



Summer 2017

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The Othona Community is an open Christian Community, whose purpose is to provide, mainly through its two centres in Essex and Dorset, a welcoming, accepting place with a pattern of work, worship, study and play where people of different beliefs, cultures, classes, abilities and ages can discover how to live together, learn from each other, explore together the relationship between faith and life with a view to more positive action in the world, and encourage one another in caring for the world and its people.

**Deadline for Winter Full Circle
December 1st 2017**

Registered Charity No. 277843

Editorial

Paul and Ruth Gilman

Dear Friends,

We are writing this editorial in the wake of the truly dreadful bombing at Manchester, a city very close to Paul's heart, especially as he was born close by. Of course, our hearts go out to those who have lost loved ones, and to those who were injured. At the same time, such devastating events can leave us all feeling shaken and anxious about where the world is going. We may wonder what we and our relatively small community can do to influence things for the better. All too often, conflicts arise between communities that are divided from one another, fed by resentments festering from a sense of historical injustices. Moving forward can seem impossible, but a first step is surely for people to meet and try to at least understand their differences. In this issue, Tony Jaques' song, 'Othona Home', reminds us that in its beginnings, Othona brought former enemies together at Bradwell. Judy Fox's article 'Beyond words - building peace' shows that Othona is still active in building bridges across community and religious divides.

Where we live in Braintree, our local inter-faith forum has been working to bring different faith groups together. A recent event involved us meeting a group of Muslim women over a shared lunch. These women explained how they felt that they were resented, feared even, by other people in the community. Sharing food, and discussing beliefs, helped to break down barriers, and we are sure this will taken further in future events. Othona West Dorset are holding a weekend entitled 'New Horizons in Islam' during July.

Finally, we must apologise to a number of people who had sent in contributions using the generic Full Circle editor email address. We had been unaware that these were no longer being forwarded automatically to us but were being directed to an online mailbox so this explains why it has taken so long for them to appear.

With our love,
Paul and Ruth

Membership and Mailings

Ali Tebbs

Firstly an apology to some of our couples. When creating mailing labels we asked the system to merge those living at the same address. Instead, unbeknown to us, it OMITTED everyone with the same address! By the time we realised there had been a problem the mailing was sent and we had no way of knowing what had gone wrong. The subsequent mailing for the Othona West Dorset (OWD) programme created the same faulty list, but because I eat, sleep and breathe the database contents (!) I realised something was wrong and managed to find out what had happened. Hopefully we now know what to do to get the lists right in future, and the OWD programme should have gone to paid up members requesting information by post. However — if you feel cheated or missed out at any point PLEASE do contact me (ali.tebbs@gmail.com, 01308423765), one of the centres, or Ruth Gilman if it is Full Circle that fails to materialise, as this is the last thing we want to happen. Both centres will send programmes on request to anyone who wants a hard copy to share and folk at Bradwell get Full Circle printed and keep the extra copies for distribution. The next edition will be out in December.

In order to get copies by post regularly you need to be paying a subscription of £12 a year — due on October 1st and have asked for it to be posted to you. Most people pay by standing order now and a big thank you to those who do. However some still don't, and some have still not amended their standing order date and amount to comply with the changes. I have been generous in keeping people on the list, but after two years with no payment your membership will expire. The central account for a £12 standing order is Sort Code 20-39-07 A/C no 60036765 or you can pay at either of the centres if you prefer.

TREASURERS'S REPORT TO AGM September 2016

Roger Neville

I laid before the meeting the audited accounts of the main Charity for the year ended 31st March 2016. These accounts did not include the activities of the two centres which are operated through a limited company owned by the main charity.

The accounts disclosed an operating surplus of £95,942 (2015 £37,339) for the Unrestricted Fund (the main operating account of the Charity). During the past two years we have been negotiating with Her Majesties Revenue & Customs ("HMRC") that VAT should not be charged on the main income sources of the two centres. This claim has been accepted by HMRC entitling the charity which used to operate the two centres to claim back £51,726 of VAT for the past few years. The two centres can now keep all the revenue, part of which used to be handed to HMRC.

