

# THE KALIMPONG ASSOCIATION (UK)

## NEWSLETTER

### *Summer 2007*



#### **KPG News .....**

Life came back to the compound with the laughter and noise of the children as they arrived back on the 15 to 18 February and the inaugural service for the academic year 2007 took place on 18 February in the Chapel, followed by the first day of schooling with Assembly in the Chapel on the following day.

The ISC (XII) practical examination commenced from 19 February 2007 and the ICSE (X) and ISC (XII) examinations started on 1 March continuing for more than a month with intervals in between. This year 122 candidates were presented for the ICSE examination and 138 for the ISC examination. We wish all candidates success.

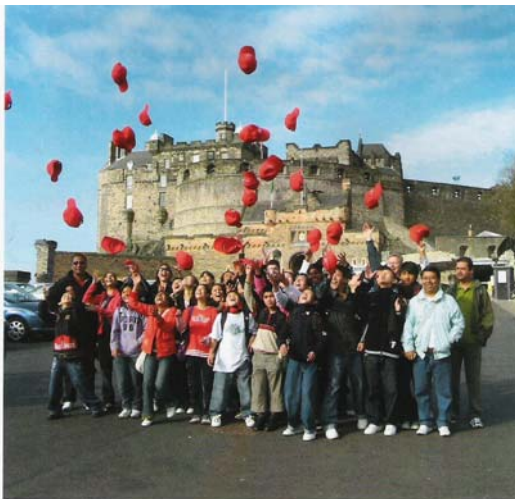
The 30 and 31 March 2007 were calendared to be the days for the ICSE Girls Basketball in the Inter-school Basketball Tournament held at St Joseph's Convent, our girls were runners up - well done!

The Deolo Cross Country Race has been featuring in our calendar for the past four years ever since David Coffey and his daughter, Stephanie, proposed the same. So far this has been a good warming up event in the beginning with the Harrier's Cross Country Race at the end of the year.

For the intermingling of the ICSE students in Kalimpong over the past few years there has been a fest known as the Crossroads Fest where children exhibit their enthusiasm in various fields such as dramatics, impromptu speeches, singing, dancing, art, etc. The Fest was held at Saptashri Gyanpeeth and as this originates from the enthusiasm of the children, our boys and girls performed extremely well.

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#### **Triumphant visit of the Dr Graham's Homes' Choir to St. Columba's Church, Pont Street, London 28th April 2007**



It is not every day that one may enjoy warm sunshine, the company of good friends, an excellent buffet Curry supper and most of all, the joyful enthusiasm of a group of talented singers from Dr. Graham's Homes in Kalimpong. Well, those of us who attended this wonderful Concert in St. Columba's Church Hall in London on the 28th of April 2007, were indeed the very fortunate ones to enjoy all these features.

The Committee members were at pains to make sure that the Hall was decorated to the highest possible standard. The tables were laid with care, balloons were hung on the walls, new banners made especially for the Choir, were installed on the stage and every detail elsewhere was checked. What good House Mothers we would have made! A happy bonus for the Committee and other helpers was to listen to the intense rehearsals of the Choir and all other musical matters, while preparing the Hall.

As the time for the Concert approached, the Hall began to fill up and the sound of, 200 and more, happy voices filled the room. Much to the amazement of the organisers, many more seats had to be found for folk who had not previously booked tickets for the occasion. This included a large batch of Old Boys who came unexpectedly, just to listen to the Concert!

News of these events, that is eleven Concerts in just sixteen days held in previous locations in Scotland and Oxford, had reached everyone present. Expectations were high and it turned out that we were not to be disappointed in Pont Street.

The proceedings began with an address from Mr A Morey, CBE who is the Chairman of the UK Committee. He welcomed the Children, their Staff Escorts, all OGB's and Friends of the Homes, Sponsors, and relatives of some of the children. He thanked specially the members of the Graham family who were present, including Lady Holden who is a Grand Daughter of Dr Graham. Mrs Wendy Grant too, had made a difficult journey down to London, just to hear the Children sing.

Johnny Graham gave a talk and then read a message from Rev. Simon Mainwaring in the US. It was Simon (Revd. Mainwaring), in the early years of their development, who spurred the Choir into performing the way they do today. Margaretta, our President, thanked everyone present for coming to the Concert, to those who had so generously contributed to the Raffle Prizes, to the members of the

Committee for all their efforts in arranging the necessary tables and chairs, and making the hall look so beautiful and to the Catering Staff of Munal Tandoor for a delicious meal.

The Concert was graciously presented by Mrs. Nandita Gurung, the English Teacher at the School, being one of four teachers who accompanied the Choir during their visit.

The children began the performance, dressed in brightly coloured costumes, with an Indian dance. It must be noted that they had choreographed the entire dance themselves! Once the singing began, the audience enjoyed every word and musical note made by the children. To quote Peter and Sophie Bullen, "All this of course stems from having dedicated teachers and one in particular, the Choir Master, Mr Shane Saviel, and the talented keyboard man, Mr Kamal Upasak. But the jewels in the school crown were the Choir itself. Not only are they a group of talented singers, but they enjoy what they do and bear the disciplines that they have been given, with an ease beyond their years. The soloists add their God-given talents to any event like this one."

It is interesting to point out at this stage, that the Children aged between 10 and 17 years of age, knew all the words to every song. Also, for many of them, English is not their first language! What a group of little treasures!

The final items were renditions of the latest School Song and the Indian National Anthem. These were sung by one and all with great gusto. Some of the guests joined the Choir front of the seated audience, and much to our surprise and delight Lady Holden too made the effort and gingerly walked up (unaided) to join the rest of us OGBs, to conclude a successful and very happy evening. We will remember this gathering for a long, long time!

We would like to thank the many donors including, Alec Murray and his daughter Jennifer, Malcolm and Linda Johnson, Norma-Jean Peck, Maureen and Robert Lucas, Ty Ledlie, Assembly Lodge of Instruction, Mrs. Millie Money-Penny (from Canada), Kevin and Carol Allan, Brenda Sparks, Donald Edwards, Margaretta and Vincent Purtill, Maggie Osborne, Ms C M Bains, Mrs MC Gould, Leoni and Patrick Appleby, Ms Y Meyers and Mr J Fegredo, Jean and David Gundlach, and Julianna and John Duckworth. Particular thanks must go to the Raffle Ticket sellers, Yvonne Felix and Jenny Bagley for their outstanding achievement in selling every raffle ticket. They were ably assisted by Vince Purtill, Our Treasurer, who carefully inserted strips of tickets into prepared envelopes, to simplify the transactions for the ladies.

