

Warden's Report – 6th May 2018 – Tim Fox and Roo Bull.

Staffing: we have said goodbye to Dave and Sandra Hodgson-Brown who made a huge contribution to Othona over the past three years – we wish them well in their retirement. With a month's overlap we warmly welcome Debbie and Richard Sanders, who take on the day-to-day running of Othona with Tim. John the Chef and Peter Baird (maintenance) continue part-time.

Volunteers – more goodbyes this week – to Yanis, Anouk and Tosca from EVS, with thanks to them for the year they have given us – and Tosca will return in the summer, joining other summer volunteers and the Helpers Team, currently being organised by Martin Riemer and Tim.

Web Site – many thanks to Dave & Sandra for ensuring this is up and running. We believe it looks better and is much more informative and responsive. We still need improvements all round, including the BCC presence on the Site.

Maintenance – The Hut is almost renovated, the Owl Shelter now houses our two rescued owls, and the whole site is being prepared for Spring/Summer with clearing, planting and ongoing maintenance. Estimates are in hand for the Disabled Parking and access pathways, supported by the Essex Community Fund (Wind Farm grant.) The generator is giving us problems so serious even Jonney and Dave Bull have not yet identified them. We are taking forward the strategic plans to review our power/energy supplies and have obtained a quote for installation to the grid; are now seeking other options for generation and storage of energy for comparison.

Sustainability – we are making some changes to our purchasing to reflect our desire for sustainability in all things – balanced by the importance of keeping charges down to enable people to visit without hardship.

Events – we have run all the programmed times, with Easter seeing more new faces but very few Othona regulars/BCC members. Gilo's singing group was well-attended and lively; other groups (never now called "outside groups") have continued to share time with us.

Visitor numbers – we need to improve our outreach and spread the message of welcome and inclusion – from Tim and Team and from all of us.

Data Protection, H&S and Safeguarding must remain on our agenda.

Networking and outreach locally, with the Church etc. keep us busy.