



Ogyen Choling Foundation

Quarterly Newsletter

July, August, September 2025

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The summer months moved on as did the summer agricultural activities. The potato was harvested, and the fields were replanted with maize for the cattle feed for winter. The price of potato did not disappoint the growers and so lives in the valley continued as we readied ourselves for autumn. Autumn, the mellow season of misty mornings, sunny days and hopefully abundant harvests.



One summer day in Ogyen Choling

Construction and Renovation

As usual we took advantage of the quiet time to continue the Foundation's activities of maintenance and improvements in the museum and the guest house. There was constant minor maintenance, and repair works with the electrical installations.

The *chorten* at the end of the plateau was given a major facelift. Even the statue of Buddha *Shakyamuni* in the window of the *chorten* which was in a state of disrepair due to age was carefully repaired. This *chorten* is the memorial *chorten* for the patron and builder, *Dzongpon* Ugyen Dorji of the present day Ogyen Choling complex. It is estimated to be about one hundred and twenty years old.



The newly painted chorten with the prayer flags

Reading Week

For the third consecutive year, the Khangrab Primary school came to Ogyen Choling for the Reading week. The children visited the museum and then had a session talking about their impressions of their visit. Prizes were given to the children who made presentations of their impressions. They read their favourite books. The parents from the village offered lunch for all.



Khangrab Primary school students having lunch after their museum visit and engaging in an interactive and reading session with foundation staff

Audio Visual

The audio visuals for the museum which Benjamin Horbe had completed was cross- checked thoroughly and while the work was professional some inconsistencies were found which must be rectified before the material can be used. We are now considering the best options for an appropriate system to be used by the visitors.

Research and Documentation

The work on transcribing the documents continued whenever the assistant curator had some time and so far, he has completed transcribing a substantial number of documents but much more remains to be worked on. Most of the documents seem to be regarding pasture land demarcations, conflict resolutions, registration of grain loans and inventories.

Visitors and Pilgrims

Despite the rather long and persistent rains throughout this season the roads held up relatively well, and we were happy to receive occasional visitors to the museum and pilgrims to temple during the entire time.



Visitors watching a dance performed by the women and group in the museum

Thangka Room

As soon we got the glass we immediately started the work of putting up the glass panes on the cabinets for the display of *thangka*. We planned for eleven *thangkas* to be on display at a time.

In the meantime, the assistant curator has been making wooden knobs for the lower wooden frames of the *thangkas*. When the *thangkas* were stolen from the temple in the 1970s, although some *thangkas* could be retrieved by the police and returned to us, the silver knobs were missing. Minor repairs have also been made on the border cloths on some of the *thangkas*. There are other *thangkas* that need professional restorations. We hope we will be able to find a professional who will be interested to advise and assist us in this task.



Thangka in their original condition and with the newly made wooden knobs

Rearrangement of the Exhibits

After years of observations, we have learned that displays are best arranged against the walls so that the space in each room is free for movement. Some of the displays which were originally in the centre of the rooms have been relocated to provide free space for easy movement.

Staff Day Outing

Finally, on 11th September, the long-anticipated staff outing happened. The staff of the Foundation and the Heritage House visited the Wangdue Choling Palace Museum and Cultural Centre. Staff at the museum took us on a detailed tour of the museum. It was an enjoyable learning experience for all. Lunch in a local restaurant was much appreciated by all.



Staff day excursion at the Wangdue Choling Palace Museum and Cultural Center

The Replacing of the Flagpole for the *Lhadar*

According to tradition the wooden pole for the flag at the entrance must be replaced every nine years. The present pole is twelve years old and a substantial part of the pole at the base had rotted away. We decided to change the pole this year. It is customary to use a spruce tree that measures at least twelve armspans of an average man. This year's flagpole is twenty-five metres long. After choosing a tree, libations offering was made to the deities to ask for their permission and ensure safety of the workers who fell the tree and pull it home. Fortunately, a tree was located not too far from Ogyen Choling only about two kilometres from the village. After it was felled and cleaned of its branches, eighteen men pulled the pole to the compound. The village women ceremoniously welcomed the workers and offered more libations of thanks for the safe and successful mission. The men were offered food, drinks and a token payment. We hope the pole will have dried enough for us to be able to hoist it during the kangso at the end of October.



Men in the village drag the flag pole to the entrance of the Ogyen Choling manor



Looking down the autumn valley

*Tashi Delek to all,
Best Wishes from the Ogyen Choling
Foundation*