

Othona at Bradwell-on-Sea – Open Community Meeting 18th August 2022.

Debbie welcomed everyone and introduced the meeting. 22 people were in attendance. This is a chance to have your say –

What have you enjoyed this week?

Food

Music

Enthusiasm of people + Large numbers

The General Atmosphere

Chapel Services Involvement & Inclusion of everyone.

As well as Diversity of abilities, ages, ethnicity

Talent show was wonderful. Entertainment & participation,

Sunday Evensong – it was well organised, lovely booklet, order and sermon.

Enjoyed some rain! & cooler temperatures

Going to Downhall care home – Local Community Involvement, Responses & involvement.

What could have been better?

People doing duty rota - need to be aware of who is involved in programme to set their duty for timings.

Electronic parts for non-musical people - However time & financial costs would be restrictive.

Opportunity to build in more natural voice singing, rounds calls etc. which could involve more people for their interests.

Please put the Bed list of people attending – noted

Bring the Visitors book out again.

Someone to lead & learn more Othona Psalms.

Very helpful to have each day programme on the whiteboard, plus the week plan of Sessions & swims on the wall.

More help with transport planning – Kate. Especially in relation to train strikes. Various discussion of ideas for sharing transport and help, including Othona Forum suggestion.

Good Food this week.

Any Programme ideas for 2023?

A music festival – Accessing arts funding ideas

Quiet week – ‘time to simply be’ - July/June – Opportunity for people just to come and enjoy community.

BUT also, very important need to allow Core Team to have downtime & refresh space & maintenance work.

Balance needed to attract income & welcome members whilst also enabling space for core team & site work to be done. There are meditation and de-stress weekends in the Autumn programme.

Complex issues week – Serious Subjects, Opinions, discussions & inputs.

Previous experience showed that serious subjects’ weeks were poorly attended.

Perhaps a weekend is a better idea, along with the use of Zoom now facilitates this opportunity for hybrid engagement, participation and recording.

Ideas could include Freedom of Information/Conspiracy/Right to protest etc.....

Weekend for upcycling & recycling projects and activities etc.

Continued.....

Communication How is it? How could it be better?

Hearing difficulties + Sight issues need to be considered for people leading and making announcements etc. Communication has improved a lot – with monthly emails & messages.

Direct people to read the room guest books info, also make sure they are provided to people camping.

What can members do better to help the core team & Othona? – Keep coming, Doing chores, Please tell us how things are going & How things can be improved & ideas.

Feedback regarding Communications at a governance trustee level to ask questions & gain inputs, some people feel the absence of Full Circle, and some of the information included.

Clare Gough as Chair responded to confirm that the AGM is a very important and helpful opportunity for communication and questions and updates. Clare referred to communications available via Geraldine as the community secretary, plus also for people to contact Clare directly at chair@othona.org.