

The Othona Community.

Harvesting continues at both Othona Centres; in Dorset, where the ancient walled garden has merged into the newer orchard, and hives of bees provide a flow of honey - and here in Essex, where squashes are now in store, and grapes from that amazing vine over the stoep are pressed for delicious juice.



Worship together at St Peter's Chapel holds the whole Community together in God's love, spanning time and space: back to the earliest **time** of Christian fellowship in Essex in the seventh century – and **place** to worship in Bradwell, as in the chapel at our sister Community in Dorset, and in the hearts of all who have been touched by the spirit of Othona. Over time, so many people come and go; I am sure you will all remember people you have met in past years, from Wardens to those who have served in the Bradwell Community shop. As summer volunteers have left us, we have been joined by more short-term helpers, our young volunteers Flo and Paul from the French Civic Service, and Jeann and Mikaela, a couple from Brazil: life is never dull at Othona! Long-term volunteers now have improved accommodation, as Plum Corner (formerly the Men's Hut) is renovated to provide two ensuite rooms.

Exactly 50 years ago this month, Othona's founder Norman Motley wrote: "We must be available to help the helpers, to renew the renewers, to be a centre of healing for healers.....to serve some of the casualties of our times- particularly the young..." Othona is a strange blend of "helpers" and "helped" because there are times when those who came to help find themselves receiving help; and those who came in need of help find themselves helping others in the Community.

All are welcome to visit Othona to volunteer, to join in the programmed activities, or just visit for a cuppa. We particularly love to see local people who come and share time, join in the programme as day visitors, or enjoy a meal. As the weather gets chillier and we look towards Christmas, if you or anyone you know would like to join the Community for a warming meal and good company, just ring to let us know when you would like to come, if the Programme says "full" there is always space for non-residential visits – and that includes Christmas Day, celebrating the birth of Jesus together.

Here is the Programme for the rest of 2023:

Art & Soul Retreat- *Full***. Mon 6 Nov — Fri 10 Nov 2023.** Art Workshop.

A Time to Simply Be. Mon 6 Nov — Fri 10 Nov 2023 Relaxing week at Othona.

Winter Watch *Full*** Mon 13 Nov — Thu 16 Nov 2023** Local Wildlife watching.

Open Space -*Full*** Mon 13 Nov — Thu 16 Nov 2023** Relaxing break at Othona.

Film Week Mon 27 Nov — Fri 1 Dec 2023 sit by the fire and enjoy some classic films.

Advent Weekend Fri 1 Dec — Sun 3 Dec 2023 Celebrate the start of Advent.

Community Christmas*Full*** Sat 23 Dec — Wed 27 Dec 2023** Share the Christmas spirit!

If you would like to visit, contribute your time, or make a financial donation or legacy, please contact Othona - www.othonaessex.org.uk, bradwell@othona.org,