

## **The Othona Community in the Summer Season, August 2018.**

Othona has quite a history in Bradwell – some of which has been captured by our founder Norman Motley in his “Letters to a Community 1970-1980” – some which live on in the hearts and minds of those who shared time together here.

Let’s look back 40 years – to Norman’s letter of July 1978.

“Persistence has, at last, brought the completion of the “Bank.” What a white elephant it seemed at times. I truly believe its usefulness will outweigh infinitely the labour and heartache, not to mention expense, involved in getting it right. Special thanks to that small band, who, in very severe weather and unpleasant spring, carried on until the end was achieved. Of course, the most elaborate plant in the kingdom is no substitute for that quality of living engendered by the Community living there at the time.”

Indeed the Bank is still proving its worth, having served far longer than anticipated as a “temporary” building offering all-year-round accommodation so the Community could meet beyond the traditional summer season. Now it is used for storage and a workshop, as Othona went on to build the Norman Motley building, and then the Solar Building, taking forward the spirit of community, seeking the kingdom of God on earth, in this very special location by St Peter’s On the Wall. Some who built the Bank still enjoy that fellowship.

“You will see that there is a varied menu on the programme of Talks for the next few months at both Centres. Make no mistake. Our business is the deepening of our Christian Faith – a fuller realization of what it means to be “in Christ” – and in the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit. If it is not, we are operating under false pretences...”

This is our history – but what do we, as successors to Norman Motley, make of our future? Othona Bradwell is a place, Othona is a movement, for people of all faiths and none, where all are welcomed and equally valued, whether or not they would consider themselves Christian in these days of widening global vision. Now we live with the complexity of differences and similarities between faiths – and still offer family friendly holidays!

And we still have our “varied menu” of Talks and Activities – you are welcome to pick up a Programme or find one on our Website. There are still places available for residents in most weeks – and local day Visitors are always welcome, please book if you want a meal.

The week from 4<sup>th</sup> August is “Let’s Make Music,” with a Concert on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> August.

From 11<sup>th</sup> August is “Stars in your Eyes: Astronomy for All,” Roger Noble, Jodrell Bank.

From 18<sup>th</sup> August is “Salt and Clay,” experiments, stories and folk tales.

Over the Bank Holiday 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> August, enjoy the wild open spaces and tranquillity,

From Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> August to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August is “Finding Spiritual Meaning in Madness.”

Tim Fox is the Manager. Details of our Programme can be found on our Website.

<https://www.othonaessex.org.uk/Home>, 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.**