



CSO REGISTRATION NUMBER: CSOA/PBO-30

## *Ogyen Choling Foundation*

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# *Quarterly Newsletter*

July, August, September 2022

This is the second issue of the quarterly newsletter covering the period between July – September. We deeply regret the long delayed circulation of this issue and we beg for your indulgence and patience.

We had a quiet summer which was rather warm and wet. The garden and the flowers flourished and without visitors we could share our produce with the village but also could preserve some of our fruits and berries in anticipation of hosting meals for visitors.



*Vegetable garden*



*Preserve from our fruits and berries*

During the Board Meeting in September, the Board decided, rather than going through a lengthy recruitment process for the a replacement of the development officer, we should offer Phunthso Tenzin a temporary six month contract as assistant curator. This decision was made based on the immediate need to have an assistant curator for the anticipated visitors to the museum after the sudden announcement by TCB setting a date for the opening of the country to tourist. Phunthso Tenzin who had been employed by the Heritage House and had helped with museum occasionally and had gained some familiarity with the foundation and so seemed like the best candidate to fill in the gap.

Since the opening of the museum in 2002 the entrance fees had never raised the entrance fees at Nu.200/- for international visitors and Nu. 20/- for local visitors. We have now raised the entrance to NU. 400/- and Nu 50/- respectively from October onwards.

Although the aftereffects of the pandemic closure were an ever-present reality, we continued to carry out the necessary works based on our projected plans. We could also respond to some unexpected ad hoc jobs that needed immediate attention. In July after a heavy spate of rain, part of the wall behind the temple collapsed. Sand, cement, and gravel were sourced immediately and brought to site so that the repair could begin as soon as the rain stopped.



*The collapsed wall*

As providers of hospitality services, we were relieved and happy with the formal reopening of the country for tourists on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September. The guest house could begin operations soon after the opening date after we passed the assessments carried out by the Tourism authority of Bhutan (TCB).

The numbers of visitors using the guest house maintained a regular pace.

*As required by the TCB we had to make a new signboard for our property*



We anticipate that the next report will be much more substantial with the full resumption of activities for the Foundation and the guest house.

Although secluded in the safety of the mountains of the Himalaya we closely follow the events in our troubled world. We think of all those who are affected by the wars, the natural calamities and all the pain, anguish and suffering which people have to endure. We hope and pray that compassion, wisdom and respect for each other and the nature will prevail.

Tashi Delek from the team of the Ogyen Choling Foundation

