

The Othona Community re-awakens, April 2020.

Othona, like us all, had great hopes and plans for the spring. We hoped for a peaceful Spring Retreat Weekend with Bishop John Perumbalath, a joyful Easter with Rev Andrew Gough and the lighting of the Easter morning bonfire with Bishop Steven Cottrell, with our friends Gilo and Sarah leading us in the Festival of Song to round off April. Now Othona, like so many of the places we know and love and where we share our friendships, is closed for the foreseeable future. No....not closed. The Othona Bradwell site, like the Othona Dorset site, may have 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 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.

The Othona Community Centres at Bradwell and in West Dorset have both been closed for major refurbishments, and were just now re-opening. In Dorset they have all new washroom facilities and a beautiful new All-Seasons Art Block. Here at Bradwell we are well on the way to achieving the almost total reduction of our carbon footprint, and ceasing our reliance on fossil or nuclear fuels. The biomass boiler is up and running, for heating and instant hot water. The solar panels are in place and the old wind-turbine is still running, giving us some electricity. We have a diesel generator used now, but intended just for back-up once the whole system is installed. The newly refurbished Education Building is nearing completion – ready for bookings.

We are now starting a fundraising campaign to purchase the second wind generator that will complete our sustainable energy plans and fit us for future developments including accessible accommodation. . Othona will need to raise quite a considerable sum and will be relying on the generosity of all who believe in the future of Othona. ***Here is an opportunity to invest in an electricity generating system that is wonderfully green, sustainable, unobtrusive, and giving opportunities for fellowship and friendship at the heart of our community....do support us!***

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. **Free Parking for all visitors to Othona – just ask for an exit token to leave through our wind-powered gate.**