



GO GLOBAL OGB ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER MAY/JUNE 2021



**This edition is dedicated to Late Thuten Kesang (1944-2021)
GO Executive Committee & Founding Member (2014-2021)
Chairman, The New Zealand Committee**

www.dghogbs.com



EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Members of the Global OGB Association and friends,

I hope you all are keeping well and safe from the Corona virus pandemic, especially those who are living in India, where this virus has taken a massive death toll. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Unfortunately, once again, we have to postpone our Birthday celebration in the Homes 2021 due to the virus; we hope that we can meet again in September 2022.

Lots has happened since our last Newsletter. Our GO Chairman, Anirban in his Note and also a report for the President of the Board of Management (BOM) of Dr Graham's Homes, Mr Shane Calvert, explains where we are now as far as our dear Homes is concerned. The GO Executive Committee is working hard to bring the Homes back to its former glory by continuing the annual cottage renovation.

A new initiative, "Adopt a Classroom" project, is being launched as part of this Newsletter. Please do whatever you can to donate. Every dollar will help.

We hope by doing these projects, we will attract more fee paying boarders in the Homes, so that more cottages can be reopened which will help the Homes financially at the end.

Thank you to all those OGBs who have contributed financially to the Homes in order for them to paint the school buildings, which are now looking very smart and let's hope that they will maintain it that way for a long time.

Please keep safe from the corona virus, especially those who are in India, if we all follow the rule, we should be able to eliminate this dreaded virus eventually.

Best wishes and Tashi Delek

Thuten Kesang

On behalf of GO May 2021



NOTE: *Thuten la was in the process of editing this Newsletter when he was diagnosed with brain aneurysm. He had already written out his Editor's Note for the Newsletter. This is his final message to the OGB community.*



GO CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

Dear OGBs Worldwide & Friends of the Homes,

I hope you and your loved ones are safe and healthy. Please continue to take precautions every day. This pandemic has claimed the lives of over 3 million people globally - this is as REAL as it can get.

GO had declared 2020 to be “**The Year of the OGBs**” and numerous events were planned to celebrate the year. Alas! We were then hoping that the activities could be pushed to 2021 and that too has been denied by the pandemic.

- **Our Annual Cottage Renovation Project** will now resume (fingers crossed) in January 2022. One of the cottages that have been finalized for the project is Heathland. Look forward to the Heathland boys helping to raise funds for their ‘home’.
- **The fundraiser cycle ride from Thimpu, Bhutan to Kalimpong** which is a project headed by GO member Tenzing Norsang was originally pushed from Sept 2020 to Sept 2021 – but keeping in mind the present situation in India, it has been postponed once again and now planned for Sept 2022. If there are any thrill seeking adventurers out there that would like to participate while at the same time fundraising for your alma mater in 2022, please contact; bikefordgh@gmail.com
- Under the BOM the school seems to be slowly healing - the pandemic has obviously hampered revenues and proper functioning of the school. The BOM is having meetings almost on a daily basis which is heartening to note. GO has been engaging with the BOM on various projects and helping in any way that we can to help the rejuvenation process. However, the pandemic is not going to stop GO and the Homes! A report from the BOM Chairman Mr. Shane Calvert has been included in this issue.
- GO is now working on a new fund-raising promotion and launching the **ADOPT A CLASSROOM PROJECT** to upgrade the furniture and the classrooms. We are inviting you, as an individual OGB to **SPONSOR A DESK** or as a joint batch effort **TO ADOPT A CLASSROOM**. We hope OGBs worldwide will help in raising this fund and give back to the school. Further details follow in this Newsletter

Good News - The first four OGB donations have already been received – with sufficient funds to fully restore One Classroom. But ... we need more... much more to continue the work.

NGO – India

Now for some good news! **GO Global OGB Association is finally a Govt. accredited and recognized Non-Profit Organisation or what is known in India as a NGO. This is a landmark step for the world's biggest Alumni Association of Dr Graham's Homes.**

Finally, the Homes lost one of its finest Old Boys – Thuten Kesang. He was one of the founding members of GO and also the Chairman of the New Zealand Committee. When I took on the role of the Chairman at GO, Thutenla was my Yoda – guiding and counselling me. He was and always will be a Thorough Homes Boy. He will be missed. This newsletter carries his final note as Editor to the OGB community. He was putting this edition together, when he fell ill.

Our deepest and sincerest condolence goes out to his wife Gwen, his daughters Tsering and Elizabeth and the family. Thutenla, we will miss you! A tribute from his classmate George Borthwick, and a celebration of Thutenla's life has been included in this newsletter.



For regular updates, you can check out our brand new website <http://www.dghogbs.com>

We are on social media - so please do follow us

Instagram: **dgh_ogbs**

youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIpLfQ0YDgEVvHmiqKdJ_A

Thank you and Happy Reading!

