



Dear Members of Global OGB Association.

Our Winter Projects in the Homes headed by Pauline Singh (Brooks) was successfully completed in early February 2020, and I am sure when the Elliott, Bene, Woodburn and Thorburn cottage girls return at the beginning of the school year, they will be delighted to see all the renovation and refurbishing of their cottage. Let's hope that they realize the hard work gone into these projects and look after the cottage with pride.

Once again, thank you to all who were there in person, and those of our OGBs family worldwide who donated funds to the **2020 -YEAR of the OGBs APPEAL** for the Global Association GO to carry the project through with your financial help.

The message, below, from our Chairman, Anirban Bhattacharya, and his report on the project has covered everything very well.

We look forward to your continued support to Phase 5 of the renovation and refurbishing Project. We will keep you informed as things become clearer.

On another happy note - I hope that many of you are planning to attend the reunion in September 2020, which is not very far away.

Let us make the 120<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the Homes special like the Centenary Celebration, where almost 500 OGBs and family were present. Let us reach that target in September 2020. See you all in September.

Best wishes and Tashi Delek

Thuten  
On behalf of GO

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#### Message from

**Anirban Bhattacharyya,**  
Chairman,  
**Global OGB Association (GO)**

Wishing everyone a very Happy and a Blessed Losar.

January 2020 - The fourth year of the GO Cottage Renovations kicked off on campus under the very able leadership of Pauline Singh nee Brooks. The task at hand was humongous given the limited time on hand. This year the GO team renovated, repaired and replenished Elliott, Bene and New Thorburn.

The project kicked off on the 6th of January 2020 and ended on the 8th of February 2020. There were approximately 37 volunteers across the 5 weeks who helped on the project hands-on. GO is indebted to all the OGBs who donated and worked on the GO Cottage Renovation Project this year.

We had some incredible generous donations come in from the Elliott and Bene girls. A number of ex-Elliott and ex-Bene girls also attended and assisted with the work. To see their reaction at the transformation of their respective Cottages, from the Start to End of each project, was an emotionally satisfying experience, for all present.

The renovations at Elliott and Bene included major overhaul of floorboards, furniture, window frames, painting both on the exterior and insides, and in the case of Bene - building a brand new brick wall to replace the old, rotten wooden planked wall.

Through biting cold and rain, through sleepless nights and working weekends, the volunteers slogged but completed the project on time.

A special mention must be made about two volunteers.

- The first is Bryony Boyd who is a friend of OG Vanda Fraser, and who had come from Scotland to help on the project for a week. She was so moved emotionally on seeing the work being done, and having gotten to know about our school, that she cancelled her two weeks vacation and continued to volunteer on the project. This was incredibly emotional! Thank you Bryony.
- The second is Mrs. Bandana Pradhan, the wife of our headmaster - who joined the team and did not hesitate to get her hands dirty or get tired. It was encouraging to see her being a part of the team. Thank you Mrs. Pradhan.

Only in the Homes will you see and experience such selfless gestures - after all the school was built on the foundations of love for the children.

Elliott, Bene and Thorburn are now shiny and new! Here's hoping that the kids appreciate the huge efforts taken, and look after the cottages, under the guidance of the School Administration and cottage Supervisors.

The detailed report of the renovation will be available on the GO website. Below are few special mentions:

- We thank Vanda's husband Alec Fraser who gave us 2 stepladders, which were of a great help to the Team.
- Lorraine Dickinson for her very generous contribution to Bene's linen cupboard, and of course all those who contributed funds and their time.
- This year was a first of sorts, as old girls of Woodburn partnered with GO to renovate Woodburn cottage. It was a project completely funded by the Woodburn girls and the project was executed by old boy Tshering Dorji (Higgins) who brought in his team of workmen and student volunteers from Bhutan. The cottage is looking as good as new. Great job done!
- The Batch of 1990, which has been sponsoring various annual projects and medical camps every year, since their reunion in 2015 - took on the onus of repairing and re-tiling the junior school play area. Kids kept out of this area, as it was muddy, and inaccessible during monsoons.

So the batch has retiled the entire area with anti-skid tiles and proper drainage to enable kids to play in that area. The project was helmed on -ground by Dr. Sharon Foning. The funds were donated entirely by the Batch of 1990.

