

The Othona Community in May 2021.

You will see from our Othona Bradwell Website that we reopened for limited pre-booked day visitors from the 12th April following the government 'rule of six' and restricted to outdoor seating. This opportunity continues into May - there is a small charge for day visitors which includes a picnic lunch and refreshments. New and returning visitors are loving this opportunity to relax in the sun, or in the marquee: Facebook has some pictures. We are planning to reopen for residential stays from the 17th May adhering to government guidelines for social distancing with reduced occupancy. This will be a time to come for a relaxed stay with no set programme and we will operate as a Covid-secure venue similar to a hotel or hostel prior to the anticipated relaxation of the social distancing rules on June 21st. After this date, if the government guidelines allow, we will be able to relax the social distancing regulations and have a 'nearly' normal Community summer.

Othona has a new 2021 Summer Programme now on the Othona Bradwell website, (<https://www.othonaessex.org.uk/events-listing>) with events running from Monday to Friday, including Music, Art, Olympics and Permaculture – a chance to share in producing and tasting our delicious home grown fruit and vegetables - with the weekends free of a set programme. You are very welcome to book either for meal, a weekend or for the event weeks - online, or contact us in the office on 01621 776564, email bradwell@othona.org. We are ready to respond with whatever the latest guidelines for the hospitality sector are to enable safe opening. Currently the staff here are mainly on furlough to minimise outgoings during difficult financial times, please be patient if you have a query.

Did you know that some people who live in Bradwell and our local villages are still wary of coming down to Othona? Just to set the record straight, we are not a nudist camp, we are not a religious sect or cult, and we are certainly not exclusive! We are just people who value the concept of community – of seeking to live in unity with one another, valuing common ground and embracing differences in age, ability, culture, faith, background, race and gender in a way that does not emphasise differences or try to change lifestyles. Most people who spend a few hours, a few days or a few weeks at one of the Othona Centres (Bradwell-on-Sea Essex, or Burton Bradstock West Dorset) – or even a few years on our staff team – enjoy the peace and tranquility, the lack of pressure, the simple lifestyle, the opportunity to make a practical contribution or to appreciate a well-earned rest, a chance to reflect, and to “recharge batteries.” There are opportunities to share in elements of Work, Worship, Study and Play together on Community, or just to relax, chat, walk and enjoy good home cooked meals together. Local people often just pop in for a cuppa while out for a walk – all are welcome (although Covid restrictions apply and bookings are required at present.)

Othona is run as two Charities, the Othona trust that owns the buildings, and the Othona Company that runs our Centres, where people are welcome. You may be in a position to make a donation to sustain the Community at Bradwell, and to help us with Projects to ensure Othona is a real asset to our local community, such as a second small wind-turbine to keep us off grid and protect our environment. To learn more about Othona or to make a donation, do take a look at our website. Tim Fox is Warden/Manager, with Debbie and Richard Sanders. Email bradwell@othona.org. Website: www.othonaessex.org.uk. Telephone 01621 776564. Keep in contact for details of re-opening times – hoping to meet and greet you in 2021.