Dear Othona Community Members and friends,

You know how happy we are to start welcoming you back to Othona Bradwell - although the steps will be slow and things will inevitably be different.

## >>>>> Now we need your help and support as never before <<<<<<

The reality is that Othona needs, in order simply to survive, more money than any reopening plans could bring in. People come first - but places to stay together in Community, and communications, are essential to us - and come with a price tag.

The Charity needs money to run, currently £171,000 per year to keep both Centres running: heating, lighting, cooking, insurances, food, water, staff costs etc. We do have some reserves but at the current rate with very little income and staff mainly on furlough these will only provide us full cover for this financial year ending 31/3/21 and leave a little to support the following year. Othona's survival comes first - later, if Bradwell is to complete the Energy Project we still need the second Wind Turbine, which requires an additional sum of some £110,000. Without that, we waste money on diesel, produce CO2 and damage our green credentials

Othona has refurbished facilities, spacious grounds and beautiful settings. We have experienced, able, dedicated Wardens/Managers and resident core teams. We have truly committed members, friends and supporters. We are well known and included within our local communities. The Virus has hit us just when reserves are low because of major investments in both Centres. This letter focuses on Bradwell - but we are one Community: Othona West Dorset is reaching out now, too.

- > No-one is prevented from sharing in Othona because of low income, which will be hitting some people really hard now. Donations to our general funds are vital, so we can keep Othona going and aim to sustain our bursary fund. Please see the Othona Bradwell Website "I want to" ... donate; for a link to easy online giving.
- > If you are able to make a financial gift to Othona, this is the time. Your gift now will mean that future generations will benefit from the Community we all know and love. Use the link to give now, or contact our treasurer Angie Smith, treasurer@othona.org.
- > With our Green Credentials Othona is an ideal place for your Carbon Offsetting. At Othona Bradwell we are off grid and our Energy Project means we are now fully electric, with solar energy supplemented temporarily by a diesel generator; and our gas boiler is replaced with a biomass boiler burning UK wood pellets. You are encouraged to use the principle of Carbon Offsetting to invest in Othona when your personal spending is on carbon: driving, flying etc. Information is available through various Websites, for example Carbonfootprint.com or Climatecare.org.

- > You whose income is still OK, and who would have come to Othona if we were fully open will you donate, perhaps for a "virtual week" to help sustain us until we are back in business as usual? A day is £43, £300 covers a week.
- > We can no longer pretend that the virtual Community is free; it relies on Othona's support. Membership is just £12 a year each are you a Member? Your subscription now will contribute to our current activities, looking to a future where members will benefit from your commitment. Go to our Website, "I want to" ... be a Member.
- > Do you know of any Charities or business people in the position to give?
- > In making your Will are you remembering Othona? The information is on the Othona West Dorset site, it is your choice which Centre you support or both.

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- > Think of fund-raising events, sponsorship, anything to keep Othona afloat so we can carry on with our mission now and in future. And don't just think, act- we're here to help. The simplest or the craziest ideas will bring amazing results!
- > The BCC and resident team at Bradwell are reaching out to all the people we know (within data protection) to involve you in our real financial situation and our need for help. Without you, Othona has no income from visitors but the essential overhead and daily running costs don't go away, so our reserves are draining and limited. Generating income from donations will make our reserves go further and stretch for longer into that unknown time of months, or even years to come.

The Trustees pose the same questions to West Dorset and Bradwell -

- > What is a faithful response?
- > Are we able to generate income?
- > Is there anything we could do to reduce costs?

Thank you for putting your heart and soul to these questions and opportunities to share in the survival and flourishing of Othona.

## >>>>>> YOUR SUPPORT = OTHONA'S SURVIVAL <<<<<<<

To share your ideas or offer your support or donations you are welcome to contact Clare our Othona Chair, Angie our treasurer, or any of us on the Bradwell Centre committee, here are our email addresses: <a href="mailto:timfox@othona.org">timfox@othona.org</a>; <a href="mailto:office@othona.org">office@othona.org</a>; <a href="mailto:chair@othona.org">chair@othona.org</a>; <a href="mailto:essexchair@othona.org">essexchair@othona.org</a>; <a href="mailto:treasurer@othona.org">treasurer@othona.org</a>; <a href="mailto:phillmartin@othona.org">phillmartin@othona.org</a>; <a href="mailto:nicholasmannoukas@othona.org">nicholasmannoukas@othona.org</a>; <a href="mailto:susannekelly@othona.org">susannekelly@othona.org</a>; <a href="mailto:simonthompson@othona.org">simonthompson@othona.org</a>.

With love to you all,

Ruth Bull (Roo) Trustee/Director, Chair of Bradwell Centre Committee.