Special thanks must be made to Donald Edwards who travelled around with the children from the time that they arrived in the UK. He filmed every activity and also the concerts held in Covent Garden and in Pont Street. These DVD's may now be purchased from him. All proceeds will be donated to the Homes.

Our very special thanks go to our Association Secretary, Mrs Julianna Duckworth, for securing discounted accommodation at the County Hotel, London. Also, thanks to her employer, Mr Alexander Waluck, for his extreme generosity in providing food, picnic baskets, etc., for the children during the five days that they were in London. The Hotel Staff and porters worked overtime and gave so much of themselves toward making these children feel at home in a strange country.

To Tina, Caroline and Lady Sedhar Ball, we offer our grateful thanks for all their magnificent and practical support throughout the tour. Their presence at times of need, especially like those presented at Heathrow Airport in the very early hours of the departure morning, show what stalwart, reliable friends they have proved to be during this most successful visit. Mr Neil Monteiro, who also accompanied the party, made a splendid job of arranging logistical support.

It is our hope that these fortunate Children will continue to sing and provide the world with happiness and that they will always remember the love and care bestowed on them, while in our midst. For our part, we certainly enjoyed having them with us!

The Kalimpong Association (UK) was indeed proud to have met completely the demands of this occasion.

**Ellena Christie. [Committee]**

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**Just some of the tributes and comments .....**

"We thoroughly enjoyed the Concert on Saturday. The kids sung beautifully and the food was lovely, thanks to you for your hard work and organisation. When is the next one?!!" **Jenny Bagley**

"Your choir produced a truly stunning performance, a bunch of youngsters any of us would have been proud of, as parents. On their next trip please consider bringing a collection of their CD recordings with them. They would have sold out, without any problem at all. The soloists would have won any of these dreadful TV contests we have in the UK for singers, head and shoulders above anything I have heard on TV.

The audience of 200 or so packet into the Cawdor Church, gave them a standing ovation. Our investment as the Rannoch Association Trust of a bursary for the three-year-old twins who have just joined Dr Grahams, done on the urging of my colleague, Keith MacKay, could not be going for a better cause. Of that I am in no doubt having listened to the enthusiastic and unaffected performance of the representatives of your school. It was a very moving experience.

Please be sure to pass on our pleasure at the children's fantastic performance to the Chairman of Dr Graham's Homes, Mike Robertson, and your choir master and the master who was in charge of the synthesizer, and musical arrangements, and not least to the children themselves." **James McNie, Rafford, Moray**

"We would like to thank all the people who worked so hard and consistently to take up the students of DGH. This was a unique experience and Hazel has not stopped talking about the trip. The Homes children leave for Kalimpong today and will arrive tomorrow. Please convey

our thanks. We are very grateful for giving these children such an opportunity - you will not believe but some of them have never set foot in an airport!! They enjoyed themselves and had a great time. Thank you once again for all your help and effort.” Warm regards, **Sharon**

Just to let you know that the children and staff left Heathrow on time. Tina and Caroline were at the airport too assisting Neal at the check in counter. They will no doubt give account of the wonderful visit to Windsor castle. The children’s bags were bursting with shopping and gifts. Neal is on the second flight with just four children this time. London event was a big success and the Lion King was enjoyed by us all, especially the choir. Lots to tell...good reports but need our sleep. Children raved about Scotland. Love, **Sedhar**

Dear Vera - just to let you know that the children have returned safely to Kolkata and that all is well. May I say that I am overwhelmed by the care and attention they received during the visit and we are so grateful to every one who has made it possible. I know how much you have done to make this trip possible and we owe it all to you. Many many thanks, **Michael**

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## **‘There, but for the Grace of GOD’ .....**

Today most Anglo-Indians live all around the world. We are a truly cosmopolitan group of people. From an estimated 500,000 living in India in 1950, half of us immigrated to countries, primarily England, Canada and Australia. We immigrated because we believed that these countries may give us and would certainly give our children a better life. Today we have settled down abroad and are living a fuller quality of life. The future for our children appears even brighter.

Those of us who have been back to India and seen the condition of many of our older folks, realize how fortunate we have been. Today there are scores of Anglo-Indians in their 60’s, 70’s and 80’s, living precariously, with little or no shelter and have to search and struggle to feed themselves daily. Here are a few examples of such people:

Simon Glass, 71, lives with his wife Rita 68 in a small mud hut with a tin roof at ‘Hadi Bagan’. Simon has two sons and daughter who help occasionally. He and his wife make and sell paper bags. Simon has TB.

Ivan Peters, 76, lives with his son in a small room for which he pays a monthly rent of Rs. 110/- His son does odd jobs. Ivan receives an occasional lunch from the MC Sisters. He has a chronic heart condition.

Thelma Dolby, 69, lives with her crippled sister, May Rodricks, in one room with a leaky roof for this she pays a monthly rent of Rs. 50/- Thelma has cataracts in both eyes

Beryl Christian, 75, lives with her married daughter and three children in one small room for which she pays a monthly rent of Rs. 67/- Beryl depends on neighbours for food.

Cyril D’Silva, 81, lives with his wife, Louise, 71, in a small hut with a tin roof for which he pays a monthly rent of Rs. 100/-. Cyril is blind in one eye and has a cataract in the other. He has three daughters, but they do not help.

The list is endless. Abandoned persons, living a wretched existence, desperately seeking food, shelter and some comfort. They could be living reasonably well in Australia or England or Canada, but were just less fortunate. Further, any one of them could have been one of us. Imagine our daily lives under those conditions. It is truly frightening and humbling.

Do we have to help them? The answer has to be a resounding ‘YES’. It is not important how we help them, or through whom we help them, but it is important that we do so. An intention is of no value unless it is supported with an action. With our numbers abroad, we can cover them easily. We cannot expect other agencies and institutions to look after our community, even though many are providing much help. Throughout the world, people help their community after their family. Tribes help their own Tribe. This is the way it is...and should be; otherwise it becomes too big a task.

Not one community can feed the millions of the world; so we go to our own communities to help ease the suffering, and the pain. Look at the example set by communities that really take care of their members; look at the Jews or the Parsees. These communities have extensive organizations and resources dedicated to help their fellow beings in need. What is our experience? We, as NRAI’s (Non Resident Anglo-Indians), may not be aware of the needy in India.

