

Othona Bulletin

Bradwell News November 2020

Gardens, chickens and wildlife

With the change of season, the community shines with the beautiful and special colours of the autumn season. Gardens full of flowers and fruits begin to transform. Cleaning and preparation of gardens to start growing new varieties of plants for the winter season and next spring.



This autumn new animals, five chickens, have joined the Othona family.



Thank you for your help



Next year will be the 75th anniversary of the Othona Community and during this period we have faced many turbulent times and relied on the generous support of the Community to continue and grow. Over the winter we took a leap of faith to improve the facilities both at Bradwell, to improve our green energy commitments, and at Burton Bradstock, to upgrade the bathrooms and build a fantastic new Art facility. These improvements are a great investment for the future but now having had the closure of both centres due to the coronavirus pandemic we find ourselves facing uncertain financial times. Right now your support is vital to the continued running of Othona and ensuring that there is a community still running for the next 75 years. If you are able to make a donation you can do this in our Othona webpage. Many thanks to all who have already contributed by donating, visiting and praying.

Planned activities

We hope to run our popular Advent Weekend at the beginning of December (4-6th) with Community Christmas (24-28th December) and New Year (30 Dec-2nd January) following but will have to see what the next restrictions allow. All events are shown on our programme page on the website.

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our latest Othona Bradwell Newsletter. Despite the fact that this summer has been different from others, Othona has been able to open it's doors. Covid measures have restricted the number of guests and the suspension of scheduled activities, however, anyone who has been able to come to this beautiful community has been able to enjoy the tranquility and landscape that characterises it.

In spite of the difficulties, it has been possible to carry out virtual activities such as Astronomy week, Permaculture, Othona Flowers... and the famous Greenbelt. Sadly after the summer season, we have had to close for November due to the national lockdown but hope to be open in December.

We were open!

The weekend of the 4th July was the reopening of the Centre and we were fortunate to have two lovely community members as our trailblazers. It was great to have Mary and Lesley staying, they even had a personalised nature tour of the site from Jonney as a bonus. Booking can be done via the website, emailing or calling us. Sadly due to restrictions we can only have pre-booked guests staying here or coming as day visitors.

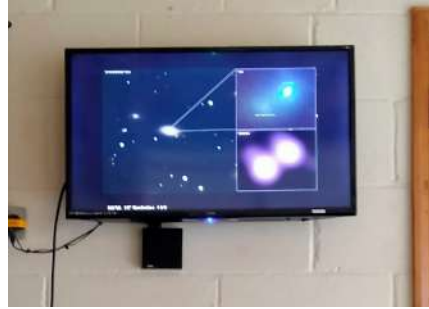


We have made some changes to how we run here for the safety of everyone on-site due to the pandemic. For example we were allocating a specific table for each person/family and operating table service. Full details are available on our website but we aim to make your stay here comfortable and enjoyable and will modify how we run as necessary.

Community Events in Summer

Although we were greatly reduced in numbers, we have continued with the activities that you would usually see happening at Othona. During July and August we had virtual activities, such as,

Astronomy week, this week featured a series of talks from Roger Noble, who would have been at Othona for this week, however this still gave the opportunity to learn a lot more



about stars, planets, galaxies, black holes, and the universe.



For Permaculture, we had live performances and videos with question and answer sessions at the end. The talks that lasted about an hour were

very interesting as well as instructive. The slides and video clips are available on the Othona website.

Othona Flowers and Produce Show and Art week, gave the opportunity to see the great work and creativity of all the



Community members that participated, with some incredible results. Thank you to all who took part and helped to make it a great success as well as fun. There was also a chance to meet the ESC volunteers. Many thanks also to all who made donations for this event, your support is really

appreciated. As well as the virtual events there were also activities on-site including our own "Greenbelt weekend" where many families came to camp and join in with Beer & Hymns, Chapel services and watching Greenbelt live on-screen. We hope to run similar events in the future

Community Events in Autumn

In September and October we enjoyed International week, where we got to know food and culture from four different

countries: Czech Republic, Indonesia, China and Spain. We have also been able to enjoy Film week with the revitalised projector and the cinema screen, next to the fireplace.



We had the visit of special guests from Acorn Village Charity, who were able to learn how to make apple juice to take to their facilities and later do an exchange with our European volunteers.



The Harvest Weekend was really popular and a lots of fun was had making juice from our grapes, apples as well as gardening, cleaning



windows, picking fruits, construction of mosquito nets for the windows of Main Building, etc. Thank you for the support from all the members who attended this



weekend. The recent October Half Term Activity Week was enjoyed by all the families that came along, there were outdoor and indoor



activities for the kids as well as pumpkin carving. Bonfire Night

coincided with the beginning of a second lockdown in England this year. Despite this, we have been able to celebrate with our ESC volunteers by making a bonfire and burning the Guy. The night closed with a few but wonderful rockets and eating marshmallows.

