help me decide which to send to Kolkata. The books will be transported to India at no expense to you. Thanks.

As we age, we need to focus on what is important, and helping the less fortunate brethren should perhaps be a priority. Most of us have been quite fortunate and need to recognise that 'there but for the grace of God go I.'

We hope you and your families are healthy and happy and continue to be so. Ellen and I wish you a joyful Christmas and the very best for 2012.

Love and God Bless

Blair Ellen

Blair and Ellen Williams

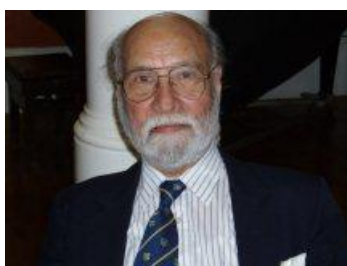
Choir Concerts

The programme for the School Choir Concerts in Kolkata are follows:

Friday 9 th December 2011	Gospel Music	St. Paul's Cathedral at 6.30pm
Saturday 10 th December 2011	Pop Concert	Atmodaya Hall, La Martiniere for Boys at 6.30pm
Sunday 11 th December 2011	Pop Concert	Tollygunge Club at 8pm

Obituaries

Eddie Lamb



Tributes

My father, a very special man, was born in Bhubrighat in India in 1917. His mother was Indian and his father a British soldier. He and his younger brother George were sent to Dr. Graham's Homes at the ages of 3 and 2 years' respectively. This explains dad's lifelong commitment to Dr. Graham and to the Homes, having been nurtured by them into adulthood.

Dad left school at the age of 19 with distinctions in no less than five subjects – the only scholar to have achieved this in 1936.

During the war dad, along with a number of other Anglo-Indians (approximately 100) served firstly in the Royal Navy, then in the Merchant Navy, and was proud to remember King George coming personally to thank them in Liverpool for their contribution to the war effort. Dad also saw action when he took part in Operation 'Torchlight' which was Eisenhower's very first command.

Eddie had the courage of his own convictions, and he helped many deserving causes throughout his life. He contributed to every fund over the years as a result of his childhood experiences, despite his own low resources. He showed many acts of kindness, including the sponsorship of many children. He even helped finance a home for a family he had heard about who were having to deal with serious failing health. The family now has a safe and secure home in Kalimpong.

Eddie was a very modest, Christian gentleman, so strong and yet so gentle. He was highly intelligent and respected by many. His skills in writing and communication, coupled with his phenomenal memory, made him truly outstanding to many people around the world.

He had a multitude of hobbies, many of which were centred in the home. He loved his garden and put its produce to good use with his adventurous cooking which he enjoyed to the very end. He had a prolific grapevine from which he made delicious wines, much appreciated by all the OGBs who visited our home! Dad was a wonderful father and family man. I feel so privileged to have been his daughter. Thank you, my Daddy Lamb.

Sandra Lamb, Proud daughter of Eddie

My father Eddie Lamb left India at 22 to serve in the British Navy in World War II – a conflict that had nothing to do with India. On his return he was in the middle of the Indian independence of 1947. He graphically described the carnage in Delhi.

He is credited with having founded this UK Committee in 1971, when I was 3. I didn't understand what was happening in my infant years, but I knew that all my parents' dialogue was about this strange place in a distant land. Our home was a constant chatter with OGBs via phone or visit. On many occasions dad invited several OGBs to dinner. By the age of 5, I was assigned the job of newsletter postal clerk – sealing and stamping hundreds of them; but I couldn't reach the slot in the post box. Dad used to take me to visit OGBs and to reunions, where he was in his social element, with a stick of magnesium flash cubes on his camera. I vividly remember him screening 'The Lollipop Tree' movie on a clunky 2-reel projector. I got strange looks when I started school, referring to a dish as 'dhekchee' and a shed as 'bustee'.

I actually got to visit Kalimpong in 1976, where I spent my 8th birthday. This gave full sensory

substance to my imaginary childhood images from dad's incessant chatter. I saw the swimming gala, ate buns and jilaebis and went to the Rilli. This would be the first and the last time I would see Kalimpong for another three and a half decades.

