

programme of events



2018

the othona community
Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex



Letter of Welcome from Tim Fox, Warden and the Core Community

Dear Friends and members,

I want to give you a very warm welcome for our 2018 programme of events. The Othona Community has always offered a large and diverse choices of activities, with an option for everyone. We are also pleased to introduce our updated pricing policy on some events so more families can join us and enjoy community life.



Our events are all centred on our ethos of work, worship, study and play together. You will experience life in a community, living and working alongside other people, but you'll also have time to reflect and find peace if you wish for it. You'll find events throughout the year, from our Spring Retreat in March to the Christmas and New Year celebrations, from a quiet and peaceful weekend to a week full of activities for Easter or during the Wildlife weeks. You can also join us for our working weekends, where you can contribute to the best of your abilities!

The main season is the summer, where Othona is at its busiest, full of people of all ages and nationalities, when we can all enjoy the beach and the surroundings. The summer season starts with a Time to Simply Be, where you can relax and enjoy community life, followed by the ever popular Camp DoReMi. International Week embraces different cultures through food and activities planned by our Volunteer Action for Peace volunteers. You can also explore the sky and its wonders with our Astronomy Week.

Our Half Term Activity Weeks are always a huge success, so you better book early! The children will now enjoy two afternoons full of activities thanks to the Essex Outdoors. They will climb walls, go sailing or even become an archer for a few hours!

Whether you are an old timer or a newcomer, you are welcome to come and enjoy Othona Community life. We look forward to receiving your online booking form soon!

Tim Fox

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Fox". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the start of the word "Tim".

The Othona Community, Bradwell-On-Sea, Warden

Othona Community Mission Statement

Othona is an open and inclusive Community rooted in the Christian tradition and drawing on a wealth of other inspirations. We welcome people of all ages, abilities, backgrounds and beliefs to our two centres on the quiet coasts of Essex and Dorset. Through sharing in a daily rhythm of work, learning, worship and play, we seek personal renewal and glimpses of the sacred. In community we explore the relationship between faith and life and encourage one another in caring for the world and its people.

Half Term Activity Week

Monday 12th February 2018 - Friday 16th February 2018

Family Week

Join us this half term for a fun filled week. A chance to meet old friends and new, this week holds lots of exciting possibilities, whatever the weather! Not forgetting, of course, plenty of mucking in together to help the week run smoothly.

On two of the afternoons there will be the opportunity for children aged 5 and above to join in with outdoor activities at Bradwell Waterside. These will be land based at this time of year. The children will be supervised at all times by qualified and experienced instructors and the activities will include archery, high ropes, wall climbing and bike riding.



Arrivals: from 3pm Monday - first meal is dinner at 6pm

Departures: Friday morning 11am

Cost: adults £125 (£95), children aged 5 and above £30

Working Weekend

Friday 9th March 2018 - Sunday 11th March 2018

Working Weekend

As winter draws to a close and spring is just around the corner, there is always lots of work to be done at Othona. Indoors it will be time to give all the nooks and crannies a thorough spring clean, and outdoors there will be general tidying up of the grounds.

No specialist skills required, just a positive attitude and willingness to get stuck in!



Arrivals: from 4pm Friday - first meal is dinner at 7pm

Departures: Sunday 3pm

Cost: adults weekend only £42 (£31), normal child rates apply

Easter at Othona

Thursday 29th March 2018 - Tuesday 3rd April 2018

Easter at Othona

Led by Nick Partridge

This year we welcome Nick Partridge to lead our Easter Celebrations at Othona Bradwell. He has been a member of the Othona Community for 10 years and is an Anglican Licensed Lay Minister and volunteer chaplain at Birmingham Cathedral.



The Easter weekend begins on Maundy Thursday with a Passover meal. Here, Nick will start us on our Easter journey with a variety of liturgy, music and reflection. On Good Friday, we will meet with the congregation from Bradwell Village, and join them on their Walk of Witness Procession from St Thomas Church to the Chapel of St Peter-on-the-Wall with the Reverend Stephen Poss leading a vigil service. Saturday evening will see our traditional bonfire on the beach, around which we will share our final service before Easter Day.

On Easter Sunday morning we will be joined by people from the local villages for a dawn service at the Chapel led by Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford. This first service of Easter will be followed by a cooked breakfast back at Othona. Throughout the weekend our 3 European volunteers will be leading various activities including our traditional egg-painting, Easter egg hunt and egg rolling.

