

The Othona Community in September 2020.

Welcome, friends, to the Othona Community in September.

With the harvest gathered in from the fields that surround us, thoughts are turning to new crops to welcome the spring, 2021. Here at Othona there is still much to be gathered in – mainly our wonderful crop of apples for freezing, juicing and pies – come and try some! In Bradwell, St Lawrence and all around us we are constantly reminded that God’s world is for ever on the move – the next things to plant, to gather, to share – with the people who just keep on growing up and taking responsibilities when only yesterday they were in their parents’ arms.

Our next generation will have some big decisions to make – some we know of, some yet to be revealed. Yes – we know there are plans for a rather overwhelming power station to surround Othona’s beautiful site – and there is much action afoot to protect our inheritance from harm – but we will survive as a place, a community of calm, retreat, fun and friendship to all, near and far. Yes – we know there are many questions to be considered about the ways the Othona Community trustee body, membership, and friends like you who take the trouble to read “Village View,” will sustain Othona as we gradually regain the financial and business ground loss through these Covid times. And Yes – we open our arms to all, younger and older, who will make things happen to ensure Othona is always there for those in need – of friendship, of a break, of help and comfort in troubled times, of family fun, of shared Work, Worship, Study and Play together in Community.

Over the years, do you remember those individuals who came feeling bad, sad and useless – and who left feeling happier, more confident and ready to take the Christian spirit of Othona out into the wider world? Did you know about the groups of people from divided communities who quietly slipped into Othona, spent some time together thinking deeply about ways toward reconciliation – and who left with a different view of “the others?” And do you recall the fun times when we shared meals together, explored the beauty of our surroundings and made new friends? Well, and did you enjoy the Othona Virtual Flower and Produce Show in August? The Art Week, the biodynamic gardening week, the astronomy week with Roger Noble? Look out on the Othona Essex website for the latest news on fundraising, open times and virtual sessions

Tim Fox is Warden/Manager, with Debbie and Richard Sanders. Want to visit?–See Website 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.