Anirban Bhattacharyya

Chairman, GO Global OGBs

1982-1990 Assam / Fraser



Members of the GO Management Committee

Chairman: Anirban Bhattacharyya** - Mumbai India

Treasurer: Alfred Khan** - Kolkata India

Treasurer: Sushil Marda - Kalimpong India

Secretary: Dawn Van Steensel - Sydney Australia

MEMBERS

George Borthwick - Wellington New Zealand

Pauline Singh **# - Chandigarh India

Babita Chakravarty ** - New Delhi India

Dr. Bernard Trench Lyngdoh - Shillong India

Tenzing Norsang - Minneapolis USA

Danny Khawas ** - New Delhi India

Garth Mitchell - Dubai UAE

Sankasubha Roy - Kolkata India

GO Patron Ken Hammond. Aberdeen, Scotland

**** - Nominated GO- NGO Trustee**

- GO's Rep. on the DGH Board (BOM)



GO Project 2021 ADOPT A CLASSROOM

If the Homes is going to be the “**School of Choice**” for parents and prospective students, then we will have to offer modern facilities and upgrade ourselves to compete with the schools of the Plains. The Classrooms have to be updated and upgraded.

The declining number of Student numbers over the years, due to stiff competition from the schools in the Plains and in Kalimpong needs to be addressed. Keeping this in mind, GO is encouraging you, as an individual OGB to **SPONSOR A DESK** or two.

Alternatively, as a joint batch effort, you can **ADOPT A CLASSROOM**.

- The focus will be on the Junior and Middle School classrooms (Classes 3 to 8).
- This means 12 classrooms that will need to be modernized and upgraded.
- We are proposing to replace the existing desks with contemporary multi-purpose desks and replace the old blackboards with modern whiteboards.
- As an additional resource - we also hope to provide a couple of data-projectors and, if possible, upgrade the storage facility in each Classroom.

Costs Estimated per classroom:

Desk: Rs. 4,000/- each x 40 per class:	Rs.1,60,000
Whiteboard:	Rs. 8,000/-
Cupboard:	Rs. 7,000/-
Electrical re-vamp:	Rs.25,000/-
Painting and renovation:	Rs.25,000/-

The estimated cost for each Classroom to be upgraded will be about Rs.2,25,000 (Two Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand)

We are hopeful that our fund raising will also help us to gift two Projectors and Speakers – one each for the junior school and the middle school.

- Projector Rs. 50,000/- each x 2 = Rs.100,000 (One lakh)
- Extra Speakers and Amp Rs. 15,000/- each x 2 = Rs. 30,000 (Thirty thousand)

Let us rebuild the Homes so that future generations of children can benefit from this unique institution, like we once did.

1. For donations in INDIA

Name: The Northern Grahamites Association

Bank Name: IDBI

Branch: Vasant Kunj

A/C No: 1670102000003407

IFS Code: IBKL0001670

Please mark your donations as ‘**ADOPT A CLASS + your name**’



2. For donations in AUSTRALIA

Name: Dawn Van Steensel

Bank Name: Sydney Mutual

A/C No: 100305905

IFS Code: BSB 802084

Please mark your donations as '**ADOPT A CLASS + your name**'

3. For UK, EUROPE

You can donate either by card using this link [https://dghogbs.enthuse.com/- !/](https://dghogbs.enthuse.com/-!/) or make a bank transfer via the GO Bank A/C detailed below:

A/C Name: Global OGB Association

Bank Name: Bank of Scotland

A/C No: 13770360

Sort Code: 80-22-60

BIC Code: 13770360

Please mark your donations as '**ADOPT A CLASS + your name**'

4. For donations in USA, CANADA, MEXICO

Venmo: @yarphel

Cash app: \$tyarphel

Zelle Trasfers and Apple Pay: 612-490-4254

Please mark your donations as '**ADOPT A CLASS + your name**'

You would be aware that GO declared 2020 as 'The Year of the OGB's' and we had events planned around the year to celebrate 120 years of our alma mater. But the pandemic shut us all down across the globe, however, in the interim we appeal to all OGBs to rise to the call of DGH and continue the Cottage Renovations and also accept the new challenge of the "Adopt a Classroom" project!!

Let's give back to DGH!

Anirban Bhattacharyya

Chairman, GO

1982-1990 (Assam/Fraser)



BOM PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Friends & Family of OGBs Worldwide,

To write about what the Homes stands for and the life-long impact the experiences have, will be like 'preaching to the converted'. Daddy Graham, in his own way, has impacted the lives of thousands of individuals, through the values and ethos that has lived on, beyond a 'Century of Caring'. As we reflect on what was, we must take stock of what is.