Arrivals: from 4pm Thursday - Passover meal at 7pm

Departures: Tuesday morning 11am

Cost: adults £210 (£155), normal child rates apply. If you are bringing two or more children with you, aged 3-18 years, then the oldest child is free of charge for this event.

Spring Retreat

Friday 13th April 2018 - Sunday 15th April 2018

Who are you looking for: Responding to the Risen Christ

Led by Bishop Stephen Cottrell and co-ordinated by Reverend Phil Wright

This year's Spring Retreat brings us an opportunity to explore the Easter narratives, led on Saturday 14 April by Bishop Stephen Cottrell. Othona extends a warm welcome to Bishop Stephen who has become a familiar figure in recent years, leading the Dawn Service on Easter Sunday and taking an active part in the Bradwell Festival.

Stephen Cottrell is the Bishop of Chelmsford, serving Essex and East London. He is a member of the Church of England's Committee for Minority Ethnic Concerns, Bishop Protector for the Society of St Francis, and Chair of Church Army, an Anglican society for evangelism and social outreach.



He is a member of the House of Lords and is on the Select Committee for Communication. He is a well-known writer and speaker on evangelism, spirituality and catechesis. His latest book, *The Things He Did*, tells the story of Holy Week. Stephen is married to Rebecca who is a potter, and they have three boys.

The retreat day will be embedded in a weekend of reflection, discussion and worship to which all can contribute. The weekend will be coordinated by Rev Phil Wright, Chaplain at Queen's Hospital, Romford and the King George Hospital, Goodmayes.

Day visitors will be welcome as well as those wishing to stay for the full weekend.

Arrivals: from 4pm Friday - first meal is dinner at 7pm

Departures: Sunday afternoon 3pm

Cost: adults £84 (£62), normal child rates apply

Festival of Song

Friday 27th April 2018 - Sunday 29th April 2018

Festival of Song

Led by Gilo and Sarah

Sarah Pennington and Gilo, UK Natural Voice teachers, return to Othona with songs from a wide variety of traditions. Many of the (unaccompanied) singing sessions are held in the chapel, candlelit in the evenings, where the sound has a quality nowhere else can come close to. It's no surprise that many who attend Festival of Song return year after year for this popular musical event.



No need to read music or think of yourself as a singer. Just bring your voice and a willingness to sing.

Singers are also welcome to join the event for the day on Saturday.

Arrivals: from 4pm Friday - first meal is dinner at 7pm

Departures: Sunday afternoon 3pm

Cost: adults £126 (£104), normal child rates apply. Including all meals and facilitators' costs.

Saturday day visitors including lunch and dinner £36 (£31)

Spring Working Weekend

Friday 4th May 2018 - Monday 7th May 2018

Spring working weekend

Come and spend the bank holiday weekend with us at Othona where we will all work together to prepare our lovely site for the summer season. We welcome your time and skills, which will be put to good use in a wide range of practical tasks, but especially in the gardens. Hard work and camaraderie guaranteed!



Arrivals: from 4pm Friday - first meal is dinner at 7pm

Departures: Sunday 3pm

Cost: adults weekend only £63 (£46.50), normal child rates apply

Spring Watch

Monday 14th May 2018 - Thursday 17th May 2018

Spring Watch

Led by Mike Sandison and Graham Smith from the Essex Wildlife Trust.

You may not be an experienced birdwatcher and just be keen to learn more about birds and the other wildlife which abounds in the Essex coast and countryside, or you may just want the incentive to get out in the fresh air each day in good company. Either way this will be an interesting and informative few days. We plan to visit the WildLife Trust's Blue House Farm at North Fambridge, walking along the river Crouch and spending time in the hides on the farm. There should be nesting birds a-plenty. We will also explore the Blackwater – walking 3-4 miles along the sea wall. In the evenings there will be talks and films on wildlife and local history themes.



Arrivals: from 4pm Monday - first meal is dinner at 6.30pm

Departures: 1pm Thursday from one of our nearby nature reserves

Cost: adults £126 (£93)

Open Space

Monday 14th May 2018 - Thursday 17th May 2018

Open space

Many visitors enjoy spending a few quiet days at Othona without any planned activities or programme. Open Space is your chance to do just that. You may want to walk, read, reflect, spend time in the Chapel or just relax! Our spacious surroundings by the Blackwater estuary provide plenty of possibilities to find both solitude and good company. Of course there will be the usual chores (duties) such as washing up or preparing vegetables that will need to be done. This helps to break the ice and build community.



Open Space runs alongside our Spring Watch event. Mealtimes will be taken together by those attending both events and you will have the option of attending talks and/or films about wildlife in the evenings.

