



Ogyen Choling Foundation

Quarterly Newsletter

April, May, and June 2023

Bumthang, Bhutan

+97517641464 | ogyencholingfoundation@gmail.com | oling.bt

Many people in Bhutan became anxious because of the delayed rains this summer. Some farming communities resorted to the ritual of choekhor or seeking blessings for rain. In Tang valley too by early June different communities carried the sacred texts of Kangjur and went in processions around the fields.



Choekhor: People lining up to take blessing from the sacred texts

Scholars and Scholarship

One of the outlined objectives of the Foundation is to host scholars for research and studies. We were happy to host three scholars.

In May Dr. Riamsara Kuyakanon Knapp, a post-doctoral researcher on the project Himalayan Connections with the University of Oslo and Dr. Francoise Pommaret Associate Professor and Advisor to the College of Language and Culture studies, Royal University of Bhutan and CNRS Paris stayed with us for several days.

Later, Shivani Kaul a PhD candidate from Amsterdam Institute for Social Sciences Research along with her two Bhutanese research colleagues used the guest house as a base to conduct their field work.



The Three Scholars

Audit

The Regional Audit Office in Bumthang once again carried out the audit for the Foundation for years 2021-2022. While we would like to kindly acknowledge their professional and timely services, we would also like to state that the audit office found no problems with the accounts.

Tourists and Pilgrims

Although the period under report is the off season for tourists, we had 382 International tourists. The numbers of Bhutanese pilgrims were also considerable.



We see an increased number of tourists from India



Receiving 65 students from Dhur Primary School in Chokhor Gewog

Prayers and rituals

The village sponsored a one-day ritual Choed in the Tara temple in early June. Twelve ritualists performed the prayers. In the second week of June, we conducted the annual ritual of Gonpo Dhoechod performed by seven lay monks. During this ritual the most important feature, is to add a new dhoe (thread cross) in the altar of the family's protective deities Yeshe Gonpo and Penden Lhamo (Maha Kala and Kali) housed in the innermost sanctums of the temple.

Constructions and Repairs

After the wall in the northwest side of the courtyard was repaired, stone slabs were laid out in the corner enclosed by the repaired wall. This area near the two chortens has become a pleasant and friendly place for those circumambulating the temple to rest.



Master Mason Ap Phola laying out the stone slabs

Media and publicity

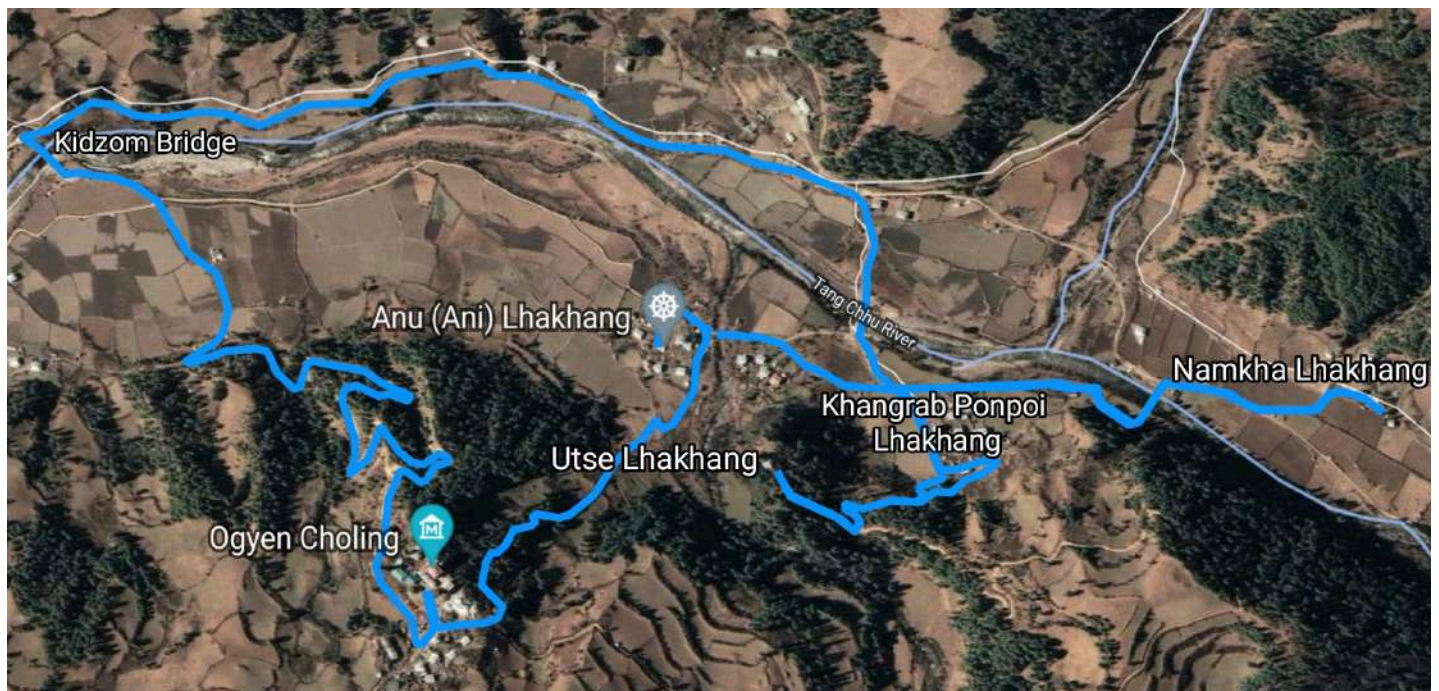
Brent Olson of Ethos Bhutan introduced Ogyen Choling to Matt Dutile, photographer -Director for Dwell Magazine. Matt Dutile's photographic feature on Ogyen Choling in the magazine can be accessed: [https://www.dwell.com/article /ogyen-choling-heritage-house- house 3a 108985](https://www.dwell.com/article/ogyen-choling-heritage-house-house-3a108985). We are grateful and happy with the excellent coverage in the Dwell magazine.

Film maker Andrew Benfield's project Yeti for a podcast on BBC radio 4 sounds also includes interviews in Ogyen Choling.

We appreciate these forms of media coverage and publicity for the Foundation as we are rather lacking in this area.

A new project: Guide book for temples and day walks

In the years we have been running the guest house we have realized that many guests, especially those who have stayed with us for more than a night, are interested to visit the sacred sites in the valley and engage in day walks. To make such a guidebook Phuntsho Tenzin has visited the temples in the valley and collected information on the temples and identified and mapped out some walking trails. This initiative should yield an easy guide for any interested visitor.



Walking routes from Ogyen Choling to the temples in upper Tang

We are looking forward to the next three months and we hope that we can continue our activities without major disruptions. In the meantime we hope you will stay in touch with us through our Facebook (@Ogyen Choling Foundation) and Instagram (@ogyencholing_foundation).

Best wishes from the Ogyen Choling Foundation.