

The Othona Community – Looking forward.

Spring is in the air and it's lovely to see the flowers beginning to bloom and the buds appearing on the trees. Spring is such a hopeful time of year and as we journey along the Government's "roadmap", we are looking forward to you visiting Othona again in the not-too-distant future.

The first step to re-opening is hopefully from April 12th when people can book lunches at the Centre and sit outside with family and friends in the sunshine. To make a booking, please contact the team via email - [bradwell@othona.org](mailto:bradwell@othona.org) or phone 01621 776564. We will be fully open for residential guests from the 17th May and are currently putting together our plans for a summer programme, please see our website for details (<https://www.othonaessex.org.uk/events-listing>). We are really looking forward to welcoming back the Community to Othona and hope to see you soon.

We hope that those of you who have been able to join the current virtual Lent Course "Women in the Shadows" are finding it thought-provoking and valuable. The Bradwell Committee members are now busy planning for more virtual activities and courses for Easter and the Summer. If you have any ideas for a programme or session you would like to see or to lead, please do let us know.

In our letters to you last year, we explained how much funding is required to enable Othona to survive in these challenging times. We still need your support to help us keep our cherished Centre open so that we can "Work, Worship, Study and Play" together for the foreseeable future. Please, if you are in the position to donate anything, visit our online fundraising site (<https://givi.ng/1154204>), or our website ([www.othonaessex.org.uk/make-donation](http://www.othonaessex.org.uk/make-donation)) for details. Many thanks in advance for your on-going generosity. Our survival is due to your commitment and love of Othona, and to the financial gifts from those who can afford it. If you can use Gift Aid too, it will make our funds stretch even further.

In our last meeting, one of our committee members recalled the old saying "Bob a Job", where people used to contribute money in exchange for Scouts doing small tasks for them. We thought this idea could be updated to "Fee for Free" and if someone does some voluntary work for a friend or family member, the potential cost of this work could be donated to Othona instead. What do you think? Please suggest a better strapline if you can think of one!

Of course, we fully understand that some people are not in the position to donate money directly but if you have any fundraising ideas yourself or you can give your time to the Centre in other ways please do get in contact. We would love to hear from you.

It has been a very difficult and unsettling year for many of us. However, Easter is approaching and it is the time to rejoice and be thankful to God for the gifts of life, love and joy and the promise of being back together in person very soon.

Tim Fox is Warden/Manager, with Richard and Debbie Sanders. Want to visit?- See our website [www.othonaessex.org.uk](http://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.