

## **The Othona Community, June 2025.**

Debbie and Richard, our Warden/Managers and before that our core team, left us at the end of May to embark on their next adventure, including exciting overseas travel – we all wish them well. They have loved and been loved by Othona and those surrounding the Community, and Debbie shared a recent letter, with extracts for you here below.

This is the most beautiful time in Bradwell (in my opinion!) as the cow parsley flowers, the swallows return, and everything feels full of life here. The Essex Green weekend, 22/25 May, promised an amazing lineup for speakers, workshops, music and activities, leading to a great weekend. Our new Warden/Deputy Wardens are settling in well. David and Paul have been with us since early April and will be fully in charge when Richard and I leave at the beginning of June. Hopefully many of you will have met them already or will get an opportunity to shortly. We also have a new core team member, Pui Yin (Winnie) Kong, who comes from Hong Kong and was with us in 2022 for a summer workcamp as a Volunteer Action for Peace volunteer. As always we have had great support from a number of our wonderful short-term volunteers, particularly in the kitchen, over the last few months.

Since our last newsletter back in March we have had some fantastic events and groups here. Easter was led by Paul Lucas with the usual dawn service at the Chapel, a landscape liturgy walk, egg rolling and an Easter egg hunt. Festival of Song was very well attended, probably the most singers we have had in our time here. Sadly, Hugh and Nastassja were unable to make Spring Watch this year due to covid but thankfully David Martin had come to put up the fantastic owl box he has made and was able to run the event. He will be back for Winter Watch as well as in the summer. We are waiting now for some residents for the owl box. We had a return visit of the Orthodox Fellowship of St John the Baptist for their annual youth festival, this is the sixth year they have come here and it's a real pleasure to have so many young people here for the weekend. We also had the privilege of having John Bell here as a guest speaker for St Paul's Church in Cambridge. It was great to have the opportunity to hear him speak and the Church group seemed to really enjoy their weekend.

Coming up now is Half Term, which is fully booked so will be quite lively: day visitors always welcome to book. Then we have Herbs, Healing and Community run by Amanda and Angela, there are still spaces available so please take a look on our website for more details and to book:

We have school groups and Church groups through to the early summer period. Many of the open summer events are filling up so please take a look and book a place to come as resident or day visitors, see our event pages for more details- <https://www.othonaessex.org.uk/events-listing>. There are now bursaries for C of E teachers seeking retreats, see Othona Essex website.

Othona is accessed through East Hall Farm, East End Rd, Bradwell on Sea, through the wind powered gate: exit token from the office. Manager/Warden is David Jenkins, Website [www.othonaessex.org.uk](http://www.othonaessex.org.uk). Email [bradwell@othona.org](mailto:bradwell@othona.org). Telephone 01621 776564.