- Another good news from the campus is that the Central Kitchen has resumed and the kids will now be served meals in the CK. The CK has been refurbished and upgraded and looks brilliant. This was made possible by funding from the UK Committee, and in part due to the generous donations by Dr. Maurice Shellim of Kolkata, and Ms. Dorothy and Ms. Winifred Hinderwell of the Old Parish Church, Troon, Scotland.

2020 is The Year of the OGBS - and we encourage that you all find it in your heart to give back to the Home that nurtured us when we were children.

And this brings us to the Bike For DGH event - a cycling trip from Thimpu, Bhutan to Kalimpong - a distance of 250 miles, across some of the most picture postcard vistas. The money raised will be used for various projects to benefit the children. You could volunteer to ride or sponsor a rider. For details please visit <https://bikefordgh.wixsite.com/bikefordgh> or get in touch with Tenzing Norsang.

We look forward to seeing you on campus in Sept 2020.

Warm Regards

**Anirban Bhattacharyya, OGB 1990 (Assam / Fraser)**

Chairman, Global OGB Association (GO)

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## The Phase Four of the Global OGBs (GO) Cottage Renovation Project

commenced on 6th Jan 2020, with Pauline Singh as the Project leader, Sushil as the Manager and Auditor, and Alfred Khan as the Accounts Head. Alfred, unfortunately, met with an accident a week into the renovations, and injured his hamstring. This meant that he had to sit out, which he wasn't too happy about.

Elliott, Bene and New Thorburn were renovated. The Woodburn Girls under GO's management renovated Woodburn. The Woodburn team was led by Higgins as contractor and Drenko Pureval as Project head.

### ELLIOTT

- Floorboards at Elliott repaired along with the skirting in the dining room. The tin sheets outside the kitchen and washroom roof scraped and cleaned.
- Dressing room and toilets painted.
- Washhouse roof and tin sheets, which are used as walls were clean, scraped and painted in Elliott.
- Floor planks replaced in the hallway and Glory Hall. Kitchen, scullery and pantry scrubbed thoroughly.
- Elliot cottage washing house roof and side cladding painted. A portion of the washroom over the coalhouse

had collapsed so was replaced along with the fiberglass sheets of the skylight.

- Cupboards in the dressing rooms were painted.
- The rusted hinges to the doors of the toilets and the bathing cubicles were replaced.
- New window made for the Elliot scullery.
- Kitchen in Elliott painted and the floor given a coating of cement with Red Oxide
- Elliott Scullery and Larder cleaned out thoroughly. As the Central Kitchen is to be re-introduced from February 2020 this area along with the kitchen will be used very little. As such the previous idea of putting Tiles has been shelved and just repairs to the flooring will be done.
- Painting of the complete Elliott roof was done along with the walls, windows and doors of the verandah.
- With assistance from the Local OGBS, the dormitory walls were painted.
- Two Step Ladders donated by Alex Campbell were procured and handed over to the project by Vanda - a big thank to the Campbells.
- Tiling done in the Elliott dressing rooms - the floors that were at one time, wood were replaced by cement floors which were chipped and extremely rough. There is footfall from the bathing room to the dressing rooms which brings with it water and dampness, hence decision to tile.
- The door leading out from the Toilets replaced.
- Stripping and varnishing of a several old pieces of wooden furniture were done,
- Elliott Staff Sitting Room floor completed. The missing wooden planks were replaced. New sofa and carpet has been given.
- The Elliott dorms, the prefect's room, were painted.
- New curtains procured for all the rooms in Elliott.
- Carpet for the Elliot Staff Sitting Room and new curtains for the dining room, dormitories and Staff Sitting Room have been put in.
- The main roof of Elliott was painted and looks fabulous.

### BENE

- Like Elliott, Bene too was painted entirely from the outside. All water streaks due to blocked guttering were removed. The guttering was looked into and repaired.
- The roof of the washroom was wire brushed and painted
- The floor of the outside toilets in Bene were evened out, repaired and then tiled to prevent water stagnation, which was happening due to the extremely uneven flooring. The lower half of the toilet stall doors were also repaired with acrylic sheets to combat water splashes.
- The old furniture was sanded, repaired, polished.
- All cupboards in the dressing rooms were repaired and painted.
- Bene – interiors completely painted including 3 upstairs toilets, hall, dorms.
- Tiling has been done in the Bene Old Pantry area.
- The rear pantry wall at Bene was rotten and we walled it up rather than replace with wooden panels – citing zero maintenance in future, has been taken.
- The Bene Kitchen was tiled completely.
- The front verandah was given a facelift with new tiles like we had previously done for MacGregor last year.

