

Cllr Bass received a very warm welcome from Tim Fox, the Warden, and his team who recounted that Othona was set up following the Second World War by RAF chaplain Norman Motley as a place for people of all faiths and none to find reconciliation and renewal. From small beginnings, the accommodation has grown with the help of various grants including several from the Essex Community Foundation as well as fundraising from members. The Chairman was pleased to be able to tour the site and existing facilities and learned that investigation is underway to increase energy efficiency on the site. The buildings and yurts at this community located on the Blackwater Estuary are available all year around to accommodate visitors attending a range of courses and events. With the help of staff and 20+ volunteers, offers include thought provoking study sessions; art, music, wildlife and working weekends, and half term activity weeks for families. All events are structured around the community's core values of work, worship, study and play. The Chairman learned from Mr Fox that the Community is starting to run regular mother and child activities for the local community.