

Village View from the Othona Community Oct 2021 - this time by Debbie Sanders.

Greetings from all of us at Bradwell. I hope you had a good summer and were able to come and see us here during the summer season. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces back and lots of new ones too. We finished the summer this year with a wonderful music week culminating in a great concert. This was followed by our Bank Holiday festival weekend featuring a lively discussion session and music from a local band. We hope to hold a similar event next year but earlier in the summer, please check our programme ([Events Listing | Othona Essex](#)) for details later in the year.

The help of all the volunteers was essential to running the summer season, and we have now been joined by four new European volunteers from the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) program. It has taken quite a while with visas and Covid for them to arrive but now they are all here. They are Oliva Venerosy from France, Paula Vida from Spain, Alessandro Corazzari and Nico Cervelli both from Italy. They are with us until June next year and I hope you will have a chance to meet them.

Angenita completed her amazing swim over the Blackwater Estuary and managed to do it 5 minutes faster than the last time 20 years ago. There was a short piece in the Maldon and Burnham Standard- [Blackwater Estuary swim helps fund new wind turbine | Maldon and Burnham Standard](#) if you would like to read more about it. Many thanks to all who contributed either via Just Giving or directly. The total raised so far is over £5,000.

Now that the summer season has finished, we are busy with many of the groups that come to enjoy the space and tranquility of Othona, including those facing disadvantage and difficulties in their life. Othona was able to provide bursary support for some unable to afford the full cost, including one group giving support to vulnerable women. This was made possible thanks to the generosity of those who have donated either directly or by paying the benefactor rate, enabling Othona to take part in this very vital work, helping to support those in most need. This lovely email describes what Othona meant to one group:

'Thank you for being such gracious hosts and treating us so royally. We enjoyed everything, from dinner to breakfast and everything in between! We all returned safely to our respective homes. Thank you so much for the hospitality you extended to us while we were in your community. For me personally I will never forget the peace and tranquility. I have no words to describe I much I enjoyed the entire time while at your community. It was an absolutely incredible experience for me. Thank you, and I surely know that others felt the same. In fact, it is the tonic and therapy to which we all needed, considering the pandemic effects on our world connectivity, since 2020. On behalf of the whole group, I thank you for your generosity and hospitality during our visit to your community and the lively conversation.'

Our Autumn programme includes highlights such as Autumn Retreat led by Birgit Ewald, **Fireworks weekend** and Advent- and a midweek event in October for all who would like to come and help out with practical jobs. ([October Working Week | Othona Essex](#)).

Finally, we would like to thank all those who are members of Othona for their support, your financial contribution helps to enable the work of the Centres. If you are not yet a member or would like to find out more about membership then please look at our website ([Become an Othona Member | Othona Essex](#)) or email us directly. I leave you with these words written by Norman Motley taken from Letters to a Community:

'Othona remains a movement for that quality of living which stems from Him Who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, and we make this affirmation without the slightest diffidence whatsoever. If we cease from this purpose, we cease altogether - and so be it.

Every Blessing

All the Othona Bradwell Team

Tim Fox is our Warden/Manager. Full details of Programme and Charges can be found on our Website www.othonaessex.org.uk or 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**