

Welcome the arrival of Spring with the Othona Community.

As I write, the half-term holiday is here, so please share a snapshot of life at Othona this week.

Come in, you are all welcome. Have a cuppa, a biscuit or two, meet some new faces, and probably see some familiar ones too, like Warden/Managers Debbie and Richard, full time resident team members Phil and Chris and part-timer Pete. You may well also bump into some local volunteers like Jonney, Mick, Deidre, Amanda, Michael, Dave, Ruth (writing this) and many others helping to prepare and lead the week. Residential and local day visitors always welcome.

Tearing past you – children in full flight with their families and their new friends. This morning they had a great time in a session of outdoor games, including parachute games. Time for a delicious lunch – home cooking with freshly baked bread – then Bottle Rockets! Parents, grandparents, single people and couples who love the atmosphere of Othona and enjoy the freedom to be peaceful or to chat – happy news, sad news, hopes and fears, personal and international concerns, all part of the warmth and friendship “where two or three are gathered together, I am with you;” including the opportunity to worship together at st Peter’s on the Wall Chapel.

Mention of the recent trustee’s weekend, held at the Othona Community’s other Centre, Burton Bradstock, West Dorset: a bit of business planning, ensuring Othona is up to date with the latest safeguarding policies (to be sure proper responsibility is taken for any children and vulnerable adults who come to Othona) with an opportunity for the Othona trustee body of Essex, Dorset and central trustees/directors to meet and affirm the nature and potential of this unique, dispersed Community.

More wonderful days of holiday for the children, they are sure to involve fun on the beach, playing around the swing, slide and climbing frame, and time for growing youngsters to share, reflect, and take on some helping and organising, leading towards volunteering at Othona, and opening some young eyes to a different way of life.

Coming up in March, to welcome spring, we have:

Working Weekend Fri 3rd March – Sun 5th March, working together to prepare the centre.

Spring Retreat Fri 17th March – Sun 19th March, “Into your hands, encountering the touch of God.” With Brigid Main.

Sweet Success Fri 24th March – Sun 26th March, Enjoy the art of sweet making with Sarah Thompson and Cathrin Jones.

The Easter Celebration runs from Thurs 6th April – Tue 11 April, led by Andrew Gough.

Do look at the full Programme on our website or Pick up a leaflet locally.

Don’t forget the Essex Green weekend Fri 28 April to Mon 1st May, run with Trust Links.

Othona is accessed through East Hall Farm, East End Road, Bradwell on Sea, through the wind-powered gate: don't forget to collect your exit token from the office. The Manager/Wardens are Debbie and Richard Sanders, supported by team members Phil Martin, Peter and Chris. The Website is www.othonaessex.org.uk. Email bradwell@othona.org. Telephone 01621 776564.