

Othona Bradwell Centre Committee (BCC) 17th August 2019.

Warden's Report.

Tim Fox and Roo Bull.

Tim & Team

Tim's team includes Debbie and Richard full-time on site, offering invaluable support in all aspects of running Bradwell - notably office and the books. Peter works part-time on maintenance, both at Bradwell and West Dorset. Seasonal Voluntary Association for Peace volunteers (VAPS) add to our regular VAPS and Volunteers.

Activity since the June BCC Meeting

The last School Group of the season was St Patrick's from Walthamstow, a lively and interested group: and we looked forward to the facilities of the Education Building.

The International VAPS Group held their orientation meeting at Othona; Phil Martin led the Greenbelt Reunion; and the Bradwell Pilgrimage returned to a more traditional format, with some 100 of around 300 pilgrims sharing lunch at Othona.

This led us into our Programmed time, starting with "Footsteps of first British Christians" alongside "A Time to Simply Be." The seven people who followed the Footsteps from Othona as far afield as St Albans and Canterbury really enjoyed their outings - more could be encouraged in future years. "Thinking Globally, Acting Locally" was popular and busy; Around-and-About Bradwell was warmly received by Othona and people of the Village - and Camp Do Re Mi is now a firm fixture in our calendar, generating much enthusiasm.

The Othona Muppet Show was attended by nearly 30 children plus their families, ending in a memorable show. We are aware of the confidential help available from Othona Trust bursaries to ensure no-one is left out. The Language of Eden was also a busy week, we look forward to seeing the films on their return from editing. As Fascinating Food comes to a close we are reminded of the enjoyment of growing, preparing and sharing our meals here.

Finances.

Othona has many expenses on top of the obvious staff, food and accommodation costs, but with income from groups, and a well-attended summer season, and generous donations, we are hopeful of coming within budget - see update from Angie Smith, to whom many thanks are due.

Building Works.

Thanks to a grant from Bradwell Community (Wind Farm) Fund, the Bradwell Building Fund and donations from Members and Friends we are on track to complete the renovation of our old wooden Hut, to be an Education Centre, offering residential accommodation - with facilities. Thanks to Trevor Darley for coordinating the Project.

Other news.

We are very pleased to have secured a European Volunteers Scheme (EVS) grant for 2020, with a new group of EVS/VAPS volunteers starting in January.

Links with the Chelmsford Diocese continue, and with the Orthodox Church group.

Answerback sessions run this year bring real participation in the Othona tradition.

We are excited by the high number of new people coming in - via groups, sea wallers etc.

Next half-term bookings are very healthy.

We are a Community.

Your Warden can probably do everything - but not all at once, not all the time! The practical support of Members, friends and volunteers is invaluable. Christmas is such a special time in the Christian calendar. Christmas is an Othona Community programmed event, and Othona wants to follow the tradition of community for families, for couples, and for individuals who may look to Othona as their "Christmas Family." Debbie and Richard have time off this year over Christmas (having run Christmas last Year) but Tim is concerned that we will not have the backup and support to be able to run Christmas this year. We need a strong Helpers Team - and asks that the BCC please volunteer and spread the word

Othona needs Your Presence this Christmas.