The investment & other income of the charity amounted to £79,217 (2015 £65,727) of which £16,045 came from bequests (2015 £13,763) All members are asked to please remember the Othona Community in your wills so the pleasure you enjoyed at Othona in your life time can continued to be enjoyed by others in the future.

In terms of expenditure, this amounted to £35,001 (2015 £28,387). Of this, the continued investment in Web Page development amounted to £10,499 (2015 £2,717). It is expected these costs will continue into the 2016–17 year. There was also the cost in changing the VAT status of the Charity and recovering the VAT mentioned above £5,299 (£3,840). Following the death of Martin Morris the Charity appointed Always LLP to look after the charity's day to day financial affairs.

The Balance Sheet of the Charity remains strong with an investment portfolio valued at £1,361,000 (2015 £1,369,000). The Freehold Properties at cost were £2,218,000, the same as 2015.

The two centres operated through the limited company had a good year. Bradwell Income from all sources amounted to £160,000 (2015 £139,000) whilst expenses amounted to £158,500 (2015 £136,000) leaving a surplus of £1,500 (2015 £3,000)

Othona West Dorset had Income from all sources amounting to £131,000 (2015 £133,000) whilst expenses amounted to £120,900 (2015 £137,000) leaving a surplus of £10,100 (2015 deficit £4,000) A copy of the full accounts of both the Charity and the joint operating company are available from me.

Othona Bradwell's Strategic Plan, 2017–2020.

Tim Fox, Ruth Bull and the BCC

It was back in October 2016 that the members of the Bradwell Centre Committee (BCC) eventually found time to meet together for a full weekend to share views, listen to one another, and set out our plans, guided by Andy Redfearn, Together we began to draw together our strategy for the next three years at Bradwell, to set the scene and prepare for business planning and action, to be reviewed annually. We realised we need to make changes and there is a lot to do. A strategy opens up the opportunity to prioritise what is important, put ideas in order, and identify what we will all do to achieve this. There will be working groups for each topic and volunteers are welcome to put their names forward to Tim or Roo.

So — what did we put in our Strategy? And how is it changing and evolving through consultation with Othona people? This is a brief summary of what we set out – but if you wish to read more, or see the short video, please contact Othona Bradwell.

Mission Statement — we uphold the Mission Statement set out at a meeting of all the Othona trustees in March 2012 and printed in the Programmes of both Othona Centres.

Core Values: Othona builds on our tradition, looks to the future, and upholds shared values. We included the fruits of discussion between BCC members, but the discussion and the ideas keep flowing. A few

examples are: Personal space and togetherness; friendship and sense of family; rest and healing, peace and laughter; exploration of faith – and faiths; a Christian-centred community where all are welcomed, valued and respected; a place to be challenged, to challenge and be stretched; and being awake to the world.

There are five, maybe six key themes:

1. Reconciliation — WE WILL AIM TO provide a safe environment for reconciliation and dialogue between different people and cultures — by annually hosting and participation in at least three multi-faith events, with the aim to reduce conflict and promote peace.

2. Christian spirituality — WE WILL AIM TO continue to keep Christian based spirituality at the heart of community life — by worship and spiritual reflection, developing/enhancing the role of Chaplain, providing adequate resources and participation in the Bradwell (Pilgrimage) Festival.

3. Education — WE WILL AIM TO be a Centre of education, in its broadest sense — by offering curriculum-based outdoor education, involving both primary schools and secondary schools within our catchment area of East Essex and East London, and catering for people with physical, sensory and learning difficulties and mental health needs, and their carers.

4. A local resource — WE WILL AIM TO connect with local Christian Centres and share community life — by engaging with local children, multi-faith and multi-cultural groups through mixed-ability activities. We will link with Diocesan and local development plans.

5. Communication — WE WILL AIM TO effectively communicate both within and outside the Community — by encouraging comments and suggestions, explaining what we are doing and why, and making our values and mission visible.

6. Sustainability — this may be considered as a separate theme, but we find that it runs through all our other themes, where in everything, be it people, resources, finances, ecology and environment we seek to use and develop our strategy in a way that sustains and upholds the good gifts of our world.

