

## The Othona Community re-awakens, April 2020.

How can we plan anything in these difficult times? The Othona Community wishes everyone a safe, healthy and happy spring. If we need to make changes to our plans to protect our visitors we will. Do look at our website or telephone us before visiting if you have any doubts.

As I write, this is how things look.

We are planning to be open for Easter from Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April to Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April. The Reverend Andrew Gough will lead a family-orientated programme including egg painting and egg rolling, baking competitions and much more. Andrew will also lead thought-provoking sessions centred on the events of the first Easter. Integrated into the Othona Weekend will be the worship at St Thomas and St Peter's Chapel, where we greet Easter morning at dawn with Steven Cottrell, , Bishop of Chelmsford – followed by a hearty breakfast at Othona.

Our annual Festival of Song is scheduled for Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April to Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April. Sarah and Gilo, natural voice teachers, lead us in a variety of songs from various traditions, with candle-lit Capella singing in the Chapel. No musical talent required, just a willingness to sing. Singers are also welcome to join us for just the Saturday: £39/£34 all day including meals and facilitator's costs, ££33 / £28 with lunch only.

All our events and activities are open for local people to join in – do ring first if you would like details of the sessions, or to book a meal.

The Othona Community Centres at Bradwell and in West Dorset have both been closed for major refurbishments, and are just now re-opening. In Dorset they have all new washroom facilities and a beautiful new All-Seasons Art Block. Here at Bradwell we are well on the way to achieving the almost total reduction of our carbon footprint, and ceasing our reliance on fossil or nuclear fuels. The biomass boiler is up and running, for heating and instant hot water. The solar panels are in place and the old wind-turbine is still running, giving us some electricity. We have a diesel generator used now, but intended just for back-up once the whole system is installed. The newly refurbished Education Building is nearing completion – ready for bookings.

We are now starting a fundraising campaign to purchase the second wind generator that will complete our sustainable energy plans and fit us for future developments including accessible accommodation. . Othona will need to raise quite a considerable sum and will be relying on the generosity of all who believe in the future of Othona. ***Here is an opportunity to invest in an electricity generating system that is wonderfully green, sustainable, unobtrusive, and giving opportunities for fellowship and friendship at the heart of our community....do support us!***

**Tim Fox is our Warden/Manager, with Debbie and Richard Sanders.** Full details of Programme and Charges can be found on our Website [www.othonaessex.org.uk](http://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.**