Arrivals: from 4pm Monday - first meal is dinner at 6.30pm

Departures: Thursday morning 10am

Cost: adults £126 (£93)

Half Term Activity Week

Monday 28th May 2018 - Friday 1st June 2018

Half Term Holiday Break

Join us this half term for a fun filled week.

A chance to meet old friends and new, this week holds lots of exciting possibilities, whatever the weather! Not forgetting, of course, plenty of mucking in together to help the week run smoothly.

On two of the afternoons there will be the opportunity for children aged 5 and above to join in with outdoor activities at Bradwell Waterside. The children will be supervised at all times by qualified and experienced instructors and the activities will include archery, high ropes, wall climbing and sailing.



Arrivals: from 3pm Monday - first meal is dinner at 6pm

Departures: Friday morning 11am

Cost: adults £125 (£95), children aged 5 and above £30

Bradwell Festival

Friday 6th July 2018 - Sunday 8th July 2018

Othona is delighted to again support the Bradwell Festival in 2018, which, after the success of the last 2 years, promises to be the liveliest yet!

With visitors from all around the Chelmsford diocese and beyond, Othona will play a central role in bringing people together for this wonderful celebration of culture and activity. There will be lots going on over the weekend, including live music, talks and activities, suitable for all ages. The festival will make use of several venues including the Chapel, Bradwell village, the Othona site and the beach.



The festival starts on Saturday 7th and will culminate in a main service on Sunday Morning.

For more details, see the Bradwell Festival website – www.bradwellfestival.com

Arrivals: From 4pm Friday - first meal is dinner at 7pm

Departures: Sunday morning after the Service

Cost: adults £84 (£62), normal child rates apply. If you are bringing two or more children with you, aged 3-18 years, then the oldest child is free of charge for this event.

A Time to Simply Be

Monday 16th July 2018 - Thursday 19th July 2018

Summer Week 1 - A Time to Simply Be

At the start of the summer holiday season, we offer our welcoming, accepting community setting with its daily pattern of work, worship, study and play, without any pre-planned activities or programme. You may want to walk, read, reflect, pursue a craft, spend time in the Chapel or just relax. Don't forget your swimming costume and beach towel!



Arrivals: from Monday 3pm - first meal is dinner at 7pm

Departures: Thursday morning 11 am

Cost: adults £126 (£93)

Camp DoReMi

Friday 20th July 2018 - Sunday 22nd July 2018

Summer Week 1 - Camp DoReMi

Led by Matthew Parkinson

This singing weekend will cover some of the finest music from the American shape note tradition, which is the oldest American a cappella harmony singing tradition. It uses a distinctive notation and the syllables Do Re Mi Fa So La Ti Do (as heard in 'The Sound of Music') that makes it particularly easy to learn. It has been described as 'hillbillies singing Renaissance music'. The weekend will be led by Matthew Parkinson and a team of experienced shape note singers.



No previous musical or singing experience is necessary and we welcome everyone: children to adults, those who think they can't sing (you will find you can sing shape note music), experienced singers and everyone in between. If you are new to singing or shape note music, there will be a singing school each day.

We will focus on songs in The Christian Harmony and Southern gospel music and will have books to loan or for you to buy.

Due to the popularity of this event, room sharing is to be expected and there will only be space in Community for those participating in the event.

Arrivals: from 3pm Friday – first meal is dinner at 6.30pm

Departures: 2pm, Sunday afternoon

Cost: adults £80 (£60)

International Week

Monday 23rd July 2018 - Saturday 28th July 2018

Summer Week 2 - International Week

Co-ordinated by Thomas Vincent-Sweet

Our Othona family, whose membership base includes visitors from all around the globe, is something that we should be proud of. The last 70 years has seen multiple generations of 'Othonians' return to our beautiful centre at Bradwell keeping our diverse community alive.

Join us for a week where we will hear about different cultures and personal experiences and embrace a range of different traditions through food, presentations and fun activities.



Arrivals: from 4pm Monday + first meal is dinner at 7pm

Departures: Saturday morning 11am

Cost: adults £210 (£155) normal child rates apply. If you are bringing two or more children with you, aged 3-18 years, then the oldest child is free of charge for this event.

Wonderful Wildlife

Saturday 28th July 2018 - Saturday 4th August 2018

Summer Week 3 - Wildlife Week

Led by Hayley-Marie Kenney

Calling all Busy Bees! Come and join us for a family friendly week of all things wild and wonderful. There will be something for everyone as we spend our time exploring the beautiful Othona ecosystem of bugs, birds, woodland, pond and sea life. We may even see some nocturnal animals that live around the area.



