



Ogyen Choling Foundation

Quarterly Newsletter

January, February, and March 2023

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The new members of the Early Childhood Care and Development Centre of the Foundation welcoming the new school year

As in the past the Museum and the Heritage House were partially closed during the month of January. But we will have to reconsider this practice as there were inquiries for both the museum and the Heritage House during this month.

On February 8th we observed the Longchen Kuchod or the death anniversary of the Great Master for the second time. Tang Rinpoche with 14 monks performed the prayers. All the households in the village participated together with the Foundation.

At the end of February the community of Ogyen Choling came together once again to observe three days of Zhingdrup prayers with 13 gomchens (lay monks) and 11 elders. A remarkable part of this ritual is that the elders take a complete break from their household chores, dress in their best, and sit in the temple chanting prayers and they are treated like the ritualists.



After the Zhingdrup rituals the women carry home the ritual cakes and the offerings to be shared among the community

On the 21st of February we had the double celebration of His Majesty's birthday and the Losar, (Bhutanese new year according to the Lunar calendar). Following tradition all the elders from the village were invited to the Tara Temple for the auspicious ceremonies and later treated to a special lunch.



After the Losar lunch the elders sit and chat together

The ED attended the CSO meeting organized by Bhutan Civil Society Network in Lobesa, Punakha in December. It was a good opportunity to meet and interact with the other CSOs. The assistant curator Phuntsho Tenzin had the chance to attend the Bhutan Transparency Initiative workshop on Accountability and the Media Engagement workshop organized by Bhutan Media Foundation. These were excellent opportunities for Phuntsho Tenzin to gain exposure and meet the attendees from other CSOs.



A group of international students enjoying lunch in the winter garden of the Heritage House

Within the last two months, February – March the museum had a continuous stream of International visitors, school students and pilgrims.

Our maintenance staff was busy remodeling a guest room and improving the safety of traditional stairs leading to guest rooms. This became a priority after a guest had a fall while going up the steps.



Work on the drainage of the road

The most significant developments within the period under report were:

- With the main road in the valley being blacktopped and the access road to Ogyen Choling being improved we have become much more accessible.
- We are giving more attention to social media and have started using Instagram. Follow us at: Instagram – @ogyencholing_foundation / Facebook – @Ogyen Choling Foundation
- We are happy to report that we could expand the CCTV system by adding more cameras. Most important is a camera covering the chorten at the end of the property.
- The reservations for the Heritage House appear promising which gave us the confidence to hire an additional permanent staff member.

Spring has finally arrived, and the blossoms of pink peach, white plum and pear tree bring cheerful colour and the promise of a fruitful year.

Tashi Delek from the team of the Ogyen Choling Foundation