We are a Christian community and the essence of Christianity is helping our fellow human being - and when this fellow human is a person from our own community the need to help becomes imperative. So why do the old and poor Anglo-Indians continue to suffer abandonment? Partly ignorance; many of us are unaware of the extent and degree of their poverty. Partly neglect; most of us are too busy to spare a thought to these unfortunate brethren. Partly indifference; its them and not us. Partly because there is no easy mechanism in place for us to help. We can continue to speculate on such reasons indefinitely. The fact is there are thousands of old, poor Anglo-Indians existing all over India and the fact is they are not being helped sufficiently. The question is what can we do for these poor, old Anglo Indians? Here are some agencies in India who can be relied upon to use the money to help our Anglo Indian community.

- CAISS (Calcutta Anglo-Indian Service Society):  
This charitable organization serves the poor Anglo-Indians in Calcutta by providing welfare, rations, medical help, education and employment. Their address is c/o Lawrence D’Souza Homes, 138 Lenin Sarani, Calcutta 700 013, India, or via Email:

Yvonne Cranenburgh - [ycburgh21@hotmail.com](mailto:ycburgh21@hotmail.com)  
Lynette Deane [lynnetteane@vsnl.net](mailto:lynnetteane@vsnl.net) - [lynndeanu2003@yahoo.com](mailto:lynndeanu2003@yahoo.com)  
Philomena Eaton [eaton@vsnl.net](mailto:eaton@vsnl.net)

- Marian Education Center (Christian missionary school in Picnic Garden),  
Sister Marissa runs the Marian Education Center in Picnic Gardens and caters for drop outs and has a crèche and day care:

Marian Education Centre, 190BG Picnic Gardens, Calcutta 700 039, 011-91-33-23450166  
011-91-33-23450740, 011-9133 344 3166, [kolkata@helpapoorchild.com](mailto:kolkata@helpapoorchild.com)

- Friends in Need Society  
They run a Seniors Home in Madras and Bangalore. You may contact Dr G. Francis (President) at 1/2 Ponniamman, Koil Street, Egmore, Madras 600 008.
- DVD Educational & Charitable Trust:  
This is run by Mr. D.V.D'Monte a long time leader of the Anglo-Indians in Madras

Secondly, let us locate agencies abroad that help Anglo-Indians in India. Here are their details:

Calcutta Tiljallah Relief, Inc. PO Box 6345, Monroe TWP., NJ 08831, USA is a US government approved not-for-profit organization. They provide pensions to seniors. As of 2006, 267 seniors are being given a monthly pension - 155 in Calcutta, 85 in Chennai, 25 in Bangalore and 2 in Delhi. From February 2006 pensions were increased from Rs.300 to Rs.400 per month. They also sponsor young AI girls at Loreto, Entally. You may contact the following people:

In UK, Blair Williams at [webmaster@blairrw.org](mailto:webmaster@blairrw.org)

In Canada: Yvonne Peters, 51 Brock Av., Toronto, ON M6K 2L3, Canada (email: [ypeters51@yahoo.ca](mailto:ypeters51@yahoo.ca)) In the UK: Jean Chambers, Solent Breezes, Warsash, (16 Bailey Close, Botley, Hants SO 30 2TW).

In Australia: Marilyn Goss, 26 Kyarra Rd., (incomplete); Glen Iris, Melbourne, Vic 3146; Cheryl Chater, 19 Parkland Avenue, Punchbowl, NSW 2196; Jenny Busby, 9 Frew Court, Bayswater, WA 6053.

In India: Joanne Gardner, Laidlaw Memorial, Ketti, Tamil Naidu 643215.

Kalimpong Association (UK) Charitable Trust, 63 Woodcote Valley Rd, Purley, Surrey CR8 3BG. They provide residential education for over 300 Anglo-Indian boys and girls at the Kalimpong Homes Check out their website @ <http://www.drgrahamshomes.co.uk>. UK Child Sponsorship Scheme, contact Miss Cassie, Email: [vycassiedgh@talktalk.net](mailto:vycassiedgh@talktalk.net)

Anglo Indian Concern- located in the UK - Rachel Thurley, 4A The Styles, Godmanchester, Cambs PE 18 8JF, England. They operate in Madras and provide education, medical help and financial aid to poor Anglo-Indians in Madras.

HAPC (Help A Poor Child) supports Anglo-Indians by operating child care centers and are located as follows:

- UK** - Devonshire House, Manor Way, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire WD6 1QQ, UK.  
+44 (0) 20 8236 2953, Fax +44 (0) 20 8731 4322 - [info@hapc.co.uk](mailto:info@hapc.co.uk)
- Australia** - 6/122 Illawarra Crescent, Ballajura, Perth 6066, Western Australia - [aus@helpapoorchild.com](mailto:aus@helpapoorchild.com)
- Chennai (Madras)** - HAPC Chennai, 1/2 Ponniamman Koil Street, Egmore, Chennai 600 00, India. (009144-28413937)  
[chennai@helpapoorchild.com](mailto:chennai@helpapoorchild.com)
- Goa** - HAPC Goa, 2T-1, Models Residency, St. Inez, Panjim Goa 403 001. India (0091 832 224 23185)  
[goa@helpapoorchild.com](mailto:goa@helpapoorchild.com)
- Mumbai (Bombay)** - HAPC Mumbai, Spring Field-1, No. 101A, 1st Floor, Sunder Lane, Orlem, Malad (West), Mumbai 64, (0091 22) 2881 3471 - [mumbai@helpapoorchild.com](mailto:mumbai@helpapoorchild.com)
- Gujarat** - HAPC Gujarat, (00 91-982) 537 9654 - [gujarat@helpapoorchild.com](mailto:gujarat@helpapoorchild.com)
- Kolkata (Calcutta)** - Marian Education Centre, St. Xavier's College, Kolkata 700 016, India. (0091 33) 344 3166  
[kolkata@helpapoorchild.com](mailto:kolkata@helpapoorchild.com)
- Kenya** - HAPC Kenya P.O. Box 20714, Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa. (00 254) 20 513535  
[kenya@helpapoorchild.com](mailto:kenya@helpapoorchild.com)
- Pakistan** - HAPC Pakistan - [pakistan@helpapoorchild.com](mailto:pakistan@helpapoorchild.com)
- Sri Lanka** - HAPC Sri Lanka, [slanka@helpapoorchild.com](mailto:slanka@helpapoorchild.com)

Trevor Dragwidge Trust Fund, UK helps Anglo-Indians by providing upkeep for the elderly and educating poor children. A trustee member is Dennis Rebeiro, 4 Prince Rd, South Norwood, London SE25 6NN, UK.

