

## **Othona Bradwell Warden's Report to Centre Committee, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018.**

It is just over a month since our last BCC, and this covered a fairly quiet time for Bradwell in some respects.

There were some things which went really well, to share with you – and one or two difficulties we need to consider together as a BCC.

We had some weekend bookings that went well, although the New Year is generally low in numbers. Tim had an exciting holiday, back to Kenya to share his village farm projects and tour of the region with a group. As with all holiday periods for our small staff team, this left the remaining few to run Othona. The office work, the catering and cooking, the meeting and greeting of expected and unexpected guests, and time to share with the village- Community shop, Church, Pubs and friendships, often mean little time for relaxation. There was a good sense of sharing responsibilities between Sandra and Dave, Pete and John, Anouk, Tosca and Yanis, and help from regular volunteers. As an “Intentional community” who have all chosen this life of sharing and who have the best of intentions to live in harmony – with little financial reward – the demands can be heavy, although the joys always seem to outweigh them.

The hardest time was in Family Week. Othona was fully booked, including some 22 children. On two of the four days we included an afternoon at the Bradwell Outdoor Activity Centre. But there were tensions between some of the families, some lack of understanding that Community living means sharing a little of the work each day and taking responsibility for one's own children. There was some damage done to our property, but hopefully no permanent damage to relationships – Dave and Sandra worked tirelessly to keep things together. The effects of our tightening budget is also causing some stress as Tim has to make creative decisions on how to balance the books, balance his team and keep up good relations with our local Church and community – his days running the Cricketers are behind him.

The 2018 Programme is out and very well received. There is some doubt the Bradwell (Pilgrimage) Festival will continue in its recent form. Rev Steven has visited to work with Tim in preparation for our Easter celebrations, and the EVS team have plans underway for some Easter fun, before we sadly say goodbye to our European friends, and to Sandra and Dave. We need to plan together for welcome and induction of Debbie and Richard as they come to live with us.

Tim Fox and Roo Bull.