It promises to be a fun week full of crafts, games and activities that are suitable for creatures great and small. So why not come along and see what you might learn?

Arrivals: from 4pm Saturday - first meal is dinner at 7pm

Departures: Saturday morning 11am

Cost: adults £294 (£217) normal child rates apply. If you are bringing two or more children with you, aged 3-18 years, then the oldest child is free of charge for this event.

Let's Make Music!

Saturday 4th August 2018 - Saturday 11th August 2018

Summer Week 4 - Music Week

Led by Catherine Andrews

A week of varied music making using a range of instruments, voices and our bodies. You are encouraged to bring any musical instruments you have, and anything else that will help us create an amazing programme of wild musical ensembles. The week will culminate with a concert on the Friday night to showcase all of our fantastic work.

Catherine Andrews is a music teacher and professional singer based in South East London, who works with both children and adults in spreading the joys and wonders of music.



Arrivals: from 3pm Saturday - first meal is dinner at 7pm

Departures: Saturday morning 11am

Cost: adults £294 (£217) normal child rates apply. If you are bringing two or more children with you, aged 3-18 years, then the oldest child is free of charge for this event.

Stars in Your Eyes: Astronomy for all

Saturday 11th August 2018 - Saturday 18th August 2018

Summer Week 5 - Stars in Your Eyes: Astronomy for all

How can we get to Mars? Roger Noble, who retired from Jodrell Bank Observatory in 2017, returns with his telescope and talks. As well as getting to Mars, learn about stars, planets, galaxies, black holes, and the universe! In the evenings Roger sets up a computer-guided telescope and, weather permitting, you will be able to see Mars and Saturn as well as more distant objects. The week coincides with the annual Perseids meteor shower, so there is a good chance of seeing a meteor or two streaking across the night sky. If you have ever looked and wondered, then this is the week for you.



This week will also include a couple of daytime visits from local Othona member Dave Bull who will be sharing some other wonders of science by way of practical activities suitable for children of all ages!

Arrivals: from 3pm Saturday - first meal is dinner at 7pm

Departures: Saturday morning 11am

Cost: adults £294 (£217) normal child rates apply. If you are bringing two or more children with you, aged 3-18 years, then the oldest child is free of charge for this event.

Salt & Clay

Saturday 18th August 2018 - Saturday 25th August 2018

Summer Week 6 - Salt & Clay

Led by Machteld Teekens and Piet Van Veldhuizen

This will be a week about the very real salt & clay of the Bradwell shore, and about the Biblical themes of salt & earth. We will do experiments in ceramics, burn clay straight from the shore, read biblical stories and folktales about moulded clay forms coming to life – and muse about the role of salt & clay in the evolution of life. Maldon Salt, the bricks of Babel, biblical Adam, the medieval golem, and we ourselves – it'll be all in the game.



This week will be led by Machteld Teekens, teacher and artist (poetry, painting and ceramics) and Piet Van Veldhuizen, minister with a PhD in Biblical Studies

Arrivals: from 3pm Saturday - first meal is dinner at 7pm

Departures: Saturday morning 11am

Cost: adults £294 (£217) normal child rates apply. If you are bringing two or more children with you, aged 3-18 years, then the oldest child is free of charge for this event.

Bank Holiday Weekend

Saturday 25th August 2018 - Monday 27th August 2018

Summer Week 7 - Bank Holiday Weekend

Don't know what to do with your bank holiday weekend?

Why not come down to Othona and enjoy the wild open space and tranquility.



Arrivals: from 3pm Saturday - first meal is dinner at 7pm

Departures: Monday morning 11am

Cost: adults £84 (£62) normal child rates apply. If you are bringing two or more children with you, aged 3-18 years, then the oldest child is free of charge for this event.

Finding Spiritual Meaning in Madness

Tuesday 28th August 2018 - Friday 31st August 2018

Summer Week 7 - Finding Spiritual Meaning in Madness

Led by Mark Thompson

Using examples from the lives of well-known sufferers of mental illness from history, the present day and the Bible and from his own experience as a hospital chaplain, Mark suggests that in spite of the suffering and darkness of their condition many do find meaning and insight and



inspiration through the experience of psychosis. There will be opportunity to share personal experiences and insights along the way.

