

## The Othona Community – Christmas 2019 and beyond.

Exciting times for the Othona Community!

After many years of hopes and dreams, frustrations and uncertainties, the Othona Community in Burton Bradstock village, West Dorset, is at last building their Four-Seasons Studio. This is so much more than the Art Room it replaces, with spaces and facilities for all kinds of creative arts. Othona is one Community with two Centres, and the staff/volunteers from our Bradwell Centre are providing hands-on support in Dorset. For those who may be interested in having a look at the other half of Othona, do see the Web Page [www.othonawestdorset.org.uk](http://www.othonawestdorset.org.uk) – or book a Dorset holiday break with a difference – and a strong similarity with Othona Bradwell.

Closer to home, for we who live in and around Bradwell-on-Sea, there are also exciting times ahead. The trustees of the Othona trust who ensure wise managements of our assets, have made the financial decision to invest a considerable sum in the Othona Centre in our village. This investment will pay back the Trust through significantly reduced costs, and income from government revenue. What for? Why Othona? You may be aware that Othona is not on the Grid. We have a gas system for all heating, hot water and cooking, and our old generator. We also have a small wind-generator and solar panels for some of our electricity.

Now we have a major Power Project going ahead. The New Year sees installation of a Biomass Boiler, fuelled with wood pellets, with major improvements to our heating and hot water systems, drastically reducing our reliance on fossil fuel, and attracting a government subsidy, as Othona makes a very significant reduction in our carbon footprint. All the electricity system is also being refurbished, with a “Super Smart Meter” to be sure of the most efficient and effective use of electricity just where we need it – allowing better Wi-Fi, too. You will also see our new, second wind-generator. With this we can not only be self-sufficient for our existing electricity needs, but be ready, over the next few years, to finish the Building Project started in the early 1990s, with up-to-date facilities for full inclusion of older and disabled people. When it comes to the planning application for the wind turbine we hope for your support – more later.

But now – **Othona’s Community Christmas runs from Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> to Fri 27<sup>th</sup> December.** Resident visitors will enjoy the peace and fun of Bradwell at Christmas, sharing the Christmas Worship with St Thomas’ Church. Everyone is welcome to come and share the festivities – how about your Christmas or Boxing Day walk on the sea wall, and pop in for a cuppa and a mince pie? We are open for **New Year, too, Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Dec to Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan.** Visitors always welcome, do book if you would like to share a meal with us.

**Tim Fox is our Warden/Manager.** 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**