

Village view from the Othona community Bradwell –on- sea.

A Happy New Year to you all from the Othona Community, and may it bring you peace, good health and the return of some of the fun things in life.

We are very happy to share with you that our friends Debbie and Richard Sanders, who already live and work in this village as staff team members at Othona, have been appointed to become our next Managers/Wardens, on a job-share arrangement. They take over on 1st May 2022, as Tim Fox leaves us after several years in his second stint as Othona Manager, having guided us through these last two most difficult years. We wish him well - there will be times for you to share your farewells, as Tim is here until after Easter.

Time to move forward, and time to reflect. Othona has, established by our founder Norman Motley, four pillars we build on – Work, Worship, Study and Play in Community together.

Work – that’s obvious, there is always plenty of gardening, painting and decorating, fixing and repairing.... all volunteer skills are welcome.

Worship – this is at our heart, and in welcoming people of all faiths and none we experience a huge span of different ways to worship God, by whatever name people call him. As a Christian Community we offer the opportunity to share worship in the wonderful Chapel of St Peter on the Wall, echoing the voices raised there over hundreds of years.

Study – that brings richness to the tapestry of Othona, as we learn so much from an amazing variety of different speakers, leaders and conductors, deepening our understanding of world concerns, puzzling our brains and raising our voices in musical harmonies.

Play – what do we mean by this? What are the fun things of life? Ask anyone under the age of 7 and they’ll have no problem in telling you – jokes, games, tricks, surprises, amazing facts, loving aunties, best friends, furry friends, football.....and what better than to carry on the fun for a few more years even though it must blend with a bit of learning and a few responsibilities. And at Othona, don’t let go of that sense of re-creation, new every day, which is the true meaning of “play.” Sometimes there are playful activities on the Programme: arts and crafts, painting, or putting on a play in a week. In most open community weeks there will be a home-made concert, some crafting, spontaneous fun on the beach, sharing the wonders of nature that fascinate people of all ages and abilities.

Othona welcomes groups, too – people who have often been troubled by life and are seeking renewal or reconciliation, often requiring deep thought. But what better way to shift those worries than to have some fun together, in whatever way people choose. Who can forget the encounter with a group of men of other faiths flying kites outside the Chapel, who came over to Othona and presented us with a kite, sharing fun through the wonder of kites?

You have just enjoyed Christmas, and our hearts go out to those who have not had the opportunity for fun and friendship at this special time of the year. Othona will soon be putting

our 2022 Programme on the website, you are welcome to come as a day visitor or for a meal but please book in advance.

Tim Fox is Warden/Manager, with Debbie and Richard Sanders. Want to visit?—See Website www.othonaessex.org.uk - then ring Othona at Bradwell (it's down East End Rd and through East Hall Farm) on 01621 776564. Free Parking for all visitors to Othona—just ask for an exit token to leave through our wind-powered gate.