

Druk White Lotus School, Ladakh

Photo Diary, October 2012

This is a Photo Diary of a one-week visit by Philip Cornwell to Druk White Lotus School, Shey, in October 2012.

The Diary shows students taking their end-of-year exams and the school preparing for the beginning of the new school year on 1st November 2012.

It shows Residence 4 North almost ready for handover for occupation by residential students and two new IT-enabled classrooms virtually complete.

The Diary also shows the status of the mudslide defences that have been constructed since the August 2010 disaster. A 1km wall, 2-3m high, is now complete. The construction team aims to finish the associated earth embankment during the first part of 2013. The school is now protected against future mudslides.

News about activities within the school is available in the school magazine DrukSkat, available online (www.dwls.org) or on request.



Morning assembly in the Nursery & Infant Courtyard.



Residence 4 North entrance, 22nd October 2012.



Masons and carpenters racing to complete Residence 4 North
in time for hand-over to the school by 15th November 2012.



Residence 4: Rendering placed on trombe walls; roofing work almost complete.



Carpenters installing the window frames in front of the Residence 4 trombe walls.



Carpenters at work on the IT-enabled classrooms (in June 2012).



The two IT-enabled classrooms are virtually complete apart from equipping (20th October 2012).



Druk White Lotus School is now protected from future mudslides by a 3m defence wall.



The buttressed section of the defence wall towards the southern end of the campus boundary.



The school year ends in October - and this means end-of-year exams.



End-of year exams: students sit for 2 hours in the open air since there is no covered space sufficiently large to accommodate them all.

We're nearly there. The groundbreaking construction project of Druk White Lotus School is almost complete.

We are 95% of the way towards our fundraising target and need just US\$182,000 / EUR147,000 / £118,000 to finish the task in 2014.

This money will pay for a final classroom, a staff room, a major extension to the dining hall and kitchen, paving and shading the central courtyard, support staff accommodation, security facilities and more latrines.

We are working closely with colleagues from the University of Greenwich, London, to transform the desert landscape around the buildings into a green and productive garden, and a stimulating learning environment.

We are proud of what has been achieved and grateful for the generous help from our supporters.

Thank you

Drukpa Trust, charity registration no. 1014948
Park Hill House, 1 Park Hill, Bromley, Kent BR1 2JH, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)20 8468 1339 email: info@dwls.org www.dwls.org