And lastly — Resources — WE WILL AIM TO provide/use efficient and sustainable resources to deliver our 2017–2020 strategic plan. We will do this by surveying and auditing all our buildings for energy efficiency and fitness for purpose, inclusive of people with disabilities and our ageing population (yes, even Othonians grow older!)

We held three consultation meetings, where the video was shown and expression of views encouraged. We also put out information on the Bradwell website and used electronic and face-to-face conversations, and now “Full Circle” to reach and include as many people as possible. First was a London meeting at the Oxo Building, (with thanks to Kate Portal for the venue, and to Phil Martin for taking the Chair.) Everyone felt the values were right, and captured the ethos of character of Othona at Bradwell, and should also include environmental concerns. There was emphasis on the need to sustain a diversity of people, and to make sure the buildings were fit for people of all ages and abilities/ disabilities. We heard from members with roots in the earliest days of Othona to one of the newest to share time with us, sharing the importance of being there and experiencing the atmosphere. Christian spirituality, and spirituality from other inspirations were considered. The sense of Othona as “bottom up” not “top down” is appreciated, with Othona as a place where you can speak your mind and not feel threatened, whatever your background or faith. Tim reminded us that 25% of time is for the open programme, with 75% of time taken by what used to be known as “outside groups,” with a strategic intention to blur the edges and include more people within the family of Othona. All the key themes may be considered as inter-linking.

The trustees then viewed the video and had some discussion about the Bradwell strategy, broadly welcoming the key themes and way forward, and would be happy to consider approval of the strategy in May, once it had been through the full consultation process. At the meeting at Bradwell, Essex, people welcomed the principles and themes of the strategy. Commitment to Othona, with a sense of Community as “common unity” or togetherness coming across strongly. There was emphasis on the spiritual side of Othona, how we love the place and make a personal commitment to look after each other. Reconciliation was seen by many as the key theme, at the heart of Othona’s purpose from the outset. People in small groups really aired and shared ideas in conversations that were to continue long after the end of the meeting. Inclusivity of approach to spirituality, and outreach to let people know how to become involved and so sustain diversity, were seen as very important alongside thoughts on how democratic Othona is now, and whether we should be more democratic, through more open meetings and discussions.

Sustainability — of everything — was emphasised, and should be included throughout the strategic processes of resources, environment, ecology, finances and how we build.

The Othona Trustees, at their meeting in May, gave their full support to this strategy.

Do get involved – through your commitment Othona will be sustained for the next 70 years.

Tweets from Othona West Dorset

Tony Jaques

Swallow 1: So, here we are again. Nice to be back from Africa to somewhere familiar.

Swallow 2: True, but let's build a bit further along the stoep this time.

Sw1: Yeah — try to get a pile of droppings on the warden's car!

Sw2: Anyway, good to be back. The old place looks much the same.

Sw1: Appearances can be deceptive, my dear. I hear they're planning a new multi-purpose Studio.

Sw2: Where that old art room is?

Sw1: Yup. They've just put in for planning permission. I heard it on the grapevine.

Sw2: What, the one just outside the planners' office?

Sw1: That's right, nice little perch that vine is.

Sw2: I see they've got a new cook here too. Is she generous with her breadcrumbs?

Sw1: Trained pastry cook, I've heard, so maybe cake crumbs too, eh?

Sw2: Bring it on!

Swallow 3: You know, some strange instinct seems to guide me back here.

Swallow 4: Funny, that's what lots of the humans say.

Sw3: Beats me how you understand them; it's just so much unintelligible gabble.

Sw4: Funny again, they often say that about each other too! As for your guiding instinct, maybe this is our 'spiritual home'.

Sw3: Well, we were born just down the hill, weren't we?

Sw4: Hatched, you mean. True — and mum and dad are building again down there, as we tweet.

Sw3: I like the idea of nesting in this warden's carport though. Even if he never puts the car in it.

Sw4: No such luck — if it's 'precision droppings practice' you have in mind.

Sw3: He's not always here, you know. Went off for 3 months 'sabbatical' in the winter.

Sw4: What — flew to Africa?

Sw3: Something like that, I imagine. Oh blimey — is that him now, in the shorts and the goofy straw hat?

Sw4: Sure is, but remember what they say: One Human Doesn't Make A Summer!

