

## The Othona Community in May 2024

Have you ever been to the Othona Community when a full orchestra was playing in the dining room? Or indeed in the Chapel? Well, there are not many places where several groups of amateur players may meet for the first time as one orchestra, rehearse and put on a performance in just a few days – but then there are not many places where the complete isolation from any potentially complaining neighbours permits such an event – and great fun they had too! Also loudly proclaiming the April Othona programme was the workshop on the spoken voice – when “spoken” encompassed many and varied sounds articulated in this group experience. A Weekend of Song added to the Joyful Noises raised to the Lord in our annual song weekend. Perhaps even more magnificent – the songs of the birds celebrating spring in the Othona Coastal Park, and the birds and other wildlife making the most of the natural and enhanced habitats that make Othona a special place for nature. But not all the events at Othona have been noisy, as those feeling loss and experiencing grief were supported through a mid-week workshop.

For the activities and workshops coming up in May, do ask about availability for local Day Visitors, we can usually fit you in and feed you!

**Spring Working Weekend** \*\*\*Only Yurts and Camping available\*\*\*

**Fri 3 May — Mon 6 May 2024**

One of our most popular working weekends over the Bank Holiday weekend

**Spring Watch** \*\*\*Only Yurts and Camping available\*\*\*

**Tue 7 May — Fri 10 May 2024**

Wildlife watching on the Essex coast

**Watercolour Painting Workshop** \*\*\*EVENT FULL\*\*\*

**Fri 10 May — Sun 12 May 2024**

**May Half Term Week** \*\*\*Only CAMPING available\*\*\*

**Mon 27 May — Fri 31 May 2024**

Family Activity Week

**Essex Green Weekend** \*\*\*CAMPING AND DAY VISITORS ONLY\*\*\*

**Fri 14 Jun — Mon 17 Jun 2024**

**Join us for this weekend to find out how we can influence Climate Change**

Back in October 1973 our founder Norman Motley (“Letters to a Community 1970-1980) wrote of “...hints and possibilities of the way which God may be enfolding before the Community in the future. There is immense need. We have material potential. We shall need more than ever the dedication and commitment of old and new members of the Community. Where do you

stand?" Still God's work is unfolding. Accommodation at this time of year comes under pressure, as increasing numbers want to come and stay in our peaceful location. We added yurts but believe it or not, these five yurts have stood up to the wind and weather for nine years - will they last another decade? Or even another year? **Your help – your generous donations** – will help re-clothe our saintly-named yurts, Aidan, Brigid, Cedd, Dunstan and Ethelburga, in new canvas covers, clean, waterproof and fit for our summer visitors. Two of our Saints will also be refitted inside, to be warm and cosy for the colder seasons: funding shortfall - **£13,000**.

*The Othona Community registered charity number 1154204* If you wish to make a donation please visit: <https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/appeal/yurt-appeal> or alternatively you can donate by paypal (<https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/othonaessex>) or bank transfer (Othona Community Sort code: 20-54-30 Account number: 20681628)

Debbie and Richard Sanders are our Wardens, supported by resident team Phil Peter, Amanda and volunteers. Website: [www.othonaessex.org.uk](http://www.othonaessex.org.uk), contact [bradwell@othona.org](mailto:bradwell@othona.org), telephone 01621 776564, or visit via the wind-powered electric gate, collect an exit token to leave.