

Dear friends,

Ten years have passed really quickly, and my term as a Trustee/Director, Link and Chair for Bradwell comes to an end in June.

Everyone at Othona - chairs, wardens, committee members, long-term volunteers and the newest arrival - are all equally a part of our Community. As a trustee I have been determined to encourage everyone to fulfil our purpose, to learn to live in community with people of all ages and life-stories, through sharing in Work, Worship, Study and Play together - and, I like to add, Eating together too.

We've seen some changes over these years, partly driven by circumstances beyond our control like Bradwell B, Covid, H&S requirements and the evidence of the human race's impact on our planet.

We've also seen what we can do to live and share a pathway to a better world. Think of our drive for Green Energy and the sustainable lifestyle practised at Othona and shared as widely as our Community can reach out, through every one of you. Remember the great response and determination of you all, to ensure the survival and thriving of Othona during Covid, through all your amazing contributions, as Tim, Debbie and Richard upheld the daily rhythm of Community at Bradwell and linked to Othona West Dorset? You joined in virtual activities, made donations and completed fundraising events, and used all possible means of communication from our chat room to old fashioned letters. All the hopes and vision for Othona which staff, volunteers, committees, members and friends have shared, have contributed to our strategy, developed after Community Meetings in London (Oxo Towers) and Bradwell. Practical changes such as yurts, accessible pathways and parking, the pond-dipping and education/art building, as well as all the green improvements to our energy systems, would serve no purpose without the love, fellowship and friendships that grow through Othona, and the wider outreach to groups and individuals in need of peace, reconciliation and fellowship.

I am not leaving, Dave and I are still here in Bradwell, and will be just as much a part of the Community as ever, but without my Trustee responsibilities. Others of you will pick up those responsibilities, to ensure Othona stays alive with our message of open Christianity that grows through Community. I hand on to Paul, and I know you will share your stories, hopes and concerns with him - he will listen, he too loves Othona.

My love to you all,
Roo.

Dear All

Just a few words to introduce myself as the new Chair of the Bradwell Centre Committee. I am very much a newbie having been appointed a Trustee of the Othona Community a year ago where I had responsibility for the Safeguarding brief.

Othona has been on my personal radar for many years but becoming a Trustee has opened the door and invited me in!

I have had the pleasure over the past year of staying at Bradwell and West Dorset and meeting many of you. I look forward to meeting many more.

For many years I was in senior positions in the Human Resources profession mainly in Education and Charities and have served as a Trustee of many organisations over the past 30 years including the Baptist Union of Great Britain and several YMCAs.

Married to Nicolette we have 3 daughters and 4 grandchildren ranging from 3 to 12 years in age.

I would personally like to thank Roo for her sterling work and service as Chair and wish her well for the future.

There are lots of challenges and opportunities ahead for us all but with our rich heritage at Bradwell to draw on I am sure we will take them in our stride.

Blessings

Paul Coleman