

The Othona Community in December - reflecting on the past year.

Summary of achievements in 2021

Here is a taste of the Othona Bradwell Report to trustees, which was shared at the Othona Trustees Weekend in November.

Successful re-opening: Othona Bradwell was in a state of readiness and responsiveness to reopen as permitted by Covid regulations, and with full risk assessments, opening for day visitors for picnics, restricted residential opening, education and Church groups and delivery of the summer residential programme. We optimised use of facilities for Airbnb and use of the new Education Building, and camping in the 11 Acres. This was successful in terms of fulfilling Othona's mission, in delivering safely and responsibly with no cases of Covid here. We successfully addressed the concerns of the Trustee body in terms of safe reopening and realistic budgeting. We established better communications through social media and virtual events.

At Othona Bradwell we had a very good summer, with new groups, new families, and many young people. A strong sense of volunteering to enable us to open, with the Community working as a whole to deliver our programme and a real sense of community. People expressed appreciation that this is a safe place to meet and develop social interaction again after Covid isolation.

Positive budget, we set a realistic budget, and appear to be on target to exceed expectations. We had a very good response from members and the local Essex Community Foundation in making donations. We claimed all possible government grants and initiatives, and took every opportunity to bring in additional income through events. With the improved facilities offered after completion of the Energy and Education Building Projects, we continue to be open this winter with programmed events and ongoing group bookings.

Emerging business plan. With increased financial liabilities we recognise the need to match these liabilities with comparable income. Future budgets will need to take into account the costs of maintenance of a more complex plant, including the Maintenance Contract; as well as the indicative additional running costs due to inflation, and the expectation to repay Othona Central for the investments made in Bradwell in 2020. Bradwell will keep under review our charging policy for the Programmed events and Group/Educational bookings, and will seek more events such as family bookings, weddings and celebrations, as well as new groups drawn in by our improved facilities; and potential partnerships for capital projects. Our Mission is central to all that we do: sharing a loving and welcoming Community with all who visit, or stay, to join in some time together, through our daily pattern of Work, Worship, Study and Play together, as envisaged by our Founder Norman Motley more than 75 years ago- and with an eye to the future challenges of a changing world.

Strategic direction from the BCC Strategy Day.

We have reviewed the Strategic Plans approved by Trustees, and are pleased to report that these have formed the foundation for the work at Bradwell over the past 5 years. You are encouraged to view the video of these original plans, through the link: [2017 2020 Othona strategic plan](#) - ask Othona Bradwell for the Link.

In brief we report progress in all areas: Reconciliation, Christian Spirituality, Education, Othona Bradwell as a Local Resource, Communication, and sufficient and sustainable Resources to

deliver the strategic plan. We agreed that Othona's Mission and Core Values were overarching, and that Sustainability ran through all of our work.

We have not set specific new Strategic Goals or Targets, as Othona Bradwell is open to new direction from the incoming Manager and Bradwell Trustees, working within the Local Committee, but we have identified potential areas for development. The minutes from the BCC Strategy Meeting of Oct 2021 are on the Othona Bradwell Web page, available for you to view.

This Winter started with a bang, a crackle and a sky full of colourful stars, with the return of the Othona Firework celebrations. It was very special to be able to share this time with so many of you, our friends in our local villages - with a particular welcome to so many excited children. Now is an opportunity for the resident team to take some time out with their families, after a year when they kept the Centre open for us whenever we were not on lockdown. As Advent fell in November this year, we have just joined with our local Christian communities in sharing the joy of the Advent of our Saviour. This year Othona will not be open for our usual Christmas and New Year. Celebrations, so our thoughts and prayers are with you all, **wishing you a Joyful Christmas and a Hopeful New Year.**

Look on the Website for news of any events, and for the 2022 Programme which is now nearing completion.

To learn more about Othona or to make booking or a donation, do take a look at our website. Tim Fox is Warden/Manager, with Debbie and Richard Sanders. Email bradwell@othona.org. Website: www.othonaessex.org.uk. Telephone 01621 776564. Keep in contact for details of opening times – hoping to meet and greet you in 2022.