Finally, now that we have located agencies in India and abroad, together as a community we should put our hands together and help. Love is the essence of life; and where there is love, there is compassion. But love and compassion together ease suffering, only if they result in action.

Many Anglo-Indians in India, particularly the very young and the elderly, are in dire need of help. There are old people who are lonely and poor, because, not only have their relatives deserted them; but so has their community. There are children, whose young mothers have been deserted by their husbands and who are so poor that they cannot take care of their little ones. They live in slums where both the little girls as well as the little boys have been abused or in danger of being abused. This is our community; these are our brethren. Depending on what we do in the coming few years, history and our children will judge us, either as a caring and compassionate community, or as a selfish and callous community. The jury is still out.

Blair and Ellen Williams immigrated to the USA since 1976. Blair was a manufacturing executive and Ellen a school teacher. With a couple of friends, they started Calcutta Tiljallah Relief (CTR) in December of 1998, dedicated to helping poor Anglo-Indians in India. CTR provides a monthly pension to seniors in Calcutta, 30 in Madras and 10 in Bangalore. 16 young Anglo-Indian girls are sponsored as residential students at Loreto, Entally. The vision of CTR is to provide a pension to every needy Anglo-Indian senior.

My friends, what good is it for one of you to say that you have faith if your actions do not prove it? Can that faith save you? Suppose there are brothers or sisters who need clothes and don't have enough to eat. What good is there in saying to them, "God Bless you! Keep warm and eat well!", if you don't give them the necessities of life? So it is with faith: If it is alone and includes no actions, then it is dead.

**Marlene Ward (nee-Kennedy) - [marlene\\_shane@hotmail.com](mailto:marlene_shane@hotmail.com)**

## England! Here We Come! By Rudy Otter

We first generation Anglo-Indian migrants felt a surge of excitement at leaving India in the 1940s and 1950s and coming “home” to England, a home we had never seen before. Only one thought filled our minds. “Thank goodness we are getting away from that smelly, dirty India and all the flies - chee! Not having to learn Hindi now, boy! No danger of our children having to marry Indians!”

I don't know what sort of reception we expected to receive in England all those years ago. Perhaps we expected crowds of English people to be waiting at Tilbury docks or Southampton, ready to garland and smother us with hugs and kisses, and shrieking: “Welcome home! How lovely to see you all again! Our own dear kith and kin!” The reality was somewhat different in those far-off days. No welcoming parties, no hugs or kisses, nothing at all. Within a very short time it became clear to us that we were somehow not welcome here - which came as quite a shock.

English people scrutinised our brown faces and tried to make sense of our flat, machine-gun chatter with clusters of sentences uttered in a single breath and unexpectedly ending in “no” or “men” - as in: “You're going out, no?” Or “What's the time, men?” They found it all very confusing - quite justifiably in my opinion. “Why have you Indians come to England?” some would ask curiously. “Why don't you go back to India?” Calling an Anglo-Indian an “Indian” in those bygone days was like calling Enoch Powell black! It made Anglo-Indians furious! Indignant! Apoplectic! At the time, few of us could afford to buy houses right away, and shop-window advertisements offered “rooms to let” in these startling “Sorry no Jews, Irish or coloureds.”

We were stunned. In India, the English knew only too well who we were and how we differed from the Indians. (Hey! We were fanatical supporters of the British Raj!). British army officers socialised with Anglo-Indians at railway institute dances, played hockey with us, visited our homes, ate our food and generally gave Anglo-Indians the impression that we were every bit as British as fish and chips. So how come the English, in England, in those bygone days, were suddenly smitten by a stroke of amnesia when we Anglo-Indians returned “home” to live among them? It is easy to speak with hindsight (more than 52 years in our case, since arriving in England) but the truth is this: the English people who associated with Anglo-Indians in India were “officers” - the upper class - and they spoke ever so “stylishly”. By the time we migrated to England, those upper-class bosom pals of ours had already retreated to their rose-fringed cottages in picturesque Dorset, Devon and Cornwall. Where did most of us settle? Mainly in industrialised, smog-enshrouded London and the Home Counties, among the English working class. As far as they were concerned, anyone from India was an “Indian” - a premise then totally unacceptable to us ultra-sensitive souls.

Prejudice against Anglo-Indians and West Indians steadily swung the spotlight away from two previous target - the Irish and the Jews - who must have breathed a sigh of relief strong enough to topple the Titanic. Anglo-Indians, disillusioned at not being accepted, attempted to play their trump card by proclaiming their “European” ancestry: French, German, Scottish, Welsh, English, Dutch, Scandinavian. Many of us (me included) were particularly proud of our Irish ancestry - a joy, alas, not shared by the English. In fact, none of our ancestral claims impressed them. They just hoped we would “go back”. It was, I suppose, a logical English reaction, but it just did not wash with us.

Rejection by the English gave Anglo-Indians an identity crisis. Every Anglo-Indian family in those bygone days would huddle around their meter-hungry electric fire in rented rooms, and have long, soul-searching discussions along the lines of: “If a chicken were born among goats, how could it possibly be regarded as a goat?” In other words, if Anglo-Indians “happened to be born in India” how could we, why should we, be regarded as Indians? It was outrageous!

In those days we consoled ourselves by getting together at a flurry of Anglo-Indian dances organized in London districts like Ealing, Acton, Greenford, Wembley, Hayes, Osterley, Chiswick, Hammersmith, Harrow, Streatham, St Pancras, Croydon (then our spiritual home where vast numbers of Anglo-Indians lived), and Purley. Convoys of coaches would bring isolated communities of Anglo-Indians from places as far away as Somerset and Southampton.

Anglo-Indians took the opportunity at these dances to boast about how “wonderful” it felt to be “back home in England” and unfurled their long, narrow payslips bearing details of their best week's wages (grossly inflated with overtime which was then abundantly available) and tried to pass it off as normal pay!