Othona Home

Copyright Tony Jaques

Othona took its name from a Roman fort on the Essex coast, but we never knew what the word meant originally. Recently we've come across evidence suggesting the word 'Othona' may have been brought to Britain by soldiers from what is now Hungary, for whom Othona would have had an important meaning. This song was written for the Community's 70th Anniversary.

Othona owes its quirky name
To a lonely spot where strangers came
Foot-soldiers for the iron fist of all-conquering Rome
It seems they were Hungarian
"Otthona" in their native tongue
Was just a way of saying "this is home"

Othona — with the Romans gone
A bunch of monks from Lindisfarne
Dropping anchor, scavenged Roman bricks and stone
Foot-soldiers for the Prince of Peace
They built a chapel, facing east
And once again that lonely shore meant "home"

Othona — nineteen forty six
A camp where former enemies

Could work and study, worship God and peacefully play
Together in community
As foot-soldiers of unity
“At home” with one another come what may

Community is not the easy option
Belonging and acceptance don't come cheap
To lower our defences and suspicion
We need the eye of love — to look deep

Community comes down to daily actions
Like washing up or learning to forgive
Each tiny choice of candour and compassion
That's Jesus' recommended way to live

Othona — as I sing to you
Is on the coast of Dorset too
Both places where the farmland greets the never-resting foam
We dance to slightly different drums
But still when any stranger comes
For them, like us, Othona can mean “home”
For them, like us, Othona can mean “home”

BEYOND WORDS – Building Peace.

Judy Fox

A group of women from Palestine/Israel are promoting peace building between Jews, Muslims and Christians. They were looking for a neutral territory to meet together to listen and learn about each other's problems. Bradwell and the Community were chosen because we are far enough away from it all but not too far to make it inaccessible. The fact that we welcome people of all faiths and none, all races and all ages was also what they needed.

There were 18 in the group. Three others were unable to come as they live on West Bank of Palestinian and could not get permission from the Israeli Government to leave. They were not all women, four men came too. Two people came from America to help run the sessions plus one

young man from UK and another from the Netherlands. Each time someone spoke it had to be translated in to English, Arabic and Hebrew. There were about 5/6 from the community.

My first introduction to the group was as they walked across from the car park looking around, taking photos, remarking on the grape vine which was like home! and a lot of friendly chatter.

In the morning after breakfast they had a session which some of us attended too, where we listened, danced, massage head and shoulders, looked into eyes, all things difficult for some cultures. Paul found himself giving a neck massage to a young Muslim lady wearing a hijab, then she did the same to him. There was much laughter and a willingness to break the barriers. After coffee, they had one to one sessions with each other and these brought tears and afterwards it was sometime before people were ready to come to lunch. A short break after lunch and more intense talk and workshops. It was lovely to see Jew comforting Muslim and Muslims comforting Jews, walking with their arms around each other.

In between times they helped with the chores, some of the young Muslim women took over the kitchen to cook their own food and cleaned up expertly after themselves and we were all tasting what they had made. This was all done to the accompaniment of music and dancing and a lot of laughter.

It was decided to have a barbecue and the men in the group took it upon themselves to do it. Beef sausages and to be sourced and bought! They also cooked lamb and lovely salads were made and they excelled themselves. Also in the evening we were asked if we did not drink wine, none had been produced as we did not want to offend anyone, but, the Muslim folk said as long as there was some Schloer for them or juice, they were quite happy for others to drink wine.

The weather was hot and some of us wanted to swim, some of the group wanted to swim too, this posed a problem for some of the ladies but we managed by having women on first beach and men went along to the second beach and everyone was happy.

On Friday afternoon, it was sunny, and they had not had time to visit places, so we took them to the Sailing Club at the Waterside. We sat outside looking at the view, with drinks and crisps, and taking many photos. But the highlight for us, and I think in some way for them too, was Dedication on Thursday evening. We had offered them the Chapel to use if they wanted to but they hadn't taken up the offer. We went across each morning and evening and on Thursday we explained to them about Dedication service and told them that we would be holding them in prayer as their names were read out. They decided that they needed to come and be there. That service will remain with me forever. Their we all were in candlelight, Tim spoke and told them about the Chapel, and how every stone was different, like us, and the mortar was the same, like the love of God for us all, and there are four walls that keep it standing, like our faiths. This went down very well. Everything of course had to be translated into Arabic and Hebrew, then the names were read. They wanted to sing a Hymn we all knew, so we sung "Amazing Grace" The Jewish people spontaneously sang a song, then the Muslims also. We then stood held hands and sang "The Long Time Sun" to finish, it was very moving and many people were dabbing their eyes. Tim said it was a glimpse of heaven and I agree.