Mark Thompson trained as a psychiatric nurse then after a short period in a Christian community went on to train for ordained ministry in the Church of England. Having served in three parishes two in London and a third in Yorkshire, he returned to the NHS as a chaplain to the institution where he trained. He went on to preside over its closure and witnessed the radical change to full scale community care. He worked as a chaplain in both a general and psychiatric setting up until September 2017 when he retired.

He now intends to continue his work with Essex Mind & Spirit which promotes understanding of mental health matters primarily amongst faith communities in Colchester and Tendring.

Mark is married to Denise and has three grown up children; Peter, Luke and Hannah, who between them try to make sure Mark doesn't take himself too seriously!

Arrivals: from 3pm Tuesday - first meal is dinner at 7pm

Departures: Friday morning 11am

Cost: adults £126 (£93)

Autumn Retreat - Living well, Dying well

Tuesday 18th September 2018 - Thursday 20th September 2018

The Art of Living well and Dying well

Led by Hermione Elliott, specialising in palliative care, working with terminally ill people at home and in the hospice environment.

Birth, Life and Death are universal experiences for every individual and any community. Being reconciled with the fact that we are all going to die informs how well we live. Avoiding the reality of death obscures decision-making and limits choice: as a consequence many people find they do not die as they might have wished, or where they may have wanted. This workshop is based on the premise that in a healthy and compassionate society, the art of living must include the art of dying.

Hermione creates a supportive and nurturing environment to bring death out from hiding and embrace it as an integral part of life. We explore the importance of practical, emotional and spiritual perspectives, while clarifying what we can do to be more open and supportive of each other as individuals and as a society



She is passionate about supporting people practically, emotionally and spiritually at the end of life and engaging with others, so that together, we can become more informed and confident about death and dying, recognising it not as something to be feared, but as a natural and normal part of life.

Early booking is advised for this event as numbers are limited

Arrivals: from 3pm Tuesday - first meal is dinner at 7pm

Departures: Thursday 3pm

Cost: adults £104 (£82)

Harvest Working Weekend

Friday 5th October 2018 - Sunday 7th October 2018

Working Weekend

One of our favourite and most popular working weekends: gathering apples and hedgerow fruits, seasonal cooking, and practical work as we prepare our gardens and grounds for the coming winter season. Bring your work clothes, and your enthusiasm for getting stuck in. We promise you'll go home both tired and rejuvenated, and with plenty of windfall apples to enjoy and share.



Arrivals: from 4pm Friday - first meal is dinner at 7pm

Departures: Sunday 3pm

Cost: adults weekend only £42 (£31), normal child rates apply

Half Term Activity Week

Monday 22nd October 2018 - Friday 26th October 2018

Family Week

Half Term Holiday Break

Join us this half term for a fun filled week.

A chance to meet old friends and new, this week holds lots of exciting possibilities, whatever the weather! Not forgetting, of course, plenty of mucking in together to help the week run smoothly.

On two of the afternoons there will be the opportunity for children aged 5 and above to join in with outdoor activities at Bradwell Waterside. The children will be supervised at all times by qualified and experienced instructors and the activities will include archery, high ropes, wall climbing and sailing.



Arrivals: from 3pm Monday - first meal is dinner at 6pm

Departures: Friday morning 11am

Cost: adults £125 (£95), children aged 5 and above £30

Fireworks Weekend

Friday 2nd November 2018 - Sunday 4th November 2018

Fireworks Weekend

Join us for the weekend of Bonfire Night. A dazzling display of fireworks will be the centrepiece of this popular weekend when our huge Essex sky becomes a riot of light and colour. Music, festive food and a bonfire on the beach add to the atmosphere and excitement.



Arrivals: from 4pm Friday - Barbecue from 7pm. Fireworks 8pm

Departures: Sunday afternoon 3pm

Cost: adults £89 (£67). This includes an additional £5 towards the cost of the fireworks. The supplement also applies to children, however, if you are bringing two or more children with you, aged 3-18 years, then the oldest child is free of charge for this event.

Winter Watch

Monday 12th November 2018 - Thursday 15th November 2018

Winter Watch

Led by Mike Sandison and Graham Smith of Essex Wildlife Trust.

All levels of experience are welcome for birdwatching and wildlife watching or you may just want an incentive to get out in the fresh air in good company. Bring along your walking boots as we plan to visit the Wildlife Trust's Blue House Farm at North Fambridge, walking along the river Crouch and then spending time in the hides. We will also explore the river Blackwater, walking along the sea wall near the Centre, and also further upstream at Maylandsea. Maximum walking 3 – 4 miles. In the evenings there will be talks and films on wildlife and local history themes.



