

The Othona Community in May 2020.

Welcome to the Othona Community in May! Just like every other May, the trees are blossoming with the early promise of apples, pears and cherry plums. The polytunnel and garden plots are beginning to show signs of a delicious summer, and the fruit bushes hint at raspberry jam and gooseberry crumble. Trees and bees, butterflies and breads-baking all point the way to a summer of community Work, Worship, Study and Play together in harmony with nature and the sustaining and nurturing of our wonderful environment through greener power from our new bio-mass boiler. We have not yet enough green energy, as we await planning permission and seek more donations for a new electricity source beside the Blackwater – no, not nuclear, just small turbine blades whirling in the wind behind the rejuvenated Education and Art building.

Who knows when our doors will be open for real tangible, touchable, huggable human visitors – but the wildlife are enjoying the peace and quiet. At present here, “Locked in” behind the sea wall we have Tim, Kaz, Debbie, Richard, Will, Sam, Laid, Maria, Stefano and Jana. But you have probably joined with Othona too, this Spring, not only with your thoughts and prayers but through the Electronic windows and doors into the heart of Othona. You can join the Virtual Stoep: just like sitting on Othona’s Stoep and chatting about Life, the Universe and Everything (did you know that the originator of that phrase from the “Hitch-Hiker’s Guide to the Galaxy,” Douglas Adams, sat here chatting and gazing into space and time as we all do....) You can move around the Othona Bradwell Website and find news, blogs and updates; you can go into Facebook (you don’t have to be a Facebook member) and follow the daily worship and readings. You can experiment with your Zoom community presence to share quizzes and who knows what else to come, in the spirit of Christian Community shared across the globe – well, definitely Martin and family in Germany, Graham and family in Florida, and “Room for Many a More.”

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 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.**