

## **September Village View from Othona.**

Village View – what does it mean? Is this the views of the people of our local villages? Or a sample of village life for all to see? Or maybe, these days, it's a satellite view of our villages from that Google eye that sees all the changes we make to our land – and even creeps up to our front doors so that the world may see whether we've opened our curtains. Put a Google eye on the Othona Community and you will see a triangular corner of Bradwell between East Hall Farm and the sea, with a few buildings, clusters of trees and a number of pathways. Zoom in closer – yes, the pathways twine between the buildings and the vegetation, there are ponds, a polytunnel and vegetable plots, parking spaces – and now we may see some tents in the extra strip of field lying alongside the farm crops. A new roof has appeared on a venerable old building behind the sea wall....Why? What's it all about? Who is there?

To answer, we invite you to leave the overhead view and walk, cycle or drive down the track through the farm, and come in through the electric gateway – all are very welcome. As August turns to September you will see that while of course everyone is keeping Covid-safe, there is a great joy at being back in Community again after such a long period of lock-down and self-isolation. People are the heart of Othona. Some are visiting for the first time, others have been steeped in the life of Othona since birth. Many of us return, drawn into the fellowship of conversation, shared meals prepared and cooked on site, making the most of our home grown vegetables and fruits – possibly picked and prepared by you as you chat with new friends and old. Listen – you may hear a bell calling you. Maybe you'd like to walk together to St Peter's Chapel, finding yourself included in a short service of Christian worship, a time of quiet, or a poem written by one of our young people exploring what faith means in a secular society – over a period of 75 years no two services have ever been the same. Have you heard that there are activities at Othona? The latest programme is on the website, and in the "Bradwell-on-Sea Programme 2021" leaflet. And that new roof on the venerable old building – a great renovation job has turned our dilapidated old Lecture hut into our Education Building with its art Room for all sorts of creative opportunities, Study rooms for the School Groups which double up as bedrooms in the summer, and an open room where there is a display of Bradwell Village Life from the perspective of the second world war RAF presence; Othona's founder Norman Motley was an RAF Chaplain, who established Othona as a place for peace and reconciliation through community.

As Norman wrote in September 1977 (Letter to a Community) "Overall, let us rejoice that 'hitherto hath the Lord helped us' 'and let us confidently proceed, certain that He will provide if we have heard His voice and will not harden our hearts. You (and I) are the Community.

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](mailto:bradwell@othona.org). Website: [www.othonaessex.org.uk](http://www.othonaessex.org.uk). Telephone 01621 776564. Those with vehicles will need an exit token from the office to leave via electric gates.