Occasionally, much to their delight, many Anglo-Indians were mistaken for various other nationalities. “Oh yes,” they would beam, “I am from Malta, Greece, Turkey, Spain, Italy, Portugal or wherever - but from India? Oh no! Definitely not from India! Do you mind?”

Our family had been living in England for six months back in 1952 when an Anglo-Indian friend and myself met a recent arrival from India. He had been here only a week, obviously not long enough to have experienced the English unfriendliness that many (but emphatically not all) Anglo-Indian migrants had encountered.

“We Anglo-Indians,” the happy newcomer asserted, “did ourselves a huge favour, men, by leaving India and all those Indian chaps shouting ‘Quit India!’ “We are home now here among our own kind ... the English ... our blood brothers...”. My friend and I exchanged discreet smirks. The poor fellow, we knew, would soon be in for a shock.

Four months later we met the same guy. He seemed to have lost his smile and bounce. In fact he looked drained, distressed.

“Hullo!” we said. “How are you getting on?” He shook his head. “Oh, what to tell you, men.” He spoke slowly, weighing his words. “Er - England is not as - ah - ...we seem to have little in common with ... English people ... no servants ... all the housework ... life ... just a routine ... work then home, work-home, work-home. We are .. not ... happy here. We are - er - going back to India next month.” Very sad. Somehow his English “blood brothers” had failed to come up to his expectations. Ahhhh!

Quite a few dejected Anglo-Indians were in the same boat (and probably ON the same boat) as himself, bound for India. But many had a change of heart and returned to England to live happily ever after as our day-to-day relations with the English steadily improved. We got

to know one another better at work as well as socially. Now, in the year 2004, I am delighted to report that life in England is wonderful for Anglo-Indians, couldn't be better.

So everything turned out for the best, no?

\* Rudy Otter is a retired Anglo-Indian journalist and columnist. The family migrated to the UK in 1952 from Daund, a G.I.P Railway town near Pune, Maharashtra. Email: [rudy.otter@btinternet.com](mailto:rudy.otter@btinternet.com)

(Reproduced by courtesy of CONTACT, quarterly magazine of The Asian Chaplaincy of Hammersmith, London, UK.)

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## OGBs News & Information .....

Do you have a contact for Violet McGilchrist, please? Regards Errol Webber Government Procurement Department of Treasury and Finance, 2 Havelock Street West, Perth, Western Australia. Tel: 9222 5474

**Actioned:** [Sorry to send this as a round robin but if any one can put any light on the whereabouts of Ms Ada James, please do let me know. Many thanks."] Margaretta Purtill (President) **We are happy to report that this has now been resolved. Thanks to all of you who assisted in this query.**

**With reference to the above .....**

Have you registered on Alumni site? It will be our pleasure to know more about each other through it. We have a web site dedicated to OGB information, [www.dghalumni.com](http://www.dghalumni.com) however not many of you, in the UK, are making use of it. Any information can be placed on the site including "who visited whom" under "Blogs". There is a Message Board and a spot for DGH News and much more. The whole concept of the site, by young John Rai, is to keep OGBs in touch with one another and to go the length and breadth of the globe and to help to keep the OGB flag flying. If I can quote you, "I reckon his is a great solution to your request and ask that you consider it".

**Error Webber** [errol.webber@dtf.wa.gov.au](mailto:errol.webber@dtf.wa.gov.au)

We have 165 members so far, with your help may be we can get more OGBs signed up. The database we store for the Alumni section of OGBs is under secure server. You can probably take advantage of it's feature for the newsletter, with just a few clicks of the mouse all the members will have their newsletter. The database system also tracks all the activities of member (log book). If you have any suggestion kindly be in touch with Mr Errol, he is always available for you. **John Rai** [johnrai@gmail.com](mailto:johnrai@gmail.com)

As usual, we are always on the lookout for information on OGB's worldwide. If you have had any visitors, friends from abroad visiting, even if you have had a party where OGBs have turned up, we would love to hear all about it. Who visited whom, when etc. The idea of the newsletter is keep OGBs in touch with one another. Our newsletter goes around the length and breadth of the globe. So please everyone help me to help you to keep the OGB flag flying. Thank you. Look forward to hearing from you. **Margaretta Purtill (President)**

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## Love Blossoms in Goa

The 17 February was another lovely day in Goa – brilliant sunshine and bright blue skies. However, this was no ordinary day. Desmond and Flora were getting married in the Angel Resort that evening so there was feverish activity all day at their beautiful Home in the Wood in Porvorim.

Relatives and guests had arrived in Goa from Leeds, Milton Keynes, Swindon and Croydon in the UK, Sydney in Australia as well as Assam and Calcutta in India.

The Angel Resort was a well chosen venue and the hall was beautifully decorated in orange and peach. The groom and his best man (Nigel) looked very dapper in their black suits, white shirts and ivory cravats. The bride looked absolutely beautiful in her ivory dress, veil and tiara and entered the hall on the arm of her brother Molen Bellestrain. Flora was complemented by three lovely bridesmaids Michelle, Pallavi and Anne and the flower girls Winnie and Meleva. One must not forget the little pageboy Aayan (Flora's son) who looked very handsome in his dark suit.



The bridal party entered the hall to the sound of "The Wedding March". Once all the vows were exchanged it was time for the speeches. After Desmond's speech he surprised Flora by singing "Walk Through This World With Me". This was sung so beautifully and ended to thunderous applause from all present. It was Nigel's turn next and he conveyed wishes from all those who couldn't be present, followed by his speech which was beautifully delivered.

Once all the formalities were over it was time to party and family and friends had a wonderful time dancing to the disco. This was followed by a scrumptious feast in the grounds of the Resort next to the swimming pool. There was every conceivable curry and rice available followed by delicious Indian sweets!

The happy couple are now honeymooning in various parts of India, including Shillong, Gauhati, Tinsukia, Sikkim and Kalimpong.

We hope they have a wonderful married life in Goa and enjoy a more relaxed way of life in the Sun.

**Jeff and Yolande**



## **Tribute to Sister Margaret Cassidy.**

On my last visit to Kalimpong in 2005, it was a great privilege to open the brand new Thorburn Cottage. A far greater privilege in 2007 is to bring from the UK, the remains of a person very dear to us. I refer of course to the late Sister Margaret Cassidy MBE [Member of the British Empire]. This honour was given to her by the Queen of England for her work and dedication to this school.

Sister Cassidy began her life here in the Homes in Thorburn Cottage on the House Staff., then moved on to Lucia King. It was not long however, before she was doing what she loved best, namely caring and tending sick children and Staff in the Steel Memorial Hospital.