- Washbasins and taps fitted in the Bene Junior Washroom. The boiler in the senior washroom emptied of stagnant water, cleaned and an outlet tap attached.
- Two 1000 litre water tanks were installed for Bene, taking the assistance of the Workshop plumbers, thus ensuring that the girls have running water at all times.
- New window and doorframes for the Bene Junior Bathing room, kitchen and door leading out to the back cement were done.
- The Bene washroom was given a complete makeover including new granite slabs with new ceramic basins. The senior Bene girls who returned from their holidays were delighted with the makeover and that they would now have brand new pillows and bed-linen!
- Bene front verandah roof was painted.
- Lorraine Dickinson from the UAE donated Bene towards procurement of new blankets, new pillows with cases, bed-sheets and towels. 30 sets were bought. Along with floor rugs for the cottage.

### **NEW THORBURN**

- Roof painted.
- Cleaning and painting of New Thorburn was done.
- New tiling was done in certain areas.
- New water tanks were installed.
- Shower curtains installed.

All three cottages have been given cleaning kits consisting of brooms, buckets, scrubbers and mops, so that the kids can take care of the cottage cleanliness.

### **END OF THE PROJECT**

On 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2020 we finished what we set out to do on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2020.

The Kalimpong OGBs hosted a farewell dinner for the Bhutanese children brought by Higgins, who had volunteered to help us. This was the second year in a row that Higgins' students have helped us.

Dr Udai Gurung, Sonam Gompu, Lawan Pradhan, Paljor, Rajini Pradhan were present.

On behalf of GO they were presented with a set of stationary material each.

The GO Team was hosted by the School Management, at the Bursar's residence for dinner on the 31<sup>st</sup> Jan. The Team was also treated to a dinner in town courtesy Margeretta Purtill, Chair of the UK Committee.

On 7<sup>th</sup> February The Principal Neil Monteiro invited the GO Team and volunteers to visit the refurbished Central Kitchen. A vote of thanks was given by the Principal to GO, and to all the volunteers, stating that the school authorities were extremely happy with the quantum and quality of the work carried out this year. Pauline, on behalf of GO thanked the Principal, Bursar and Headmaster for their assistance and cooperation during the project.

*The refurbished Central Kitchen was made possible by funding from the UK committee*

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of February – the GO team handed over the keys to Elliott, Bene and New Thorburn before leaving the compound.

### **FUTURE – Projects Identified**

Assam Cottage and Heathland Cottage have been identified for next year, but perhaps during the year 2020 smaller projects may be taken up.

One thought to be shared for future projects - Graham House and Jubilee House (which are Heritage buildings by definition) have very leaky roofs and could do with urgent repair. These are the 'faces' of the compound and our Founder's former homes and deserve to be preserved. We need to see what can be done for these two buildings.

### **VOLUNTEERS for GO**

Indebted and grateful to the following people who volunteered their time to make this project a success

Pauline Singh / Alfred Khan / Sushil Marda / Nannette Nayyar / Vanda Fraser / Michael Whyte / Bryony Boyd / Bandana Pradhan / Jasmohan Singh / Des Myers / Shabbir Ali / Douglas Van Steensel / Yvonne Steensel / Tshering Dorji & students / Annie Hilton / Ruth Glashan / Lynette Smith-Ridler / Anthony Ridler / Dr. Sharon Foning / Jo Taylor / Bithika Subba / Dr. Bernard Trench Lyngdoh / Radiance Whyte / Margaret Mcallum Thawaney / Ashish Thawaney / Namal Rongong / C'ma Pradhan / Kalpana Chettri Belliappa / Sushma Rumtel (Goodwin) / Gayatri Lama / Rutesh Moktan / Hiranya Mani Pradhan / David Goodwin / Evan Goodwin / Colleen Oehme / Mahendra Mani Pradhan / Jigme Tshering

### **Woodburn**

The Woodburn girls raised the funds to renovate and repair their cottage. The permission for their project was requested by GO from the BOM, and which the BOM promptly gave, on the condition that the Woodburn project would be partnering with GO.