I always wanted to spend time in India for my own personal growth, but the timing of my visit was influenced. In recent years I saw dad's health diminishing, so I made a timely decision to let an old man see his childhood home once more through my eyes and soul and the click of a digital camera. In 2010 I resigned from a good job in a bad recession and spent 3 months in Kalimpong. The dense forest with bears and leopards he mentioned many times is now just an ancient archive in black and white photos, as are the bare-foot children punished by the cane. But the same temporary grade cottages are still perched a mile high, plus the same cast-iron cots in Lucia King nursery that he slept in in the early 1920s.

Aside from Cal he worked at British Rail, often pulling 13-hour shifts and weekend work. The garden was his retreat, where he grew a variety of king-size fruit and veg. Our food waste went to make his jet-black organic compost. Our cat always joined him outside to do mouse patrol duty. He made excellent beer and wine from black grape, elder flower, dandelion, barley and rosehip. Also hundreds of jars of lemon and mango kasaundi pickle, which went like hot cakes at the Cal sales. He was a great minimalist, wearing clothes until they fell off.

In middle age I now cringe when I notice such a quirk that I've inherited as I say "God, I'm like that!" But then I remember that dad did everything for a logical reason – then I feel ok again.

Richard Lamb

Gracious, gentle and quietly and kindly spoken, conscientious and very generous – that was Eddie...simply, he was a gentleman. These qualities were shown to his family and to his friends and to his beloved "Daddy Graham's Homes" – perhaps especially to the Homes.

Eddie was the perfect OGB – an example for all to follow. He never tired of reminiscing about the very early years of Dr. Graham's Homes, and was a mine of information about staff and pupils and life in school and cottage in the very early 1900s.

Eddie never lost his great love for the Homes and this love expressed itself in constant generous financial giving to the Homes in order that others might be given the nurturing and education that he had known and the chance of a good beginning in life.

We give thanks to God for Eddie's life – as a husband, father and OGB, and for his generous heart and loving spirit. Let us follow his example.

He was indeed an "OGB extraordinary."

Rev John G Webster

Deep condolences to all the family on the passing of a great man and OGB, and fine representative of Daddy Graham's vision in the world was fulfilled.

Arifin Graham

Eulogy by Mickey Lamb

As I started to think about what I would like to say today, I began by writing down a list of words that sprung into my head when I thought about my father, words that summed him up in my eyes and those of people who knew him well. Here are a few of them:

POSITIVE ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORTIVE
HUMBLE KIND GENTLE ENERGETIC
GENTLEMENLY RESPONSIBLE
ELOQUENT GIVING APPRECIATIVE
ACCEPTING UNDERSTANDING NON-
JUDGEMENTAL

Let me give you a few examples of what some of these words looked like in his life.

He was always POSITIVE.

He always 'enjoyed' funerals; he saw them as an opportunity to meet up with old friends and to appreciate the life of the person who had passed on. It was his wish that today be a happy occasion, a meeting of friends.

He was APPRECIATIVE.

As many of you know, dad (and mum) were given their start in life by Dr. Graham's Homes, originally a missionary orphanage in India. Dad went there at the age of 3 and it was his home; the teachers, the house parents and the children were his family. His appreciation of the start in life given to him by the home, his loyalty to it

and support and love for it NEVER ONCE waned. In fact he was instrumental, amongst other things, in the development and maintenance of the close worldwide network of former pupils of the school that exists today.

Throughout his life, whenever dad heard of the passing of one of the OGBs, he would make every effort to attend the funeral, even I remember travelling as far as Scotland and straight back again on the train, just so the Homes were represented.

I mentioned GIVING.

For the last few decades, dad, in addition to any other generous donations he may have given, helped sponsor not just one but TWO needy children through the school to the tune of £500 a year...and this while living on his state pension.

Eddie developed no enemies that I know of in 94 years on this planet, indeed, I barely recall him saying a critical word about anyone (apart from Margaret Thatcher!) The reason for this, and for me perhaps the words that most capture the essence of my father, are ACCEPTANCE, FORGIVENESS and NON-JUDGEMENTALISM. His favourite phrases seemed to be “never mind” and “it doesn’t matter”, and with these phrases he demonstrated an insight that many of us never fully achieve: he understood that most of the things that we human beings allow to develop into irritation, disagreement and conflict really aren’t worth fighting over. Better we strive for empathy, forgiveness and acceptance, and that we see our differences as something positive, interesting and enriching.