Sister Cassidy was a kind, firm and knowledgeable tutor to those nurses under her professional care. Their basic training was second to none! Many of these nurses completed successful nursing careers in India, the UK, Australia and New Zealand. They had a wonderful head start over other new nursing recruits! All of them remember Sister Cassidy's warm personality and Christian principles with fondness.

Sister Cassidy worked in the Hospital with Dr. Meg Patterson for a while. What an amazing team that was! Latterly other notable persons joined the medical team and together they healed and cured the sick in the beautiful location.

She will always be remembered for her infectious laugh and wonderful sense of humour. After all, with her warm bedside manner, who really needed medication?! She was always smartly dressed and beautifully turned out with a keen eye to detail. She took a great interest in the OGB's and we loved meeting her when she attended our London Reunions. We OGB's feel that it is right, fitting and proper to leave this Brass Plaque in the SMH, in memory and recognition of a truly selfless and devoted lady. She spent many of her off duty hours here on this delightful lawn, overlooking the everlasting snows and our beloved Himalayas.

Sister Cassidy, much loved of us all, may you rest in God's peace.

**Margaretta Purtill (Byers)**

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Incidents & Memories**

Last October Sr. Cassidy passed on to glory. Following her cremation and funeral service at Rye-Lane Church, London, I took possession of the urn containing her ashes in the belief that one day these should return to the Homes that she so loved and faithfully served for over a quarter of a century. It was as simple as that, and how many incredible incidents and wonderful memories developed from this humble beginning.

### **Plans**

Once it was decided that a Memorial Service held in the Katherine Graham Chapel at the Homes should provide the centrepiece of our tribute, a number of allied matters fell into place:

- The London OGB's Association donated a suitably inscribed plaque to be placed in the Steel Memorial Hospital where Sr. Cassidy had become something of a 'permanent fixture'.
- The trip to India was confirmed with a two-day stay in Kalimpong as the special Service was arranged for the morning of the 17 March 2007.
- An Order of Service drawn up in consultation with the Principal and School Chaplain.

### **The Programme.**

The School Chaplain, Rev. Lawrence Pereira, conducted the Service which could not have 'opened' more beautifully than with a rendition by the Homes choir of Margaret Cassidy's favourite hymn, 'The Lord is my Shepherd'.

The eulogy, by Rev. C. Taylor, Minister of Sr. Cassidy's Church in London, was appropriately a repetition of his talk at her actual funeral. (The complete text of this appears in the last issue of the Newsletter). The School Chaplain read the Scripture lesson, and a special prayer composed for the occasion.

Former Principal, Bernard Brooks, read a message received from Mr ABN Morey CBE, Chairman of the UK Committee. Mr Brooks then spoke of Sr. Cassidy as 'friend and colleague'. With regard to her work at the Hospital, she was the 'complete professional' who never allowed an exception to occur even to the extent of being regarded as an iron fist in a velvet glove! However, he stressed the real tribute to Sr. Cassidy came not so much from her friends, but from the children to whom she had ministered. From the large number of messages received, three were read out as possibly the most appropriate.

The Service closed with the singing of another of Margaret Cassidy's favourite hymns: "Blessed Assurance".

Following the Service, all assembled at the Steel Memorial Centre where both the Bursar and I spoke with feeling of our memories of the great lady. After a short prayer, I had the privilege of unveiling the plaque along with OG Mrs. Jayshree Pradhan (who represented the Sikkim OGBs) in memory of Sr. Cassidy. It was indeed a great honour for me to represent both the UK Committee and the London OGB's Association at this special service.

We then made our way down to the Garden of Remembrance where the School Chaplain conducted a brief service during which the ashes were interred. Floral tributes were expressed in terms of wreathes laid by Mrs Jayshree Pradhan on behalf of the Board of Management, by the Principal on behalf of the Homes, the Rev. CR Taylor on behalf of Rye-Lane Chapel, London, and Mr Sonam Gompu, President, on behalf of the Kalimpong OGBs Association. Wreathes of respect were also received from present students, HEA of Dr Graham's Homes, and on behalf of OGBs both in India and abroad.

### Conclusion

Finally, let me close on a personal note with memories no one could possibly have hoped for, let alone expected. The following is my inadequate way of saying 'thank you' to so many. I refer to:

- The fact that representatives were present at the Service from six OGB Associations: Shillong, Nepal, Calcutta, Sikkim, Kalimpong and London. What a response at such short notice! More importantly, what a tribute to the memory of Sr. Cassidy!
- The singing of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm by the **whole** choir under the direction of Shane Saviel. I have deliberately stressed the word 'whole' because this was the last time this talented group were to sing together. Final year students who completed their exams a fortnight later, have now moved on to other 'pastures'. As such this was very much their 'swan song' - and what a privilege to witness this final performance.
- The warmth and hospitality of Ahava by its hostess, and the constant care and concern of the Bursar and Cottage Superintendent throughout the period of our stay, was very much appreciated.
- The newly-weds, Desmond and Flora Myers, who adjusted their honeymoon in order to attend the Service laid on a celebratory dinner for OGBs, which must have rivalled their wedding reception!
- The irrepressible Kalimpong OGB's Association who also formed the 'escort' provided at Calcutta airport, kept us company at the farewell lunch held at Gompus palatial establishment.
- Finally, an unforgettable holiday in Sikkim, courtesy of Jayshree Pradhan (Board Member), Karma Nidup, Shiva Kumar Rai, Guru Ladhaki and indeed the entire Sikkim Grahamite Association. Their kindness and hospitality was overwhelming.

A very sincere thankyou to one and all.

**Margaretta Purtill (Byers), President, The Kalimpong Association (UK)**

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Memorial Service for MARGARET CASSIDY MBE, at the Katherine Graham Memorial Chapel, Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong, held on 17 March, 2007. By: Dr. Gurung**

Mr Brooks, former Principal of the Homes, emphasised that the real tribute to Sr. Cassidy lay in the lives of the many children and Nurse Trainees who had been touched by her wholesome influence. He then read the following messages:

**Mr ABN Morey**, Chairman, UK Committee of Dr Graham's Homes

"As, unfortunately, no members of the UK Committee have been able to attend, we are grateful to Mrs Margaretta Purtill of the Kalimpong Association (UK) for kindly agreeing to represent the Committee at today's ceremony commemorating Sister Margaret Cassidy's life of service and devotion to the Homes. Here countless children will have had reason to be thankful for the caring and tender ministrations of Sister Cassidy and her colleagues at the Steel Memorial Hospital. How fitting that so many years after her retirement and departure to the UK, she should have her ashes returned to Kalimpong to the Homes she loved, and where she laboured for many years for the benefit of so many! May she Rest in Peace".

