

# Greetings to all our faithful supporters



Spiti Projects Society holding a Meeting in the Community Centre

## The Community Centre reopens after two years

The Community Centre is finally opening to local people after a time of isolation during the past two years.

Jeet Singh, who has managed the building from the beginning, has celebrated many retirement parties, and we thank him for the help he gave to us over the years. He has now retired and gone to enjoy life in his home in Mane village.

We have a super new team in the Community Centre. The manager, Vijay is working wonders in marketing the home stays and bringing the place to life. There are two boys from Bihar who are doing a very good job at cleaning and cooking and are looking after the building very well. There are some youth groups who plan to come and use the hall and we have a Conference room for meetings.



Promoting Home Stay Visits at the Community Centre

## Meeting Rev. T K Lochen Tulku Rinpoche



Rev. T K Lochen Tulka Rinpoche

We were very privileged to have a meeting with Rev. Lochen Tulku Rinpoche, the Abbot of Kye Monastery, who was visiting Nako at the time. He was very positive about the transition of the Community Centre and has offered to support us as much as he can. The Rinpoche has agreed for the Monks at Kye Monastery together with the Monks from Dankhar Monastery to perform a Puja at the Community Centre to clear all negative energy from the past few years and bring in new positive energy.





# Global Warming

What really struck me on this visit as we reached Spiti at an altitude of 3,500 - 4,000m, was how the snow had already melted!

Usually at this time of year the farmers in the valley are battling to clear the snow so they can start to sow the crops. The bare brown mountains are a sign that there would be no snow melt to water the crops as they grow

Here are some examples from previous years that compare the effect of global warming with the situation in Spiti this year. The consequences of the lack of snow water and

this year. This is a very serious problem as many families are subsistent farmers. As you may know, recently Everest base camp for climbers has had to move further down the mountain as the Khumbu Glacier is thinning. Analysts have predicted that a third of Himalayan glaciers will melt within the next few years according to the 2019 report published by the government in India and Nepal.

shorter winters will have a significant effect on the ability of the valley's farmers to produce the sort of crop yields that they need to exist.



2018 March: Mountain roads are covered in snow



2022 March: The roads are totally clear of snow



2019 February: Collecting water in February



2022 February: No snow melt to provided water for crops



2012 April: The distant mountains are topped with snow



2022 April: Practically all the snow has disappeared



## The education of children in the Spiti Valley is very important to us



Principal of Rungrik School, Kalsang Dunlop



Munsel-ling School, Rungrik

Now that schools have re-opened in the valley after the Covid pandemic, we have been advised that many children need additional help to catch up on their studies, given the amount of time lost when schools were closed. Our plan for this year is to increase the support for children whose parents do not have land and live at a subsistence level, to give the child an opportunity for a better life. They

are so motivated and enthusiastic for their future and they work hard to fulfil their dreams. At the local school, Kalsang Dunlop is a warm hearted but firm Head Master who especially supports under privileged children.

We have taken on many new children in need of help and for this we do need to increase the funding we have available for the children's education. After much careful thought, in response to the price increases that are affecting us all but especially struggling families, we have realised that we need to increase the annual Child Sponsorship donation to £300 a year, to take effect from the beginning of the 2022/23 academic year.

S.NO	NAME	Ed. QUALIFICATION	PERIOD
1	Anita Devi	MA B Ed	April 1990 - Mar 2000
2	Kalsang Tsering	BA B Ed	April 1990 - Mar 2000
3	Changgyi Dorje	BA B Ed	April 2000 - Mar 2005
4	Cherry Diki	MA B Ed	April 2000 - Aug 2005
5	Ratnakar Kanel	MA B Ed	Sept 2005 - Aug 2008
6	Rajesh Thakur	MA B Ed	1 Sep 2005 - Aug 2008
7	Sudhanshu Kishor	MA B Ed	Sept 2006 - Mar 2008
8	Kalsang Dunlop	BA B Ed	April 2019

The school's roll of honour

### Children currently being sponsored



Tanzin, Lalhug Village



Takpa, Kaza



Dolma, Hull Village



Kunzang, Key Village



Nawang, Komic Village



Nawang, Komic Village

## Supporting our education programme

In addition to students, we have also supported one doctor and two teachers during our time here.

We do appreciate that there are people who would prefer to lend support to our education programme, rather than sponsoring the education of a particular child. In response to this, we have put a new system in place. Donate £25 per month to Spiti Projects and your money will be placed in a 'central education pot' that will be used wisely by us to meet the needs of the children's learning.

By setting up this new funding structure for our Education Programme, it ensures that we can be responsive to individual situations. For example, it's not unusual for a head teacher to inform us about a student whose family are suddenly experiencing financial hardship - if we have generic funds available then we can help. **Please note: All current sponsors will remain sponsoring their individual child as usual.**



We are proud that several students we have supported for the last 10 years or so have now completed their 12th Grade and are ready to go to College or University, meaning that their financial needs will increase considerably. It currently cost £1,500 per annum to study as they must leave the valley, pay for transport, lodging, food, and books. We are looking for supporters who would like to contribute towards these young people's academic studies.

To learn more about our education programme go to our website: [www.spiti.org/project/sponsor-a-child](http://www.spiti.org/project/sponsor-a-child).

To discuss making a valued contribution to our education programme in more detail, please get in touch with the Spiti Projects Team.



## Sweaters from the Isle of Wight



Hair-washing in cold water



Children of Lalhung village in their beautiful new sweaters

While we were in Spiti, we spent a delightful weekend with Tashi at his home in Lalhung village. During that time, we gathered up all the children in the village for a hair-washing session. They were enthusiastic to come and didn't seem to mind the cold water from the village pump! Afterwards, we gave them beautiful sweaters,

toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, pens and pencils. Also, balloons, which were very popular

A big thank you to Janet McNeal and all her team, who made these wonderful garments. Vicky Drake, also donated a large amount of knitted goods.

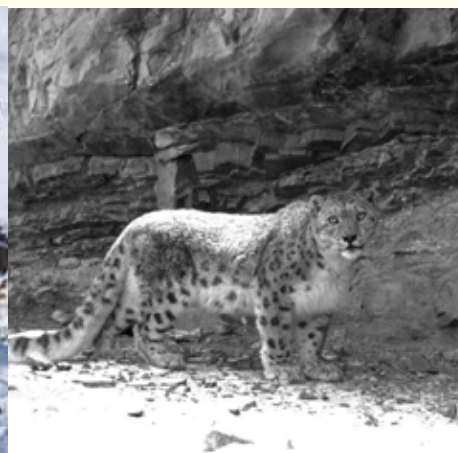
## Tourism in Spitti



Tourism has been a great gain for local people



The snow leopard is a major attraction for tourists



One of the big changes to the valley is that tourism is now an all-year-round event.

Indian tourists from the southern regions are delighted to come to the cooler climate of the beautiful Spiti valley. This has been a great boost for the local people with home stays, craft shops and restaurants. And of course, the

growing market for Snow Leopard sightings in the winter. This is escalating at a rapid rate.

As many tourists come to see the wildlife for the very first time, it is important to have guidelines on how to respect these beautiful animals e.g. by keeping their distance, keeping silent, and switching off vehicle engines.

**WORKING TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE SPITI VALLEY**

THE SPITI PROJECTS 64 Cardross Street London W6 0DR

Chair, Joan Pollock, Trustees: Victoria Drake, Teena Dhanota-Jones

Registered Charity No 1105720 [www.spiti.org](http://www.spiti.org)

contact: [joanpollock99@gmail.com](mailto:joanpollock99@gmail.com)