Were the whole world populated with human beings like my father, there would be no selfishness and conflict, just understanding and harmony.

The Lamb family would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to all who kindly sent sympathy cards and good wishes. Also cheques for the ANDREW BENNETT BURSARY APPEAL and our grateful thanks for those who were able to attend the service in the church and the celebration of Eddie’s life held in Wingfield Court.

We feel Eddie was looking on and would have been proud of the way things went so well.

With our heartfelt thanks to those who sent greetings and phone calls which we are still receiving.

As somebody mentioned, Eddie was regarded as a dedicated stalwart by many OGBs as regards Dr. Graham’s Homes and took a keen interest in anything to do with the school. It was his whole life apart from his love for his family.

We all miss him very much indeed.

Elsbeth Lamb

Among the mourners at Eddie’s funeral, held at Lodge Hill Cemetery, Selly Oak, Birmingham, on Thursday, 13th October, were his family: Elspeth, Mickey and Jane, Sandy and Richard, along with (listed alphabetically by Christian name) Alec Murray, Bobbie D’Costa, Cynthia Monro, Daphne Watts, Dave Edmunds, Don Edwards, Errol Berger, Florence Snell, Jeff D’Costa, Jess D’Costa, Jim Simpson, June D’Costa, Margaretta Purtill, Pat Simpson, Rosa Foo, Rosemarie Baker, Sedhar Ball, and Vince Purtill.

A friendly wake and generous spread took place in the lounge at Lingfield Court, Harborne, where Eddie and Elspeth have lived for the past few years.

Florence Snell

Donald Todd

Donald’s life began far from Scotland in Bengal, India. When he was around 8 years old, he was found in the Indong Tea estate and like many other children of Anglo-Indian parentage he was sent to Dr. Graham’s Homes in Kalimpong. Donald lived and was educated there until he was 17. During that time he was sponsored by Robin and Vera Inglis who would send money to India for his board and education.

Donald began his long journey to Scotland on 3rd October 1952. The Ingles became his guardians and Donald became part of their family. Just after he arrived in Scotland he started work in Gal and Ingles on 27th October 1952. Apart from 2 years National Service between 1955 and 1957, Donald worked there until he was paid off in 1977.

Donald met Helen dancing at the Palais and they were married in 1960. They had 4 children: Lorraine, Caroline, Valerie and Donald. Donald was delighted as his family grew and he became

a granddad to Cheryl, Amy, Robert and Donna, and great-granddad to Amy, Calum, Eva and Brooke, with another on the way. He doted on his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and saw his latest great-granddaughter briefly in hospital before he died. Though there were ups and downs, family life was all important to Donald. He always wanted to keep his family close around him and was always reluctant to let them go. He looked after Donald at home for 34 years until Donald got a home of his own. He enjoyed family days out, when there was always a picnic, even if it rained when it would be in the car. Nine times out of ten they would get lost on the way home and just make it back before the petrol ran out.

Donald was very house proud. He hovered, dusted, and cooked. His tattie curry was a very, both with the family and the neighbours. He was a smart man, always dressed in a collar and tie. He loved animals, especially his dogs, and enjoyed watching animal programmes on the TV. He was a jovial person, a great practical joker; and although he liked all music, he especially liked country and western and silly songs.

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

When he was younger, Donald was very religious – he went to Carubbers Close and preached on the Mound. He enjoyed playing sport, especially boxing and tennis. Later he became a keen bowler at Parkside and at the Municipal green with Helen. He enjoyed bowling and took part in competitions. He and Helen also enjoyed going to Bingo. Donald made good friends; he was an obliging person who would help anyone and was well-liked himself.

Donald always wanted to go back to India and he managed to with Helen in 1998. They visited Dr. Graham's Homes where he spent so much of his early life. Donald was a survivor and he came through several illnesses. He was made of strong stuff and always looked on the bright side. Latterly, he lived with Kevin and Caroline, who were devoted in their care of him. He died with Helen, Caroline and Valerie by his side. When very ill, Donald would always ask for his Mammie. It's a comfort to know that after all his journeying, Donald is now reunited with her and at peace.

Caroline Horstead.

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

www.kalimpong-association.co.uk



Kalimpong Association UK



www.twitter.com/kalimponguk

Our sincere thanks to Alistair McCabe of McCabe Pilgrimages for printing this newsletter free of charge