



# Ogyen Choling Foundation

Quarterly Newsletter

July, August and September 2023

Bumthang, Bhutan

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

This reporting period covering the quiet season and preparing for the busy autumn tourists season tends to be the calm before the storm. Even while we were generally relaxed, we were always conscious of the forthcoming peak season. So, we worked continually on the upkeep, regular maintenance and improvements to the museum and the Heritage House.

It was with high expectation that the farmers enthusiastically harvested their potato this season. They hoped that their good harvests would bring good prices. However, the uncertainties and the fluctuations in the price of the crop is causing some anxiety.



*Potato being loaded onto a truck*

## The pilgrims and visitors

We were pleasantly surprised and pleased with the relatively large numbers of the continuous flow of visitors to the museum. By far the largest numbers of visitors were students.

We recorded over 325 tourists, 686 Bhutanese visitors including non payers and 313 students visited the museum and the temple in the last three months.



*Students and tourists*

## Maintenance Work

We have now reached at stage in terms of repairs and maintenance that we have no major new projects that require extra labor. Almost all the maintenance work are being carried out by the permanent staff without budgetary implications. Some of the works completed during the reporting period were major, remodeling a bathroom, fence repairs, work on the gate and the parking retention wall.

We are fortunate to have the temple caretaker Ngawang Jampa in our team. He works continually on the painting jobs around the Foundation and in addition he takes the initiative to contribute his labor and his skills to the Foundation. He contributed paint and painted the parts of the temple roof which had been replaced after the damage from the storm some years ago. He took the responsibility to repair an old canopy which will be used in the Tara lhakhang.



*Temple caretaker Ngawang Jampa painting the temple roof*

## **Museum**

The Assistant Curator Phuntsho Tenzin took time to improve the displays in the museum. The details, he added, although subtle, have added substantially to the quality of the displays.

The project on the compilation of a concise guide booklet to the sacred sites and day walks in the vicinity of Ogyen Choling has now reached the final stages and will soon be ready.



*Improved displays in the museum*

## **The children's playground in the village.**

The playground which was established some years ago needed some maintenance and repair. It was reassuring to see the parents of the children volunteer to repair some of the structures and clean up the playground area. This work was carried out under the initiative of the ECCD facilitator. The children use the playground regularly.



*ECCD children's playground by the chortens*

Concerted efforts were made by board members and the executive director to generate and finalize the Accountability Standards as required by the CSOA. The resulting guidelines will help to guide us in our day to day management of the Foundation.

As we embark into the busy tourist season and the celebration of Kangso, our annual family prayers we are once again looking forward to conducting the prayers and bringing the community together. We will also be remembering our supporters and friends during our prayers, who make it possible for us to continue these observances and activities.

**With Best Wishes and Gratitude to All  
Ogyen Choling Foundation**