

The Othona Community in Spring.

Easter was a wonderful occasion at Othona. It is a joy to have an ecumenical community sharing Christian Spirituality and Worship with our friends from St Thomas' and surrounding Churches – and with people of all faiths and none. From the Maundy Thursday Passover meal to the final painted egg being rolled down the sea wall, from the beautiful music to the magic of the fireworks on that chilly dawn service led by our Bishop Stephen Cottrell, everyone enjoyed the warm Othona welcome and fun. And Bishop Stephen joined with Othona again for our Spring Retreat, where Tim Fox and his team of staff and volunteers, with some Othona regulars, were joined by new faces and day visitors from the Village – always welcome.

Tim's Team is now looking a little different, as we say Goodbye to Sandra and Dave who have supported us so well for three years, and to our wonderful group of young European Volunteers Anouk, Tosca and Janis – and we welcome Debbie and Richard, our new resident members. I am sure people of our nearby villages will make them feel welcome. Events are coming up thick and fast now - Spring Working Weekend 4th – 7th May, local day visitors are very welcome to join in a variety of tasks, food and fellowship for any hours you can spare. Spring Watch is a very popular annual event, 14th – 17th May with leaders from the Essex Wildlife Trust, exploring the local countryside, walking by the Blackwater estuary, talks, films – please ask about the programme if you want to share some time as a Day Visitor. Open Space from 14th – 17th May runs alongside Spring Watch for those who would like to share Community time without any planned activities or programme. And finally – for May – a Half-Term Holiday Break 28th May to 1st June. As well as fun for children at Othona, we are offering them a chance to join in with outdoor activities at Bradwell Waterside.

Othona would not be the very special Community it is, without the ongoing renewal of resident teams, volunteers, regulars and new faces from near and far, furthering the spirit of Othona in the Community's Centres at Bradwell and in Dorset. All are welcome, many discover Othona when walking along the sea wall – just pop in for a cuppa. We like to balance the present moment with an eye to the future – where will Othona be reaching to in the next few years – and who will be there? Lots of ideas, information and details of our Programme can be found on our new 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.