

The Othona Community in October – a Welcome to You All

You can't be in two places at once – or can you? Yes, if your special place is the Othona Community. Othona may not be where your feet are at the moment, but let it be where your heart is and it all makes sense. Not so much a place, as a movement – a sense that you have friends with whom you have a common bond, even if you have never met them. What do you share? Perhaps it's a common understanding that through sharing Work, Worship, Study and Play we build Community together. Just think about it – when we work together, we share the joy of creation. When we worship together we share the love of God. When we study together we spread a new understanding of a teaching that someone has just freely shared with us – about the solar system, about art, about films ... I can't begin to tell you how many topics have been discussed in the past 74 years! When we play together all barriers of age, race, ability and religion break down as we laugh at washed-away sandcastles, get excited about online quizzes or the Othona Virtual Flower and Produce Show, or experience the joy of a socially distanced walk by the sea – yes, Covid creeps in everywhere but will not win. Such memories, such imagination, are kept safely in our heads and in our hearts, so your feet do not have to be at Othona West Dorset, or Othona Bradwell, to be part of the whole Othona Community right now.

Would you like to know what is actually happening at Othona Bradwell? If not, stop reading now.

Thanks for sticking with us. This summer has been unusual. The Othona live-in staff team have mainly been on furlough, with limited hours to support the key administrative functions: bookings and finances. The four European Volunteers continue to be absolutely brilliant, cooking and serving, cleaning and tidying, mending and maintaining, meeting and greeting, all within the necessary Covid restrictions, so you'd hardly notice it was not Othona As Usual.

We have a programme for October, please see the Website for full details. Mid-week, Othona is open from Monday to Friday. Most weekend there is a special event:

Harvest working weekend – Fri 2nd to Sunday 4th October,

Weekends at Othona – Fri 9th to Sun 11^t October; Fri 16th to Sun 18th October.

Family Week – Monday 26th to Friday 30th October.

All are welcome, from Bradwell, Tillingham, St Lawrence, Maldon, Spain, Italy, Czech, France... just remember to book first, even if you are just popping in, to comply with Covid regulations.

Tim Fox is Warden/Manager, with Debbie and Richard Sanders. Want to visit?–See Website www.othonaessex.org.uk - then 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.