

**Dear Members, Supporters and Friends,**

I hope that this newsletter from Othona Trustees finds you well.

Firstly, advance diary notice of...

**the Annual General Meeting for The Othona Community Trust 277843**

**Saturday 25th September 11.00-12.30 by Zoom**

We have decided to hold the AGM virtually this year. Last year's Zoom meeting went well, freed from the necessity of travelling to London more people were able to attend. We hope that many of you will be interested to join us this year to hear more about the work and developments at the two centres.

September is a long time to wait and the Trustees feel that it is important to let you know how we have fared these past months. Unfortunately we were not able to open for Christmas or New Year. This was a great disappointment to us as well as many of you. We are in the process of re-opening our centres. Please see our websites for up to date information on booking. We are so looking forward to seeing you back with us.

We have used our enforced down time productively. Both centres have been reviewing and refocusing their work, finishing the extensive refurbishment projects and running virtual groups and events. West Dorset are recruiting a housekeeper and a caterer, Bradwell are recruiting their European volunteers.

Trustees have also been busy. Very special thanks go to Angie Smith, our Trustee Treasurer who has looked after our finances with such care and attention during these difficult months. We are delighted to say that with the generous support of you, our friends and supporters, government furlough payments and business support grants from the local council, that the centres finish the year having more or less broken even. What a fantastic result that is.

Well done to our centre management teams for keeping costs down. A very heartfelt thanks to you our supporters for giving so generously. The Charity as a whole returns a deficit of about £30,000 for the year which is our charity running costs, accountancy, legal costs, insurance, websites etc. Finalised figures will be presented in September.

We are sad to see some of our Trustees moving on and are delighted to welcome both new and old friends onto the board.

We say farewell to Angie as our Trustee Treasurer, giving thanks for her expertise and commitment. The clarity that she has brought to our accounting systems has been

invaluable. The financial workload to support the refurbishment projects and the additional work of claiming for furlough payments and grants has made the past year very onerous. Thank you Angie.

We say farewell to Liz Johnson, our Trustee lead for safeguarding. Liz will be known to many and has been involved in the Community since she was a child. Liz has brought her love of the Community and particular expertise in safeguarding to the board and we are grateful for her oversight. Liz is enjoying her new role as grandmother and bringing 3 generations of her family to stay at the centres.

We said farewell to Phil Martin, a link Trustee at Bradwell who brought expertise in facilities management, business development and general people management skills. Phil's work as a senior manager for a Christian care home company was severely impacted by the pandemic and he needed to stand down as a Trustee. We thank him for his ongoing commitment to the work of Othona and the care of vulnerable people.

It has been a delight to welcome 4 new Trustees to the Board. Michael Hunt as our new Treasurer, Joanna Evans brings her legal expertise, Dan Dutfield brings his experience as a senior safety manager in the hospitality industry and Paul Coleman brings his experience as an HR consultant and Charity Trustee. Dan will be leading on compliance and Paul on safeguarding. As I write we are recruiting a new secretary to the Board. Meet our new Trustees here- ([New Trustees](#))

We have been blessed with very long serving Trustees which gives great continuity and depth of knowledge. Elizabeth Sayers at OWD and Ruth Bull at Bradwell are coming to the end of their 10 year term as Trustees and need to stand down in 12 months time. We are actively recruiting people to serve on the local centre management committees. If you love the community and have skills such as administration, finance, building maintenance, people management, communication, marketing and IT skills do get in touch with the local committee chairs

[owdchair@othona.org](mailto:owdchair@othona.org) and [essexchair@othona.org](mailto:essexchair@othona.org)

We are delighted to be able to report that The Othona Community has survived the past 12 months, we are grateful to you for your support and look forward to welcoming you, your friends and families once again to the centres.

Clare Gough [chair@othona.org](mailto:chair@othona.org)

On behalf of the Trustees

Janet Webster, Elizabeth Sayers, Caroline Walker – Othona West Dorset link Trustees

Steve Barnes, Ruth Bull - Bradwell link Trustees

Michael Hunt, Joanna Evans, Dan Dutfield, Paul Coleman - Central Trustees