

The Othona Community, Bradwell, in Early Spring

What a difference a winter makes! From November to March the Othona Community has been closed to visitors, open to electricians, plumbers, builders, diggers, and deliveries of all manner of equipment. Now it is all taking shape, and by mid-March we will have Othona back – with a difference in appearance but not in heart. Sustainability and care for the environment are so important to the Othona Trust that a considerable sum has been invested in green electricity, a biomass boiler and systems to ensure efficient use of our resources, cutting our carbon footprint towards zero. But there would be no sense in making all these changes to fit us for the future, if there was no future. Many of us have been staying at Othona, supporting and assisting in many different ways, for many years. We believe the spirit of Community – the love, friendships, fellowship, sharing with people of all faiths and none, all ages, all backgrounds, all abilities or disabilities - these are the reason for the existence of Othona. One name, two Centres, (Bradwell, Essex, and Burton Bradstock, West Dorset) and one ever-changing body of people from our local villages, from Essex and East London, from the Dorset area and much further afield and overseas. All are welcome. **The Working Weekend in March is cancelled, but come and enjoy our Spring Retreat Fri March 27th to Sun March 29th – promising an insightful weekend lead by Bishop of Bradwell John Perumbalath. Resident or day visitors welcome.**

We have recently held a Trustees weekend – to hammer out the nuts & bolts and serious financial issues surrounding our developments both in Essex and in Dorset. Our next trustees' weekend, this autumn, is to be much more focussed on people – young people, the future of Othona and of this troubled world. Some thoughts floating around will be grown, nurtured and developed and will flower after many of us are gone. So here are some of these random thoughts from various people in conversation. We need you join this conversation with Othona.

Young people don't want Oldies to tell them what they want – they know for themselves. Fully involve the really young teenagers so they can enjoy the Community as they grow up, and then take on responsibilities, and make their own future Othona. Instead of talking **about** the younger generation, talk **with** them. Doing things together is what makes Othona special – making bread makes more than bread, many friendships grow in the kitchen. Young people don't want to be taken round yet another museum, but love involvement and interaction, finding out how things work – and what makes people tick, too – education without “being educated.” Othona is an interesting place for young asylum seekers to be involved in some work, within a non-judgemental group, receiving accommodation and meals in return. Do we have an Extinction Rebellion around here? Othona is a great place to meet informally or book a time together to share, plan, see and live an environmentally sustainable life. Does anyone young ever read Village View? Othona is here for you, come and make it your own.

Tim Fox is our Warden/Manager. Full details of Programme and Charges can be found on our Website www.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.**