Arrivals: from 4pm Monday - first meal is dinner at 7pm

Departures: 1pm Thursday from one of our nearby nature reserves

Cost: adults £126 (£93)

Open Space

Monday 12th November 2018 - Thursday 15th November 2018

Open Space

Runs alongside Winter Watch

Many visitors enjoy spending a few quiet days at the Othona Community without any planned activities or programme. Open Space is your chance to do just that. You may want to walk, read, reflect, spend time in the Chapel or just relax! Our spacious surroundings by the Blackwater estuary provide plenty of possibilities to find both solitude and good company. Of course there will be the usual chores (duties) such as washing up or preparing vegetables that will need to be done. This helps to break the ice and build community.

This year Open Space runs alongside our Winter Watch event. Mealtimes will be taken together by those attending both events and you will have the option of attending talks and/or films about wildlife in the evenings.



Arrivals: from 4pm Monday - first meal is dinner at 7pm

Departures: Thursday morning 10am

Cost: adults £126 (£93)

Advent Working Weekend

Friday 30th November 2018 - Sunday 2nd December 2018

Advent Working Weekend

A warm and friendly Othona weekend to brighten up the darkening days of late autumn and herald the Christmas season. Outside work will include tending trees and of course there will be the usual chores (duties) such as washing up or preparing vegetables and cleaning that will need to be done. This helps to break the ice and build community. Come and share the hope of the Advent season in the atmospheric setting of St Peter's Chapel where our candle-lit service will be led by Othona regulars.



Arrivals: from 4pm Friday - first meal is dinner at 7pm

Departures: Sunday 3pm

Cost: adults weekend only £42 (£31), normal child rates apply

Community Christmas

Monday 24th December 2018 - Thursday 27th December 2018

Christmas

Come and spend a few tranquil days in the Essex countryside over Christmas. Back to basics, away from the shops, the TV and all the hype. Enjoy good home cooking, log fires, friendly company and Christmas games. We will join our friends in Bradwell village for Midnight worship on Christmas Eve. Relax and unwind, walk on the beach and gaze at the night sky. Of course there will be the usual chores (duties) such as washing up or preparing vegetables that will need to be done. We find that this is quite good fun as a group and helps to break the ice and build community.

Please bring a gift for under the tree up to £5 in value suitable for any age/gender



Arrivals: from 3pm Monday - first meal is dinner at 7pm

Departures: Thursday morning 11am

Cost: £136 (£103) normal child rates apply. This includes a £10 supplement for each person. A £5 supplement will be applied to each child. However, if you are bringing two or more children with you, aged 3-18 years, then the oldest child is free of charge for this event.

New Year Celebrations

Monday 31st December 2018 - Wednesday 2nd January 2019

New Year

Come and celebrate New Year with us at Othona. Of course there will be the usual chores (duties) such as washing up or preparing vegetables that will need to be done. We find that this is quite good fun as a group and helps to break the ice and build community. We will also have fireworks and celebratory festivities and a glass of something to raise at midnight. Let's see 2019 in with style!



Arrivals: from 2pm Monday - first meal is dinner at 7pm

Departures: Wednesday morning 11am

Cost: adults £84 (£62) normal child rates apply. If you are bringing two or more children with you, aged 3-18 years, then the oldest child is free of charge for this event.

Bookings and charges

How to book

Please book online via our events page on our website.

<http://www.othona-bradwell.org.uk/Events>.

Provisional bookings can also be made by telephone but must be confirmed in writing or via our online booking form within 7 days. We advise you to book early to avoid disappointment as popular events fill up fast!

Rates

Residential 24-hour charges - 24-hour rates include all meals and accommodation

- Adults £42
- Concession £31
- Children £1 per day for each year of the child's age
- Full-time students £31 (current NUS card or equivalent required)

Please bring your own towel, sheet, duvet cover and pillowcases as it helps save on our limited energy. If you are unable to do so you can hire bedding and towels from us for £7 per person.

Notes on charges

- As part of a family group children up to 16, and those aged 16-18 and in full-time education, pay child rates
- Concessionary rates are for adults in receipt of means tested benefits (or on a low income). Please bring proof of benefits with you.
- There are no reductions if you choose to opt out of provided meals (for example, arriving after dinner, or leaving before lunch).
- Remember that half-rates are charged at working weekends.
- If you wish to have your own room and there are no single rooms left, then you will be charged an extra 25%.

