

Updates by Tim:

Some points updated since last week (see last write-up):

"Outside" groups bookings are going well – most would book one year ahead straight after their stay. All weekends were/are book from February until December.

The so far unnamed rebuilt hut in the Lower Field will have one art room and two study rooms.

Donations are coming in -> please continue ... ;-)

We are greatly helped by EVS and VAP volunteers (see last write-up).

We are planning to extend the Motley Building with more accommodation – incl. some rooms with "en suite toilets" to cater for our aging members.

We try to develop / renew our energy-resources like generator and wind turbine as they are currently failing.

Questions and statements by all present:

1. Internet / WiFi has been very slow / dysfunctional this summer. That could also be a problem for "outside groups". It is very expensive (for fibre-optic state of the art connection £14,000 - £60,000?)
2. Will we need a second turbine? The company servicing our current turbine went out of business 2 years ago, possibly because the government stopped subsidies? Now it is hard to find a company doing the servicing ☹
Our backup and current generators are both down so we'll need repairs. A smaller one has been kindly brought in by Trevor – but it is smaller and we cannot use our more power hungry electric devices.
3. We might change to using a bio-mass-boiler, possibly saving 80-90% of the costs for heating (see last write-up). It might cost around £100,000. The Trustees are being helped to make a good decision.
4. We need to prepare our Othona infrastructure for our future.
5. Clearing up improved since last week.
6. Who subsidises who? For the running costs "outside groups" made a surplus of around £25,000 from June to now. They get "eaten up" by "community weeks".
Or shall we say members get reductions because they donated money for our buildings and labour and time for running the weeks?
7. Tim gave and will give a report on our current state on our AGMs in September.
8. It is very important that no one is left behind for financial reasons. That's why we provide bursaries.
9. It is great that our kids learn by doing – e.g. veg-prep, bread-baking, cleaning, organizing and other occasions when they join in.
10. How well does the Solar Building work? There are still unexpected problems as we were "guinea pigs" and still learning.
11. We are planning to take a picture on our first pill box matching one which was taken in the 50s.