Ex-student - **Lorraine Raphel**, Confidential Secretary to the Bishop of Calcutta

"Sr. Cassidy's passing awakens memories of a large, caring and dominating personality. For all her 'toughness' as one who never allowed standards to drop at any time, she was a truly gentle and compassionate soul, an angel of mercy. I should know because as a result of my personal circumstances, I required more attention than anyone else, and she looked after me throughout my entire life at the Homes - sixteen long years!"

Ex-student - **Albert Temple**, Principal, Wynberg Allan School, Mussoorie

"Sr. Cassidy was such a lovely person to meet, let alone to know. I must be one of those who knew her longest because I was a baby in Lucia King when she joined the staff to work briefly as Miss Penny's assistant. Twenty seven years later Sr. Cassidy retired shortly after I resigned from the teaching staff. This means her service spanned my entire life as a student and teacher at the Homes!"

What a wonderful gesture by Margaretta Purtil (Byers) and the London OGB's Association to bring Sr. Cassidy's ashes back to the Homes and install a plaque in the SMH in her memory! A fitting tribute for one who has served the children and staff of the Homes, so faithfully."

From **Lyonpo Sonam Tobgye**, Chief justice of Bhutan and Vice Patron of Dr Graham's Homes

"Sr. Cassidy had a great spirit, and OGB's will seize this opportunity to pay tributes to a dedicated and caring person for her selfless devotion to the children of the Homes. This gathering, at the Memorial Service, will express gratitude for her life and maintain it was not in



vain. Indeed, she built a tradition at the hospital. All these beautiful words may soon be lost in time, but her devotion to the Homes and her sterling qualities of selfless service will remain pervasive and enduring.”

Sister Cassidy’s favourite hymn, 'Blessed Assurance' was sung by the congregation.

After the Benediction the congregation dispersed to gather again at the Steel Memorial Centre, the place where Sr. Cassidy stayed and dedicated her life serving the students, staff and employees of Dr.Graham’s Homes. The plaque dedicated to her by the Kalimpong Association (UK) was unveiled by Mrs Margaretta Purtill (Byers), UK Association President, and Mrs Jayshree Pradhan. She too, had very kind words to say about Sr. Cassidy. Rev. CR Taylor read the prayer.

All gathered then to make their way down to the Garden of Remembrance where a prayer was said by Rev. Pereira. Sr. Cassidy’s ashes were buried.

\* \* \* \* \*

"I just read about your trip to Kalimpong for Margaret Cassidy's burial. It must have been a most memorable occasion with so many Kalimpong OGBs, staff, and officials attending. A fine farewell for Margaret!" **Cynthia Ross**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Daphne Watts' response to Douglas Evans' letter** (Apologies for the delay in this article appearing - owing to space restrictions - Editor)

In recently reading the replies to the questions in the Spring 2006 newsletter, I can sympathise with Douglas Evans answering NO to **question 1**, but times have changed since Dr Graham founded the institution in 1900 for Anglo-Indian children, when India was still colonised by the British Empire. As an OGB, I am very grateful to Daddy Graham for his vision in what he was able to bring about, especially as we had a good grounding educationally that allowed character-formation from both a moral and spiritual aspect. This has allowed many to face the challenges of life, when leaving Kalimpong. However, would it now be an equally Christian duty to sponsor homeless or destitute children regardless of whether they were Anglo-Indian or not? Even though the ratio of sponsored children may have fallen against fee-paying children, I still feel the OGB Association should have some degree of input/comment on aspects of management of the Homes. The reason being that the Association does attempt to raise funds and support the homes, to the best of its ability.

**Question 2** - I agree with the answer for the most part, and realise it is a difficult question to address.

**Question 3** - I believe in community and individual association for the reason that each has its own unique aspects of information, in relation to where, geographically, that association takes place. A federation makes me think of Governments that take control and lose sight of what contribution communities make. I'm a believer in decentralisation, for that reason.

**Question 4** - I think that the OGB Association should be both a social organisation and one that seeks to raise funds for Dr Graham’s institution.

**Daphne Watts (nee Carpenter)**

\* \* \* \* \*

## Obituaries

### Lady Jean Holden, granddaughter of Dr Graham

Just as we were putting the finishing touches to our newsletter, we received the sad news from the Chairman of the Homes UK Committee, Tony Morey, that Lady Jean Holden, second daughter of Norma and Bunty Odling of ‘GLEN RILLY’ and grand-daughter of Daddy and Mrs Graham of Kalimpong, West Bengal, India, died in Odstock House on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2007.



These are the last pictures taken of Lady Holden. March 2007

Like her aunt, the late Betty Sherriff, she put much trust in the part us OGBs would play in the continuance of our support for our old school, Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong. Proof that such trust would materialise is evident in the last will and testament of an old Farm-House colleague of mine, the late Andrew Luck Bennett, who left more than £160,000 to the bursary under his name with the UK Committee, and Alec Murray, another old farm-House boy colleague of mine who, last year provided the funds to build the newest Boy's Cottage named after him.

To support the Homes in its work to help the downtrodden in life among the children of British descent in India is an integral part of the aims of our Association, and Jean was wholeheartedly behind it. To stress their support of our OGB's Association, both Betty and Jean became LIFE Members of our Association at the very first opportunity in 1972. Jennie was proud to claim herself as an OGB. She attended classes as a day scholar until 1935, together with her two sisters, Diana and Shirley. I can still picture the three girls from 'GLENRILLY' dismounting from their Bhutia ponies in the garden of 'YULE HOUSE'. Why this was necessary when their father drove a maby Austin was hard to understand. More entrancing still was the sight of three sisters coming to school bare-footed, like us, when their parents were so rich.



The funeral is being planned too early for most of us who would like to attend, but an opportunity will be given for JEAN's friends in the Association to oblige with supporting any cause being made known in the fuller obituary notice which is bound to follow. On behalf of all members of our Association we extend to relatives of JEAN our deepest sympathy on their loss. We will miss her.

