

## **The Othona Community June 2022.**

As we look forward to June, let's also reflect on the month of May.

As late April sunshine blossomed into May, the Essex Green weekend was providing a shining example of how people really can come together in peace and harmony, empowering and enthusing practical responses to the Climate emergency. Othona was privileged to host this event, with around 150 people staying, camping or visiting daily. The Trust Links Charity, the Diocese of Chelmsford and Southend in Transition joined in partnership with Othona, sharing this chance to connect with others, learn new skills and follow the pathway of Community, dialogue and learning between people of different backgrounds, faiths and views. We had thought-provoking talks by Grace Fisher on the Climate Change Coalition, Sarah Brown, Green Christian, and Graham Burnett with his talk on Permaculture and the Outdoors, as well as his workshops on making and drawing with charcoal. These and many other interesting talks and discussions were complemented by practical sessions, including Duncan Seath's Repair Café, interspersed with lively music and dance, with by The Famous Potatoes, the Fishermen's Chapel Gospel Choir and The Wick Trimmers, as well as ourselves with an Open Mic Night. There were children's Forest school activities, time on the beach and plenty of time for conversations and exchange of views and contact details, as Bradwell became the channel for Green outreach. Othona runs with a very small staff: Debbie, Richard and Peter were ably supported by a well-coordinated team of volunteers, doing everything from marquees to music setups, from welcoming guests to cooking those fantastic vegetarian meals.

You may have joined Othona for Spring Watch: it is amazing what wildlife we see on the Essex coast; or celebrated spring by working and having fun together over the last weekend in May. These open community times are always a chance for local people to join in, meeting people from further field, including our European Volunteers, whose amazing support and fellowship comes to an end as they return home in June – a loving farewell to Alessandro from Italy, Nico from Italy, Olivia from France and Paula from Spain.

As a newcomer to Othona, or a regular local visitor, you are warmly welcome to visit, or share a meal or activities – best book if you would like a meal, or just pop in for a cuppa and sometimes even a homemade biscuit!

Coming up on our Programme is:

May Half Term activity break Mon 30<sup>th</sup> May to Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

Camp Do Re Mi, Shape note singing, Michael Walker, Thur 21 July to Sun 24<sup>th</sup> July.

To learn more about Othona or to look at the Programme, and make booking or a donation, do take a look at our Website. Find us down the track through East Hall Farm East End Rd – through the wind-powered electric gate; don't forget your exit token to use on the way out. Debbie and Richard Sanders are our Warden/Managers.

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