

The Othona Community in January 2020.

You just have time to pop into Othona – if this arrives on your doorstep on New Year’s Day. Come and share a morning cuppa to welcome in the next decade – then slip away before all the heat is turned off. Keep your ears open in the Village shops, and follow how our Othona Energy and Electricity Project is going. By the time of reading, the new biomass boiler should be installed, and an application will have gone in to Maldon District Council for an additional Wind Turbine – not a huge one, a 20m generator tucked in between the newly renovated Education Building (thanks, Essex Community Fund/Bradwell Wind Farm Fund) and the scrubby trees. For all who appreciate the work of Othona, we ask you to look at the MDC Website, and when the Planning Application appears, please write a letter of support, and help Othona generate our own green energy in a Project to reduce our carbon footprint by 95%!

Othona Bradwell will be closed until around mid-March – then watch this space for news of the Opening and the 2020 events, including the Official Opening of the Education Building, with the dilapidated 1950s hut transformed into teaching rooms, art room and residential space. We will still be taking bookings for 2020 over the New Year; the Programme is on the Website, or pick up a paper copy locally. Did you know that you can also book Othona for a private event for your group, or for a family gathering or celebration? – or to hold meetings, or sessions in the new Art Room – you have the idea, we will try to accommodate you.

Othona is moving forward, but only by building on the firm foundations of our past. “Othona, Much Ado about Something” was written by our founder Rev. Norman Motley, and still contains some interesting tips for life at Othona in the 21st Century.

“The arrival of some Borstal (Young offenders) girls proved an unforgettable experience. They asked if they might describe themselves as students from a certain municipal art school. No objection was raised but by the middle of the week, one of the girls said, ‘They’d all be different to us if they know who we are.’ I told her to try them out. So she bashed the table with her shoe and said after supper, one night, ‘we don’t come from such and such an art school, but from Borstal.’ The only comment was ‘so what?’ – and no further reference was made to the fact. It just made no difference.

It must be emphasised that this element is critical. People are what they are and are received as such.”

Tim Fox is the Manager. Details of Programme and Charges can be found on our Website Please ring Tim if you want to come down between now and March as visits may be restricted due to Project. Website <https://www.othonaessex.org.uk/Home>; office@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**