

The Othona Community - Summer Reflections.

Were you Around and About – Local to Bradwell-on-Sea in late July this year? This was a chance for visitors to the Othona Community to come and experience the wider community of Bradwell-on-Sea – and the people in and around our Village responded with great generosity of spirit. We shared worship at St Thomas' and St Peter's, where Rev. Steven and the congregations made everyone feel welcome into our Parish. Monday - Steven Dewick gave us a fascinating tour of his nature reserve at Mill End, including many birds, butterflies and the historic moth trap. After refreshments served by Jean Allen in their peaceful garden, and a tramp around Bull's Corner with Dave and Ruth where slow worms were spotted, we were back to the centre of the Village in the afternoon for a guided tour by David Thorpe. David's knowledge of the buildings, with tales of village characters of bygone days, was matched by his informative visit to St Thomas' Church. Yet more village life in the evening – a taste of the Parish Council's pressing concerns – an eye-opener for our Mexican volunteer!

On Tuesday, after a relaxing day in Burnham-on-Crouch filled with sunshine, fish & chips and ice-creams, we returned to Othona for a presentation by Tillingham electrical consultant Kevin Knight, who talked us through options for heat and power for Othona's future – we are off grid. By 6pm the group were back at St Thomas' with Brian Clayden and John for a demonstration of bell ringing – and a real highlight, a chance to have a go! Out and about Bradwell on Wednesday the group, now including more of our international volunteers, stood at the base of one of our wind generators for a question and answer session, kindly hosted by Teresa and Michael Fowler. The technical and international climate implications of options for power generation continued after lunch, with a talk and discussion with representatives from the proposed Bradwell B team. Yet more brainpower required in the evening, and power to the elbow too, as The Cricketers kindly hosted a Charity Quiz in aid of Othona's Education Hut. People made their way slowly home via Maldon – and many were quick to email and write to say just how much they had appreciated the warm welcome and interest from our village.

August continued with a full and fascinating programme of activities for all ages and interests – puppets, concerts, food, fellowship and fun. The Summer Season is how Othona began so many years ago, and is still at the heart of our Community, when people return year after year – joined by first-timers, local "sea-wallers" and international volunteers – up to 80 people all led by our resident team of three: Tim Fox and Debbie and Richard Sanders, plus volunteers.

In September Othona winds down the summer season with "A Time to Simply Be," from Mon 2 Sept to Thurs 5 Sept – no pre-planned activities, just visit or stay, read, relax, chat, walk...enjoy!

Tim Fox is our Warden/Manager. Full details of Programme and Charges 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 – just ask for an exit token to leave through our wind-powered gate.**