

## Gardens

Thanks to the hard work of a lot of volunteers the gardens are looking very good at the moment. We have potatoes, courgettes, strawberries, radish and much more growing. The polytunnel is full of cucumbers, tomatoes and lettuce.



Over the two working weekends so far a lot of work went into making new beds, weeding and generally tidying up the gardens so many thanks to all who helped with this.

## Other news

The Nuclear Power people are still set up between the 1960s Power Station and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Wind Generators, scoping out the option for Bradwell B, and working co-operatively as our neighbours. Othona has also commissioned an energy audit, to give us costed options for meeting our future energy needs at Othona. Othona is not a political organisation. Members are free to hold their own views about the generation and use of electricity - so we do encourage people to share informed discussion, and we look forward to hearing more at Othona's Locals Week (July 20<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>).

The summer season starts soon with Thinking Globally, Acting Locally led by Malcolm Hardy, this is a great chance to consider our own impact on the planet. Bookings are variable for the different weeks of the Summer Season, with some getting well booked, others having plenty of room for more - do check the Website and get your booking in soon if you want an early choice of rooms - or the ever-popular yurts

If you would like to contribute any articles, photographs, poems or other Othona related information to include on our website or facebook page please send them to [office@othonaessex.org.uk](mailto:office@othonaessex.org.uk).

# Othona Bulletin

## Bradwell News June 2019



Dear Friends,

Summer has arrived in Bradwell heralded by the reassuring return of the swallows to the rafters of the back stoep. The last six months have, as ever seen many changes at Othona. We have a whole new team of EVS volunteers, building work has already started on the old field hut and the garden is looking good thanks to lots of help. After a peaceful winter we are

## Our Staff and Volunteers

We welcomed a new group of EVS volunteers last Autumn, Enoc from France, Jana from the Czech Republic, Enrique from Spain and Lorenzo from Italy. Sadly both Jana and Enrique have now moved on and we thank them for their hard work but we are fortunate to be joined recently by Eneko from Spain. In the photo (Left to right) are Lorenzo, Enoc and Eneko.



They join our long-term volunteer Kam, from Sri Lanka, who has been at Othona for over a year. They are involved in all of the ongoing work here - in the kitchen, cleaning and clearing, active in all the tasks of the Working Weekend and Education Building project -and best of all, being themselves, an integral part of Othona for a year. We have applied to have more EVS next year. Our team at Bradwell, under Tim's management, includes Richard and Debbie who run the office and housekeeping, part-time chef John, Pete Baird who is charge of building work and many long term volunteers including Jonney (sustainable environment), Trevor (Education building overseeing), Jan (helps with everything!), Zoe (cooking) and many more.

## Community Events

The February and May Half Term Activity Weeks provided a great opportunity for families to enjoy a holiday with plenty for activities for the kids and time to relax together. We continued our partnership with Essex Outdoors in Bradwell Waterside with the children going there for archery, high-ropes, bushcraft and other activities on two afternoons.



Our Spring retreat this year was led by Kate Monkhouse and Elizabeth (El) Laskar on the theme of Creating peace. It was a time of reflection and discussion and was a moving experience for those who came.

Eastertide in Bradwell-on-Sea is always a memorable time, combining the traditions of the Church with the traditions of Othona. Revd. Steve Barnes, long-term Othona member and friend, led a thoughtful, joyful weekend, well attended by resident and local visitors. The cross is central to the two-mile walk linking St Thomas' Church with St Peter's Chapel. The resurrection was celebrated at dawn at the Chapel - this year our new Bishop John led worship, lighting the fire outside the Chapel, heralding a volley of fireworks beside the sea, and welcoming Revd. Steven Poss as new



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Chaplain to the Chapel. Around sixty people came back for a hearty breakfast at Othona - and fun continued with egg painting and egg-rolling down the crazy course on the sea wall, many thanks to Callum Hardy for organising this.

Our working weekends were really well attended and some fantastic work was done. It's great to see many new faces at these events as well as the more familiar ones.

## Group Events

We had some very diverse and interesting groups here over the last six months, ranging from the quieter yoga/mediation to school visits. This year we welcome back the familiar primary school groups but also hosted a 6th Form college group led by Malcolm Hardy. The students seem to really enjoy their time here and they plan to come again next year. One recent highlight was a visit from the Orthodox Fellowship



of St John the Baptist (OFSJB) Youth group for their annual festival. We had around 50 young people from various Orthodox traditions over the May bank holiday. They really liked the ethos of Othona and have booked to come again next year. Another big event was a party to celebrate Roo and Zoe's 70th birthdays.

It was a wonderful day and the warm weather was perfect for the pre-lunch drinks on the quad. There were over 70 people here for a celebratory lunch for Roo followed by afternoon games and in the evening we had a curry night for Zoe's Birthday celebrations. Looking ahead almost every weekend is booked well into December including a large Wedding booking in September.



## New projects

Remember the old Lecture room of the 1960s? Or the Old Field bedroom hut ...or the Riemer Hut...? One building, much history. Imagine a combination - a fully refurbished wooden hut with toilets and showers - which will become our new Education Centre beside the Othona Coastal Park and will also incorporate an art room.

In our programmed times it will offer rooms for those who love the Old Field's peace and quiet. Work has started - so now is the time to volunteer your building skills, or donate to the fund (via Othona Bradwell) to get this project completed by summer. The Essex Community Fund (Bradwell Wind Farm) has donated generously but much more is needed - to turn the Hut, which was a real eyesore and in a state of collapse, into an attractive and purpose built building that can be fully utilised outside of the summer season. Any donations would be very gratefully received, please contact us.

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