So, what did we learn, well that people are people wherever they come from and love not hate is the answer. I made so many good friends and I feel as if part of me now resides in Israel and Palestine. The way forward is not easy but while brave and good people, ordinary, extraordinary people, stand up for justice, love can and will prevail. We must never lose Hope, hope is the mainstay of our life.

I now have several of the group as friends on Facebook and feel myself very privileged and blessed.

Why Othona Has Survived So Long

Alison and Keith Rutledge

In the last issue of Full Circle you asked for comments about why Othona has survived when other 'experiments' in community living in Essex have not lasted so long. We think there are several reasons:

1 Othona stands for real inclusion. Inclusion is an over-used word today, but at Othona it means something. All are welcome, providing they are willing to participate in whatever way they can. Those who have disabilities, problems or other issues are not marginalised, as they often are in society at large.

2 Othona recognises that God does not change, but that religious beliefs and practices do. So it is open-minded and does not insist that Christianity is 'the best or the only way'. It is 'rooted in the Christian heritage' but also 'open to the widening future'. And if you hold this view, at Othona you can talk about it freely, without feeling you may offend someone!

3 Othona allows people to dip in and out of community living for varying times. For most members and friends this is a day to a week, at a time. Others may choose to stay longer, but do not have to do so. So it does not require one to 'opt out' of normal everyday living in order to be part of it.

For all these reasons, Othona is a place that we value a great deal, that we want to see continue, and that we are looking forward enormously to sharing with our grandchildren.

Jonney Aldridge

In answer to your question as to why we think that Othona is in rude health still after 70 years.

I think it is because it is still relevant, still meaningful and still addressing issues in society. You would have thought that what we call civilisation has been around so long that it would have started to solve some of its problems. However, many seem to be getting worse not better. Ever since we moved from hunter gatherer there has been

inequalities in society. I really believe that very many of society's problems are rooted in inequalities, inequalities within countries, inequalities between countries, inequalities between east and west, inequalities between north and south and inequalities between different sects. Politicians tell us that security goes hand in hand with prosperity..... How misguided. Security goes hand in hand with equality but politicians don't not want to believe that. (Belonging and othering)

Jesus, my role model (our role model?) seemed to treat everyone as equal.

For the future and how to stay relevant, two major problems face society they are: sustainable method of producing energy and producing enough food. Othona goes some way to addressing both of these issues. Both of our centres produce electricity from ambient energy (the term 'renewable energy' is meaningless) (Bradwell's electricity is 75% from ambient energy!) and both produce some of our own food. For both, energy and food new approaches are needed.. Although we are urged to reduce our energy consumption what we ought to be doing is reducing our fuel consumption. Electricity is key to this because it is easy to produce from ambient energy (wind, sun, tide etc.) without the use of fuel and close to where it is needed. This is quite a different approach to the current one where most energy is produced is produced from fuel in large centralised centres and then distributed long distances. Producing electricity in large centres is good for business and politicians but it does not help people or the planet (see Walt Patterson). The distinction is very pertinent, it is in acquiring fuel that destroys the environment not using electricity. But Othona is more than just producing electricity and that is the very point, in spite of it not being a primary objective we can still produce 75% from ambient sources.

I am also a firm believer that food is crucial to our future and although I don't want to knock any way that food is produced, I think that new approaches may hold the key to producing sufficient for the worlds needs. Here, there is insufficient space to to elaborate too much but sufficient to say that perennial vegetables require less effort (and thus less fossil fuel) to produce as much food. However, it does not suit the business model that we currently have for food production.