Tshering Dorji (Higgins) and team of workers, volunteer OGBs of ex-Woodburn girls and Bhutanese student volunteers worked from 9<sup>th</sup> Jan to 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020.

Complete roofing changed with pre-coloured GI sheets. Window frames shutters replaced with Sal wood and teak wood except for few good windows. The entire kitchen ceiling was changed with wooden ceilings as it was falling. We restored the washrooms with new stainless steel washbasins. The upstairs toilet pipes were re-routed, as it was looking very ugly. In the dining hall the rotten wooden panels were removed & plastered with cement mortar instead of mud plaster. Entire cottage was given facelift with weatherproof paint. Woodwork was also painted in original colours. A new safety tank for the upstairs toilet was built. Roof of the new toilet repaired; and door shutters changed and given new tower bolts latches. Also some broken ceiling were given new ceilings. A washing machine was donated. Electrical wires were changed and reinforced with heavier copper wires and MCB. The half broken gate was raised and additional Woodburn cottage was written. The footpath repaired where there were many potholes.

The beds, tables and benches repaired and polished. The dressing room has a new look with individual wardrobe and for each wardrobe a combination lock was given. Jo Taylor donated a new bench in the memory of her Woodburn cottage mate Kathleen Leslie.

### **The Batch of 1990 initiative**

The Batch of 1990 has sponsored a project annually since their reunion in 2015. As part of their 2015 reunion, they repaired the school library, donated books, installed computers and printers with Internet subscription for the kids. Subsequently they have hosted the KG Christmas party for three years, sponsored and organized a deworming medical camp for the school children. And last year, the batch tiled the front verandah of MacGregor cottage as part of the GO cottage renovation project. This year, the batch of 1990 is renovating the Junior School Play area. During the monsoons and otherwise, due to the mud and slush, the kids do not access this area for playing. The batch is now levelling the area and putting in anti-skid tiles for the entire area, to enable the kids to access it. The funds for the project have been raised by the batch of 1990 entirely. The work is almost complete, as we write this.

GO would like to thank all the OGBs who donated; and all the OGB volunteers who worked day and night, in the biting cold to complete this labour of love. A special thank you goes to Pauline Singh – for leading from the front, and so ably under tough working conditions. Also thanks to two non-OGB husbands - Jasmohan Singh and Anthony Ridler who were the pillars of strength for their spouses Pauline and Lynette, respectively.

GO would like to thank the Board of Management, especially Dr. Gillian Hart for allowing and supporting GO to conduct the projects fourth year in a row. GO would like to thank Neil Monteiro, the Principal, Pravin Pradhan, the headmaster and Ashok Gogoi, the Bursar for being pillars of support and strength while the work was going on. Without the support of the BOM and the School Admin this project would not have been possible.

*“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7*

### **January 2021: Assam and Heathland, here we GO!!**

#### **Anirban Bhattacharyya, OGB 1990 (Assam / Fraser)**

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*This was Pauline’s message on the Face Book with video Clips of the renovations carried out by the TEAM*

### **Giving Back**

The true meaning of the phrase “working your fingers to the bone” hit me in the face after 33 days of working on Phase II of the Global OGBS (GO) Restoration & Renovation @ Dr Graham’s Homes, Kalimpong – my phone refused to verify my

fingerprints, so worn down had they become with all the scrubbing and cleaning!!

Beginning on the 6th of January 2020 when members of the volunteer team started arriving from various corners of the Globe until we bowed out of the campus on the 8th February 2020, there was never a dull moment!! A punishing routine that started pre dawn for some of us, until the sun set every day – scraping/painting/scrubbing/rubbing/chatter/banter/leg pulling – all a part of a day’s work!

True to the school’s motto ‘THOROUGH’

Giving back involves a certain amount of giving up, and whether it was time or money, all those who contributed to making this project a success gave up something!!

The pictures that accompany this post will tell its own story, but what needs to be said is a very big ‘Thank You’ to each and everyone who came and helped physically as well as those that contributed financially and kept the team in their prayers throughout.

“The greatest joy you can give someone is your time; because when you give up your time you are giving a portion of your life that you will never get back”!

