

The Othona Community in June 2020.

Let your imagination wander.....open your inner eyes, listen to your memory store, tune in to the splash of paddling in the sea, the digging of the vegetable plot. , the birdsong in the peace garden, the stirring sounds of the kitchen, the voices of friends in many languages, the calls of children and the cheerful welcoming of new faces. Yes, you are at Othona Bradwell – or maybe at Othona West Dorset. Now imagine you can choose a favorite week or weekend from the Othona programme – what is it to be? Star Gazing, music making, learning and discussing something new with an interesting speaker, beach fun, cooking....just take a look. Now imagine calling the Othona office, chatting with Tim, Debbie or Richard, sharing your room preferences and dietary requirement – hoping for a shared yurt and a vegan diet – or a single room and “I eat everything”then your booking, your deposit, your commitment, your anticipation – the journey, the meeting, greeting, becoming one of the Othona Community again. Well, so much for your imagination – you are with us in spirit, if not just yet with us in person. Even so, you are still a member, friend or local to the Othona Community.

We are really sorry that you cannot come here at the moment, the resident Community of 10 are safely Locked Down to protect themselves and yourselves from spreading that ghastly virus. Othona is using the government’s furlough system to keep the paid staff on site while we have no visitor income. You know, your payment as visitors, guests, community members is absolutely vital to the running of our Centres. We still have outgoings for staff payment, food bills, basic maintenance, fuel, insurances, IT costs, Projects for greener, more inclusive and sustainable Centressorry to bother you about this but if you were intending to stay or visit Othona this summer we would be most grateful for your donation in lieu of payment for booking if you can afford something. You are still most welcome to join in all the activities we can possibly think of on line. About 70 people joined the Othona Bradwell quiz night on VE Day – and a similar number “attended” a concert via Othona West Dorset. Keep an eye on the Othona’s web Pages and link in to Facebook (you don’t have to be a Facebook user) or go direct through Facebook.

The Othona Bradwell site, like the Othona Dorset site, has had to temporarily close its doors for the safety and health of us all. But Othona’s heart is still open. Do share in Community through letters, videos and updates on the website and other media. And be with us in spirit and in prayer whenever you seek the friendship of Othona, and particularly at 9p.m. on a Thursday evening when our founder, Norman Motley, established the Dedication Service in the Chapel to pray for Othona, and those who are there or in our thoughts. You are welcome to write, email or telephone for updates or just to share time with those who are staying on at Othona to keep things ticking over in preparation for our re-awakening.

Tim Fox is our Warden/Manager, with Debbie and Richard Sanders. Full details of Programme and Charges can be found on our Website www.othonaessex.org.uk or ring Othona at Bradwell (it’s down East End Rd and through East Hall Farm) on 01621 776564, **limited response at present due to staff being on furlough. When we re-open you will find Free Parking for all**

visitors to Othona – just ask for an exit token to leave through our wind-powered gate. Until then stay safe, stay well, we look forward to seeing you again soon.