Many young people today are disillusioned by the old traditional way of doing things and many are looking for new ways in both what they believe and in how energy is produced and food grown. Of these, some of them come to Othona because of its environmental stance and how this fits with belief. I feel it is important for the future of our Community to keep pushing forward our care for the environment alongside our care for people.

I cannot think of anything more relevant to today's issues, and just how God works through creation, so the relevance of God for today and tomorrow.

Jan Marshall

One of the purely practical reasons Othona has lasted is that, until 1965 in the case of OWD and 1994 for Bradwell, the Community was not open 24/7 except for one or two short periods in the 70's. Bradwell was open for 10 weeks in the summer and people came and went. This is very different from other communities where people lived together full time with all the stresses and strains which that can engender and of which we are well aware.

More importantly the founder Norman Motley always stressed that Othona was not an end in itself but a means to an end, so that its real work was to send people back into their own communities refreshed, renewed and with new insights to enable them to work for a more caring and compassionate world. This was and is still achieved by the main feature of the Community being one of welcome, warmth, acceptance and a willingness to listen.

There has also always been a clarity about our tradition of rootedness in Christianity, open but anchored. This is unlike some other shorter lived communities where being open and accepting led to an anarchical "anything goes" atmosphere which was and is detrimental to the whole body.

Having full time members living at the centres, (we call them core members) has brought strength and enables both centres to be open full time, but it has inevitably brought different stresses and strains.

However on the whole, the ethos of working for the wider Community and the pattern of core members not being expected to stay for more than a few months or years and then returning to life outside Othona when they feel ready to move on, has helped to mitigate some of the tensions which can build up and destroy communities whose intentions are to live together for very long periods.

Landscape Laird

David Birdseye

I've not seen the vicinity
for two years now, or is it three?
But I have seen photography
I gazed and thought "Egad!"
The transformation of the place
Improvements? Well, I rest my case.
The peace garden that fills the space
That once was just a tad
too overgrown and somewhat coarse
with brambles, nettles, thistles, gorse ...
Transfigured, tamed, with no remorse
by this Northern Irish lad.
With help from others, I've no doubt.
But let's be fair, because, throughout -
This character - he just stands out
Well, what more can I add?
Congratulations, Peter Baird
It's time your praises were now aired
and may your skills stay unimpaired.
Pete Baird, the laird Of Brad.

Editor's note: This tribute to Peter's work is well-deserved. I love it. Pete tells me that the Peace Garden at Bradwell was the brainchild of David Buck, core members were involved in its design, and many people helped with the build. Thanks to all of them. The Peace Garden is a wonderful place to relax, walk the labyrinth, meditate and hold a "chapel" service.

Working At Othona (or keep on trucking)

Hugh King

If you join Othona, becoming part of the team,
you may sometimes feel that you're in a dream.
You know the kind of dream, outside your control,
you're not exactly in charge of how events roll.
It might be someone else's dream, you can't be sure
why you're here, what happens next, what's it for?
But the fact that you're here, that you chose to show up
is a certain indicator of your chance to grow up.
When you were little, growing up meant getting older,
finding your feet, having more scope, becoming bolder.
But life is a paradox, and the direction it isn't always up.
Sometimes you'll find surrender and inner turmoil
swirling about in your cup.
Ah, yes. The cup is half empty, or maybe it's full.
You get to determine your outlook, exercise some pull.
So you do what you can, learn to love and to laugh
at yourself, realise we're all a bit crazy, not half.
You're on a campus of individuals, and visitors too.
You might be cooking, or praying, or cleaning a loo.
Unexamined assumptions don't fare very well,
expectations gripped too tightly can make your life hell.
Quite what you will make of it and what others will make of you
can be a roller coaster ride of feelings, so thank God for some glue.
The glue of community, the intention you deeply share
to nurture and liberate, so people know you care.
Care for justice, for inner wealth, emotional healing,
freedom to celebrate, may your praise pierce the ceiling.
An attitude of gratitude will serve you right well.
And just think, in years to come, of the stories you can tell.
So settle into your harness, be adaptable, take the light yoke,
and be willing to enjoy your part, in the play of life's joke.