Financial support

We endeavour to try and cater for everyone at Othona. Therefore we have a bursary scheme to help those who may not be able to afford the usual rates. If you wish to apply for a bursary, please do talk to the Warden before booking, as this should be arranged in advance of your stay. Your application will be treated confidentially.

Donations

Othona is a registered charity and we aim to be as affordable as possible. Our standard adult rate reflects the real cost of your stay. If you value Othona's work and can add a donation, please do so. Your gifts allow us to offer generous concessions and bursaries in case of need.

How to pay

For each event booked we require a standard non-refundable and non-transferrable deposit of £42 per adult. The balance of payments in full will be due no later than one month before the event.

Making your payment - PLEASE USE YOUR INVOICE NUMBER AS REFERENCE

You can do this by:

- Card payment over the phone
- Bank transfer to: Sort code: 20-54-30 Account number: 20681628
to 'Othona Community'
- Via PayPal to bradwell@othona.org

International payments

We can accept international payments from a euro bank account or via Paypal to bradwell@othona.org.

International payments normally clear our account in 2-3 working days. You can check the foreign exchange rate to calculate how much to transfer.

Bank name in full:

- Barclays Bank Plc
- SWIFT Bank Identifier Code (BIC): BARCGB22
- Account Name: Othona Community
- International Bank Account Number (IBAN) GB85 BARC 20543020 6816 28

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Do I need to be a Christian?

A. We are an open Christian community welcoming people of all faiths and none who are interested in exploring the spiritual side of life and sharing in the Othona experience. We say grace at mealtimes and encourage everyone to attend our brief informal chapel services as these are an integral part of our daily life. People with a wide range of beliefs find themselves 'at home' at Othona.

Q. Will my children like it?

A. Many generations have loved the freedom to roam, the company of other children and other adults. The chapel also seems to have a special appeal to children. Children and teenagers are fully part of the community and of the chores list!

Q. How long are the study/activity sessions?

A. The main study or activity session usually lasts for up to two hours, although activities may well continue on an informal basis outside of the allotted time and discussion often continues over the dinner table.

Q. Do you offer self-catering accommodation?

A. No, we don't have a self-catering option, all meals are eaten together, as a community.

Q. What is the food like?

A. Usually breakfast is porridge, cereals and toast; lunch soup and salad; and dinner a main course and dessert. We bake our own bread, and use home-grown fruit and veg wherever possible. We often have barbecues during the summer months. There is also an inexhaustible supply of tea and coffee, and a huge fruit bowl!

Q. What about special diets?

A. We always provide a vegetarian alternative to meat meals. Please indicate if you are vegetarian when you book, even if you have visited before. If you have a serious medical intolerance to any foodstuffs please notify us when booking. Please do bring any supplementary food and snacks you are likely to need. We can supply some fridge space and you will be able to reheat your food in our microwave.

Q. What about access for the disabled?

A. The buildings are fully accessible to wheelchair users and there is an accessible shower room, which includes a toilet, in the main Motley building. It is a bit of a bumpy ride across the field to the chapel (although some like to do it that way) but a lift can be arranged to take the long track round to chapel. We regularly welcome guests with a wide variety of disabilities.

Q. Can I bring my dog?

A. Unfortunately your four-legged friends will need to stay at home. We welcome assistance dogs trained by a member organisation of Assistance Dogs UK (i.e. with formal identification in the form of branded jackets or lead slips).

Q. Will I have to share a room?

A. Our four single rooms are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, taking into account personal circumstances. If you wish to have your own room and there are no single rooms left then you will be charged an extra 25%. Visitors are welcome to bring their own tent or campervan (normal rates apply).

Q. What are the bedrooms and buildings like?

A. We have 18 bedrooms across three buildings, plus five yurts. The bedrooms are clean and comfortable, with basic furniture and lamps. Some rooms have a sink, including all those in the Solar Building. We provide duvets, pillows and blankets. Our main 'Norman Motley' building is centrally-heated with kitchen, dining and communal areas as well as single, family and dormitory bedrooms. Our Solar building comprises a meeting/library room and five bedrooms. The Hut provides an additional two dormitory bedrooms during warmer months. We have five yurts, each with a woodburning stove and two single beds, plus space for up to three children on futons/camping beds. Our older 'Bank' building is used for day groups, crafts, films and other activities.

Q. Do I need to bring sheets and towels?

A. To save on washing please bring a towel, sheet, duvet cover and two pillowcases. Alternatively, you can hire the bedding from us for £7.