Times have changed but what remains, is what the Homes has always stood for: providing a home for many, nurturing and caring and helping to develop individuals into well-rounded personalities who contribute positively to a civilised society.

We are experiencing a very troubled, traumatic and uncertain time, with COVID- 19 crisis, becoming more and more threatening. The COVID-19 pandemic is first and foremost a health crisis. But this has, and will continue to have, a major impact on school education. While many schools have decided to remain shut, there are many that have had to close down completely.

Teaching is moving online, on an untested and unprecedented scale. Student assessments are also moving online, with a lot of trial and error and uncertainty for everyone. Many assessments have simply been cancelled.

Importantly, these interruptions will not just be a short-term issue, but can also have long-term consequences.

Despite the uncertainty, thanks to the generosity of the UK Committee, we have been able to take in 23 children, who will receive the benefit of an education at Dr. Graham's Homes, Kalimpong. To put a figure on the total number of students would not be wise at this time because the numbers are dwindling.

The admissions are low and the withdrawals are adding up. And this is happening on a daily basis. In the midst of this, our immediate concern is to sustain ourselves. As a Board, we remain committed, to dealing with the issues at hand, in order to make the Homes, a happy place for children under our care. At such times, when we face escalating challenges, experience anger and exasperation, trials and tribulations; we also, as a Board, have our moments of inspiration; inspiration from the words of Dr. Graham himself, "*Where is your faith, laddie?*"

It is this Faith, that gives the Board the courage to 'take the first step, while not seeing the entire staircase'. It is the love and support from OGBs around the globe that encourages the Board to rise to the challenge.

"Faith is seeing light with your heart when all your eyes see is darkness."

On behalf of the Board of Management, I take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a happy and healthy year ahead.

Take care and stay safe. With all good wishes,

Michael Shane Calvert
President,
Board of Management,
Dr. Graham's Homes,
Kalimpong.



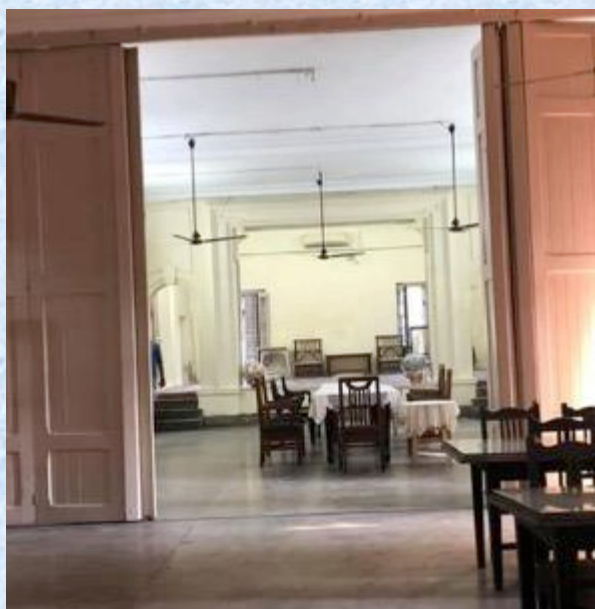
The Birkmyre Hostel Update

To alleviate any misgivings, the Hostel is not being 'handed over' and nor is it being taken over by the West Bengal Government to be used as a safehouse for Covid patients.

Renovations and Repairs have started at the Hostel. This is in preparation for student OGBs, working OGBs and other young adults to use the hostel facilities for their boarding and lodging, once it resumes functioning after the pandemic.

Under the BOM there is a Birkmyre Hostel Committee which looks after all matters related to the Hostel. There is a new Matron-in-charge of the Hostel.

Here are some recent photos of the renovations done at Birkmyre Hostel



Pictorial Tribute to: GO Committee Member - Thuten Kesang (1944-2021)



Hart Boys



Late 1950's

School prefects - 1962



Arrival in New Zealand - Jan 1967



Mr. BT Brooks visit to Auckland - 1980



With H.H. The Dalai Lama & the PM of NZ



Thuten, Gwen & George Borthwick, 2015

NOTE: George Borthwick's personal tribute to Thuten la at his funeral in Auckland, New Zealand on 28 May 2021 can be read on the GO website www.dghogbs.com - Link [Tribute to Thuten](#)

In Memory of our Teachers lost in 2021



MR. LOWEN LAMA



MR. M.B. PRADHAN



MR. THAMBUDORAI

Obituaries and tributes from the students can be read at
<https://www.dghogbs.com/obituaries>

Lastly - photographs by Sonam Lama, Kalimpong



Sonam Lama was an Old Boy (Batch of 1980) of the Homes who loved photography. Every morning he would click photos of the campus and share it on Facebook. This delighted OGBs worldwide as they felt close to their 'HOME'. We all looked forward to seeing his Photos every morning.

In your passing Sonam-dai, you and your brilliant photography will be missed.