Leaving Othona

Hugh King

So you'll be leaving Othona, how scary is that,
to walk off the campus with your valedictory hat?
The thing is you came, you stayed, did loads of stuff
served the visitors, the core, though 'twas never enough.
Time runs its own course; was there time to stand still
amongst all the churning, the grinding of the mill?
You thought you wanted community, yet got one another,
which is as good as it gets, my sister, my brother.
You saw foibles and blind spots, though not likely on me,
if only they were more honest, I might then have felt free
of irritations and frictions, oh why can't they see
to do it my way, become a lot more like me.
But wait just a minute, I'm self forgetting,
possibly aloof, continually fretting
that I'm not receiving what I should be getting.
Ah, I see, I forgot, it's not about me.
What have I actually given, loving, and free?
Well I've given my best, as far as I could
and now that I'm leaving I see that I could
have been more grateful, more loving and kind,
where else in the world could I possibly find
the magical cauldron of Othona? Just be as you are
but relinquish your 'baggage', reveal your inner star.
So I salute my fellow travellers, really I love you to bits,
remember me with kindness and forgive all my fits.
Finally multiple thanks to our warden, the stalwart T.J.,
and Robin, his consort; they loved me all the way.

Badgers On The Stoep at Bradwell!

Photos by Dave Hodgson-Brown

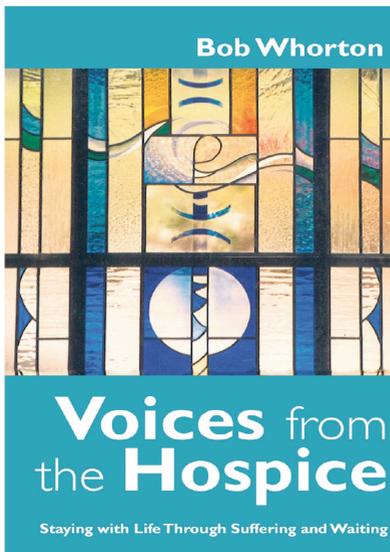


Here are three new books by the current and a former Chair of Othona trustees, and a former Bradwell warden.

‘Voices from the Hospice’

by Bob Whorton, chaplain at **Sobell House Hospice, Oxford**,
RRP £16.99: Special offer price £13.60 with code VFH15.

Order Direct: <https://scmpress.hymnsam.co.uk/books/9780334054269/voices-from-the-hospice>. Tel: 01603 785 925,
email: orders@norwichbooksandmusic.co.uk



In this profound and compassionate book Bob Whorton goes to the heart of the challenging situations in our lives which we may long to avoid, but which sometimes simply have to be lived. Drawing deeply from his own experience, the wisdom of the Psalms and, above all, the voices of hospice patients and their families, he explores how we may face times of suffering, waiting and dying and through them find a path to new life.'

Judy Davies, Hospice chaplain

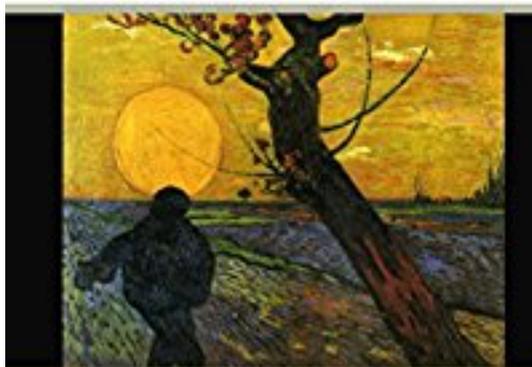
“Action! A Cleric off the Leash”

Having nothing better to do I have written my memoirs. If this is of interest to you they are available on Amazon.