Q. What should I bring with me?

A. In addition to bedding/towels we suggest bringing:

- Warm and waterproof clothing suitable for all weathers.
- Torch
- Personal toiletries including sun cream and insect repellent.
- Medication you may need over the course of the event, as the nearest pharmacy is some distance away!
- Ear plugs, eye mask (the yurts are lovely and bright in the mornings).
- Swimming costume and beach towel.
- A book to read, or your favourite board game.
- Favourite readings, songs or poems for chapel services.
- A musical instrument if you play one.
- Please bring appropriate clothing and footwear if you are attending a working weekend. Tools will be provided.
- Leave your hairdryer at home. We provide one hairdryer for the use of all guests. If more than one hairdryer is used at the same time we risk overloading our electricity circuits!

Q. How far to the nearest shop?

A. The Bradwell Community Shop, approximately 2 miles away, offers a selection of items: newspapers, ice-creams, sweets and groceries and houses a post office (open mornings only).

Q. Can I go swimming?

A. Yes, you can swim on the incoming tide at First Beach, which is only a five-minute stroll along the sea wall, or at most times at Wymarks Beach, which is a twentyminute walk away towards Bradwell Waterside. Trips to the beach and swimming become part of the daily rhythm during the summer. When local swimming times coincide with mealtimes, we alter the mealtimes! Always ask a member of the core where the safe places to swim are!

Q. Will I have to help with the chores?

A. Yes – doing chores together breaks the ice and builds community. The chores (duties) are usually allocated at breakfast time and could be anything from preparing vegetables, to cleaning bathrooms, to washing dishes. All ages get a job of some kind. If you are here with a group running its own programme, we do ask you to take on table setting and clearing and washing up duties. Additional offers of help with housekeeping and cleaning are always welcome!

Q. What about alcohol?

A. We do not provide or sell any alcohol. However, after supper and evening chapel, visitors may share wine or beer (not spirits) that they have brought with them and drink in moderation. They are asked to clear and wash glasses at the end of the evening.

Q. What about smoking?

A. It is illegal to smoke in the buildings. There is a designated outdoor smoking area.

Q. Is there internet access and mobile phone coverage?

A. Mobile phone coverage is patchy for some providers, but you should get a signal somewhere on site. There is Wi-Fi access in parts of the Motley and Solar buildings. Mobile phones and tablets should always be used with headphones, so as not to disturb others. Many visitors appreciate the opportunity to ‘get away from it all’ so put your out of office message on and enjoy a few screen-free days!

Q. Who runs Othona at Bradwell?

A. The Centre is managed by a Warden with a small team of residential core members. Volunteer helpers are an essential element in the running of the Community, assisting with cooking, gardening, maintenance, and looking after school groups. During the summer a ‘helpers team’ is formed each week with community members taking on roles such as team leader, cook, planning entertainments or co-ordinating chapel services as part of their holiday.

How to reach us

By road

If using a satnav our postcode CM07PN may only take you as far as East Hall Farm. Othona is signposted from there.

Plenty of parking is available for vehicles. Please follow the one-way signs to enter and exit the car park.

Directions for the final two miles:

Turn right into Bradwell Village at the AMP garage.

At St Thomas church in the centre of Bradwell Village, turn right into East End Road and continue for about 1.5 miles, passing The Cricketers pub and Eastland Meadows Caravan Park.

Turn left into East Hall Farm, which has a pond at the front.

Turn right, round the back of the farmhouse, and continue to the end of the singletrack tarmacked road where you will find the Community car park.

By public transport

Southminster station is approximately 10 miles from Othona. Trains to Southminster depart from London Liverpool Street and usually involve a change at Wickford.

www.nationalrail.co.uk

The D4 bus, operated by Arrow Essex Dart (01621 874410) connects Southminster station and the King's Head public house in Bradwell.

If you require a lift from the bus stop you must contact us before the day of your arrival. Please don't arrive by train and then phone us for a lift – you may face a long walk or an expensive taxi journey!

Local taxi company

A2b taxis 01621 773421

A note of thanks to the many event leaders who are contributing their time and talents to lead activities and retreats at Othona during 2018.

Thanks to all those who contributed to compiling this programme including Anouk Bayle, Sandra Hodgson-Brown, Nicholas Mannoukas, Jan Marshall and Rosie Sinden-Evans.

Notes

Notes

we look
forward to
welcoming you
back in
2019

othona community

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ESSEX
Wildlife Trust

Investors
in Wildlife

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www.othona-bradwell.org.uk

Registered charity number: 1154204
Company limited by guarantee number: 8215892