Lynette Ridler & her non OGB Hubby Bobby, Yvonne & Douglas Vansteensel, Ruth Glashan, Vanda Fraser (& Alec her non OGB Hubby for the step ladders) Michael Whyte, Des Myers, Sushil Marda, Udai Gurung, Namal Ronging, Shiva Kumar Rao, Nannette Nayyar, Jo Taylor, David Goodwin, Evan Goodwin, Bryoni Boyd (Non OGB friend of Vanda Fraser’s) Tshering Dorjee (Higgins & all his students), Alfred Khan (who unfortunately had to retire injured) Margeret Macallum, Colleen Oehme, Radiance (OGB & Daughter & Grand daughter of OGBs) Sharon Fonning, Hiran Mani Pradhan, Mahendra Mani Pradhan, Bernard Trench Lyngdoh, Sakshi Pradhan, Shaabir Ali, Jigme Tshering, Kalpana Chettri, Belliappa, C’ma Pradhan, Bithika Subbha, Bandana Pradhan, Gayatri Lama Rutesh Moktan, & last but by no means least, my long suffering non OGB Hubby Jasmohan Singh

We Thank You for giving up your time to help us in the “GO Phase II Project 2020”

We could not have done it without you !!!!

— at **Dr. Graham’s Homes**

## Elliott Cottage



*Hard at work on Elliott cottage*



*Nicely painted roof - Elliott Cottage*



*Almost finished painting Elliott cottage*



*Elliott's roof repaired and painted*



*Elliott Cottage dressing room*

# Woodburn Cottage



*Some of the Bhutanese students having a break*

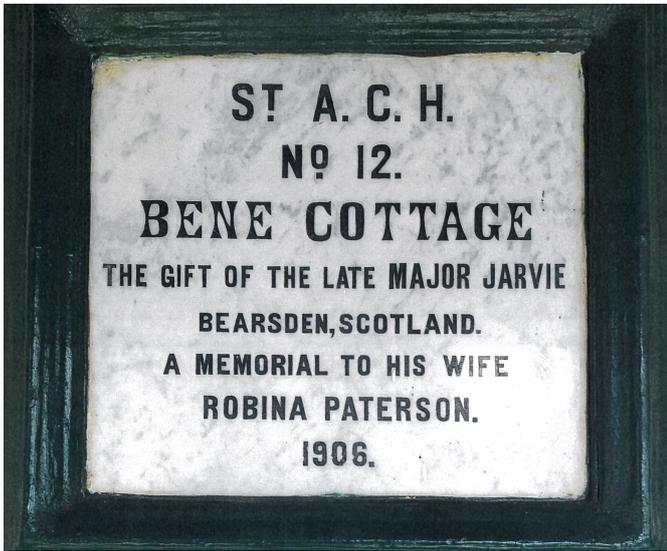


*Farewell at Woodburn Cottage*



*New grills on the windows*

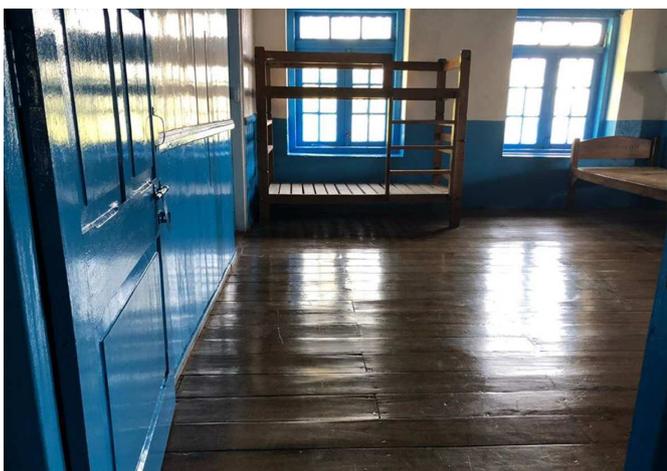




*Floor before*



*Floor before*





Before



After



*Choosing the curtain material*



*New Blankets for Bene*



*Visiting a Tibetan Buddhist centre in Doorping*

**Special Memories of the 2020 GO Projects in Dr Graham's Homes**



*Farewell dinner at the Homes*



*Douglas and Yvonne Van Steensel*



*Students at the newly refurbished Central Kitchen funded by the UK Committee*



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