Feedback and reviews welcome, with best wishes, Colin

Colin Hodgetts, Quincecote, Cheristow, Hartland EX39 6DA

ACTION! A CLERIC OFF THE LEASH



AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY

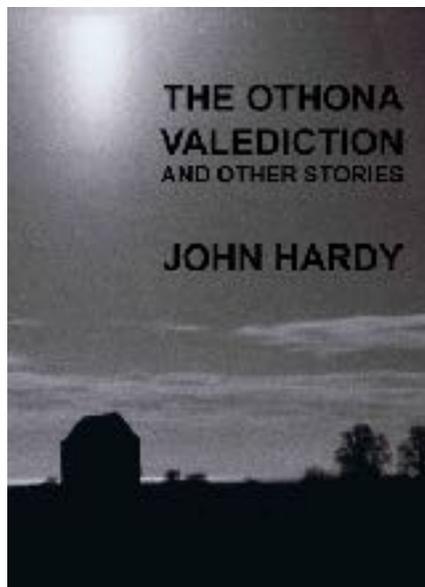
COLIN HODGETTS

The Othona Valediction

John Hardy and Wendy Fosse

'The Othona Valediction' is a short story by John Hardy set around the small Saxon chapel of St Peter's on the Wall at Bradwell-on-Sea in Essex, and also the Othona Community. It is available free on John's website at <http://www.johnhardybooks.com/tov/> and also features in 'East Side Stories', which is a collection of 19 short stories of crime, mystery and suspense, set on the east side of England, from Hadrian's Wall to the Thames. Locations include the Pennines, the North York Moors, Lincolnshire, Norfolk and the Dengie Hundreds in Essex. Both Tim Fox and Martin Riemer feature in the story (with their permission). I have also attached the photo of the cover of this story (based on one of Kevin Bruce's photos)

This book is available as an EBook and paperback on all Amazon platforms. For more information on all John's books, and other free stories, please visit his website.



Africa Week at Othona Bradwell

Photos — Martin Riemer, Titles — Ruth Gilman

This was led by Ian Tarrant and Sally Barton, who lived in the Democratic Republic (DR) of Congo (formerly Zaire) for ten years working with Anglican churches in the corner near Uganda and Sudan. They organised lots of fun activities such as making peanut butter and chickpea flour, learning to play African instruments, and lessons in Swahili. There were also fascinating discussions about Ian and Sally's life and work in the DR Congo, and the church, women's work, education and health services in central Africa today.



Sally carrying her granddaughter African style



Ian talking to Mana (a nurse from Ghana) about her work.



Making peanut butter

Obituaries

Rosina Godfrey (1929–2015)

I am sad to report that my lovely mum, Rosina, has died peacefully in her sleep at the age of 85. Many of you will remember her as Othona's membership secretary, taking over from Audrey Day, and holding the fort until Christine Cox took over. Others will remember her for the 'What we may be' sessions that she ran several times at Burton Bradstock. Although I never felt able to take part in these sessions myself (too exposing!) I know that others found them stimulating and helpful, and were sometimes seen in retrospect as a significant event in people's lives. Othona regulars will often tell me how Rosina offered a unique style of individual support; one which prompted gentle self-examination through practical activities and counselling. I know that many people in the community - some complete strangers to me - will share my sadness, but for me, I can say how proud I am to have had a mother and friend such as her, and will miss her every day.

Heather Godfrey

Rev David Jenkins

I have only just heard of the death last August (2015) of David Jenkins. David was an engineer. He rose to a senior position, travelling the world for his employers. But his love was our Lord, so in his spare time he studied, and was ordained minister in the United Reformed Church, first part-time, then, after he retired, full-time. He greatly assisted the minister of Palmers Green Church in London, where he lived; but much more than that, through writing study texts and countless other ways, he encouraged the whole church better to understand and fulfil its mission. He was to me a great pastor.

And when he heard about the Othona Community, he was interested, precisely because of our breadth of vision. He and his wife Jill came, saw some of our possibilities, and in due course he was appointed trustee; for a time, chair of trustees.

I have lost a strong, wise friend.

Tony Sinden

A.G.M.
Notice of the
2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of

The Othona Community

To be held at 2.00pm in the Lower Hall, St Andrews
Church, Short Street, Waterloo SE1 8LJ

on

Saturday 23rd September

www.stjohnswaterloo.org

Fully accessible

1.30pm: arrival with tea or coffee

2.00pm: AGM

Followed by service and a bring and share tea

Please note that we must vacate the hall by 5.00 pm

LOCATION: Between Waterloo and Southwark Stations. From Waterloo walk down Waterloo Rd., and turn left up "The Cut". From Southwark Station turn right down "The Cut". Short St. turning is almost opposite the Young Vic Theatre. Buses 63 and 45 to Blackfriars Rd.

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