

Farewells and New Beginnings at the Othona Community.

The Othona Community wish a Very Happy and Joyful Easter to all our members, friends, neighbours and all of you who read Village View. We hope and pray for blessings within and beyond our villages, to spread throughout the world, bringing health, peace and freedom, in the wonderful way we are encouraged to ask of God our Father, in the words of the Lord's Prayer: "Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven."

At Easter we are offered a new beginning through the death and resurrection of Jesus. At Othona, too we have some endings and new beginnings.

Tim Fox, our Manager/Warden for many years, including the time around the turn of the millennium, and in more recent times, is leaving after Easter to start the next adventures in his life. From 1st May our Manager/Wardens will be two people well known to you as part of the Othona Resident Team – Debbie and Richard Sanders, job-sharing. I (Ruth Bull) also step down as Trustee/Director of the Othona Community and Chair of our Bradwell Centre Committee, as my 10 year stint is completed in June 2022. I am really happy to tell you that Paul Coleman is filling this position. Paul is committed to the Christian fellowship of the Community, and is looking forward to meeting you and supporting Othona, sustaining our ethos and looking forward to whatever the Lord requires of us in the future. He will be supported by you all, including the body of Othona trustees and directors, chaired by Clare Fuller Gough. You are all encouraged to welcome and support our incoming Managers and Bradwell Trustee Chair, who are taking forward the spirit – and the hard work – of running this Community for the good of so many.

When Tim first managed Othona he established our School groups – local and nearby schools bringing groups of pupils to visit or stay for a few days to enjoy the beautiful surroundings, and learn a little of what it means to live in community. Returning as Warden again more recently, Tim continued to welcome school groups and to grow and increase the number of people finding Othona through many and various Groups, including Churches and other faith groups, young people, and those experiencing the difficulties of life because of race or gender. As well as keeping up our open Programmed events for all-comers, we have seen family celebrations, weddings and memorials.

Throughout this time, Tim has increased the number of Volunteers we see at Othona, including local people and international groups, cooking, cleaning, gardening, painting and repairing, and always welcoming with a smile and a cuppa, all managed within Covid regulations and routines, with local support. Under Tim's watch Othona has seen practical developments too. First the yurts to add cosy accommodation; then the additions through the very kind support of the Essex Community foundation, including the Bradwell Wind Farm Fund: disability access and bus stop, pond-dipping and bird-watching improvements; the refurbishment of the Education Building for study and art space, and the sustaining of Othona Bradwell during the hardships of Covid closure times. Othona upholds all that leads to a sustainable and environmentally friendly

future, and during Tim's time here we have put that into practice through the installation of enhancements to our off-grid electrical and heating systems. New partnerships have been formed and are sustained, including the Essex Wildlife Trust, the Bradwell Bay Society, and the Diocese of Chelmsford where Tim formed close links with Steven Cottrell, now Archbishop of York, and the ongoing team. During much of this time Debbie and Richard have worked alongside Tim, so we wish Tim well as he moves on, and we wish Debbie and Richard well as they continue and develop the Work, Worship, Study and Play started here at Bradwell-on-Sea 76 years ago by our Founder Norman Motley, who gave us this message at Easter 1980: "Life is meaningful. Life is eternal. Love is eternal. The anti hero is vanquished. Worthy is the Lamb that was slain. He – and we- shall reign for ever and ever."

Look on the Website for news, and for the 2022 Programme, including Easter.

To learn more about Othona or to make booking or a donation, do take a look at our Website. Find us down the track through East Hall Farm East End Rd – through the wind-powered electric gate; don't forget your exit token to use on the way out. Tim Fox is Warden/Manager, handing over to Debbie and Richard Sanders on 1st May..

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