

## **The Othona Community, Autumn 2024.**

As you sit down with a relaxing cuppa, to read your copy of “Village View”, take yourself to a day at Othona, as you share with us Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September.

A bell rings for breakfast – sounding across the field so all may know it’s time to come to the dining room. But that’s not the start of the day, as the breakfast cooks have been up for some time, preparing real porridge, and setting out an array of cereals and fruits to choose from, with homemade bread to toast. No sooner than breakfast is finished, with many hands to clearing away, washing up and tidying round, than the events of the day are underway, with Warden/Managers Debbie and Richard, and their resident team: Phil, JP, Amanda, George, French Volunteers Lou and Quentin, part-timer Peter, and others joining in to support the team. The structure of the day is still based on the four elements of Othona, set out by our founder Norman Motley: Work, Worship, Study and Play together to build Community.

Preparations are in hand for Sunday worship in the ancient Chapel of St Peter’s on the Wall, used by worshippers over hundreds of years, and daily by Othona for nearly 80 years. Today we have Christian groups sharing the day: the Lithuanian Church, and Fambridge Church; and also joining us are the Visually Impaired Sailing Society, coming in for tea and homemade cakes. Othona has a long history of inclusion of blind and partially sighted people, active in their membership and support. With all these distinct groups coming here for their separate purposes you might expect allocation of different spaces for each body of people to pursue their own agendas. Not so: look at everyone playing croquet, together, sharing a game of bowls in the lovely autumn sunshine, enjoying home cooked (and often home grown) meals together, new friendships made and plans to come again next year.

At the time of writing, an art-related week, “Place, Space and Map Making” Workshop is about to start, running from Mon 16 – Fri 20 Sept with Sandie Cottee sharing her expertise – and we say Goodbye to George from Dorset, a familiar face to many in the village as he has helped with local community events, while giving a good year of his time to volunteer at Othona. After two years on the team, Phil is also moving on, and will be greatly missed, particularly in the kitchen – did you try his cookies!?

**Othona is now seeking to recruit a new Cooking, Catering and Hospitality Lead – residential position – see the Othona Essex Website for details: is this you?**

**See the website, or pick up a leaflet, for the 2024 Programme:** Here are activities for the autumn – resident and day visitors are welcome to book:

**Harvest Working weekend Fri 11=Sun 13 Oct**, our most popular Working Weekend.

**Autumn Retreat Fri 18 – Sun 20 Oct**, Rest and Reflection, with Revd. Emma Wylie.

**Preserve and Sauerkraut making Fri 25 Oct — Sun 27 Oct 2024.**

**Mon 28 Oct — Fri 1 Nov 2024** Half Term Family Activity Week.

Debbie and Richard Sanders are our Wardens, supported by resident team Peter, Amanda, and JP, and volunteers. Website: [www.othonaessex.org.uk](http://www.othonaessex.org.uk), contact [bradwell@othona.org](mailto:bradwell@othona.org), telephone 01621 776564, or visit via the wind-powered electric gate, collect exit token to go.