**Eddie Lamb**

\* \* \* \* \*

I deeply regret to inform you that Lady Holden, granddaughter of Dr Graham and Honorary Vice President, UK Committee, Dr Graham's Homes, died in Odstock Hospital early today of renal failure following emergency intestinal surgery. I shall represent the UK Committee at the funeral, details of which are yet to be announced.

**Tony Morey**

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**The Kalimpong Association (UK)** were saddened to learn of the sudden passing of a very dear friend Lady Holden. Her support for the Association was immeasurable and her loss incalculable and many of us in the Association who knew her well are left deeply saddened at her untimely passing. We will remember her as being a very kind and gracious Lady who always helped out whenever she could. Her large Kalimpong family world wide will now experience a very sad loss. Our thoughts and prayers reach out to her immediate family and close friends.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Greetings from Kalimpong - We heard about Lady Holden 29th May 2007. In fact, DGH organized a Memorial Service at 8.10 am at the Katherine Memorial Chapel. Some of us OGBs, Hiran, Laban, Sidhu and self attended the service. She had last visited Kalimpong during the Centenary celebrations. We will all miss her. May her soul rest in peace."

**Miku Foning** [OGB's Association, Kalimpong]

\* \* \* \* \*

I am indeed sorry to learn of the passing away of Lady Holden. She was a bedrock for the Homes and in her passing we have lost a great supporter. On behalf of the Board of Management and the entire Homes Family please convey our heartfelt condolences to the family. A memorial service will be held in the school as a mark of respect.

**Michael Robertson**, Board of Management

\* \* \* \* \*

It was with much sadness I received the news of Lady Holden's passing. I met her when I first joined the Kalimpong staff in the 1940's, when she was Jean Odling. She was a lovely young lady. I send my deepest sympathy to her family.

**Cynthia Ross**

\* \* \* \* \*

## Message from Dr Graham's Homes

To be associated with Dr Graham's Homes and not have heard the name of Lady Holden would be unthinkable. From her childhood Jean Holden walked barefoot and mingled with the children of the Homes, founded with great vision by her grandfather on the foothills of the Himalayas. So entwined in its fabric was she that even at so early an age when she was called upon to be the flower girl at the grand wedding of the daughter of the Governor General in Calcutta she recalled slipping off her satin pumps and walking down the isle as she was far more comfortable walking in bare feet - a feature of humility that her grandfather encouraged on the campus!

It was always a delight to reminisce with Lady Holden. It was she who coached me in many ways about the deep traditions and philosophy of the Homes that was established on the hillside of Kalimpong, and the great love I was able to evolve for the Dr Graham's Homes, I owe, largely, to her. It shone through when ever we had the opportunity to talk and I was able to understand how she enveloped a great passion for the children and their wellbeing.

She took a detailed interest in every aspect of the children's welfare and made it a point to guide the Management through many vicissitudes which an organization that has survived over a hundred years. Never a person to hold back or speak her mind it was a pleasure to meet her head on when it mattered and she was neither apologetic for what she said since she believed that her contribution to the children's welfare mattered.

There is an inscription in the Chapel dedicated by her grandfather to her Grandmother, Katherine Graham which, I believe, most aptly fits Lady Holden's contribution to Dr Graham's Homes, and it says, "**IT WAS IN THINE HEART**".

Dear Lady Holden, as we say goodbye to a beautiful and full life we thank you for all you have done for Dr Graham's Homes and reaffirm our commitment to a cause that remains beating in your heart.

**Michael J Robertson, President & Chairman, Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong - May 29, 2007**

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## Patricia Harris

I attended the funeral of Pat Harris and there were quite a few OGB's, like Paddy Mackie, Josephine Francis, Nancy Haliday, Sheilla Mac, Maybel Macey and of course Bob and Nancy Harris. **Thuten Kesang. (New Zealand)**

I would like to mention the demise of one of our dear KPG Girls who is TRISH (Patricia) Isabel GREEN (nee Harris) on 20 December 2006 in Auckland, New Zealand. Both Trish, her sister Nancy and myself came out to New Zealand together in 1955 and we just celebrated 50 years in New Zealand a year ago. Trish was an exceptionally lovely, friendly person, she was so full of the Christian Spirit in her life and it showed in her lovely GLOWING FACE. She was a VERY SPECIAL FRIEND and a real joy to her family and everyone with whom she was in contact. Trish was an excellent Qualified Registered Nurse and worked in various hospitals until she switched to working at the HOSPICE where she was very highly regarded by all Staff and Nurses. She loved her job and worked right up to the end of her life. She suffered a heart attack while on a trip to India, and had to come back home escorted by her son where she went back home and unfortunately after 2 weeks back, she had another major attack. It all seemed so quick, she used to be in such wonderful health, this was a real shock to everyone. She will be GREATLY MISSED BY HER FAMILY AND FRIENDS. GOD BLESS HER. Please put this into the next KPG News. I must say I enjoy so much getting the News from UK sent out to me. I wish you and your family well, you are doing such a marvellous job as President of the UK Association. With kindest regards. **Sheila Walton**

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## Mr T Monteiro

I reluctantly announce that this morning our school's Jr. Head Master, Mr. T Monteiro, passed away. Our condolences to his family and friends. His Contribution and Dedication to the HOMES was immeasurable. It is indeed a great loss to DGH.

**(Apologies to Mr Monteiro's family and friends for the omission of a tribute in this Newsletter, every effort will be made to publish a tribute in the next Newsletter).**

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## Books for Sale

- Century of Children - £6 (Author: Simon Mainwaring)
- Dr Graham of Kalimpong - £ 5 (Author: James R Minto)
- Daddy Graham's Homes - £15 (Author: Jyoti and Friends)

(All can be obtained from Vincent and Margareta Purtil - just make a phone call)

<b>Forthcoming Events</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Venues</b>
<b>AGM</b> <b>The Kalimpong Association (UK)</b> <b>The Kalimpong Association (UK)</b> <b>Charitable Trust</b>	<b>Saturday 23rd June 2007</b>  Doors open at 2.00 p.m. Meeting commences at 3.00 p.m.	Methodist Church Hinde Street, London W1  Tube: Bond Street
<b>BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION</b>  <b>Donations of items for the Raffle would be most welcome.</b>	Saturday 22nd September 2007  Doors open at 2.00 p.m.	Methodist Church Hinde Street, London W1  Tube: Bond Street

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