

Village View from the Othona Community November 2021 – this time by Debbie Sanders.

The departure of our annual visitors, swallows, from their nests at Othona marked the end of summer, although they had a very busy time raising multiple broods. The weather here is still wonderful at the moment but there is beginning to be a chill in the air. We had a good start to Autumn with many Church groups here for their annual retreats, YMCA staff training days and our own Autumn Retreat last week, which focused on the Importance of being, was really well attended.

We have our popular half term families break coming up on the 25th October. The offers families a chance to come and relax at Othona, whilst children can join in with activities at the Bradwell Waterside Outdoor Centre for a couple of afternoons and take part in treasure hunts, art, pumpkin carving and more onsite as well. We do these breaks at a very reasonable costs to enable families to have an affordable break away by the sea. If you are interested in coming for a day visit during half term week, then please contact us in the office (bradwell@othona.org). A number of local families come along with their children/grandchildren to join in.

After the last two disappointing years when we had to cancel our usual fireworks display, we are holding it this year on Saturday 6th November. The doors open at 6.30pm with free parking available onsite, the show starts at 7.45pm. All children from Vine School Trust primary schools are free, all adults and older children are £7.50 each. This includes a free BBQ and there will be mulled wine available. We hope to see you there.

Other events coming up later this year include Film week, where we will be relaxing in front of the fire as the weather turns colder, and enjoying some classic films, Winter Watch, exploring nearby bird reserves with local experts, and Advent weekend, with a special candlelit service in St Peters Chapel to mark the start of advent. If you are interested in coming to any of these events please take a look at our website for more details: <https://www.othonaessex.org.uk/events-listing>

Our new European volunteers, Nico, Paula, Olivia and Alessandro, have settled into life in Bradwell well. They are here with us until next June and we would be unable to run the Centre properly without their help. I hope you get a chance to meet them at some point. We have had many people visiting our new Education/Art building over the summer to see the RAF exhibition put up by the RAF Bradwell Bay Preservation Group. They run a café there at the weekends and there is a local expert on hand to share their knowledge of the role of RAF Bradwell Bay during the Second World War. If you are interested in visiting the display please contact us.

We are always keen to have new volunteers helping at Othona, if you have a few hours to spare and would like to help in our gardens, kitchen or with simple maintenance, then we would love to hear from you.

These words written many years ago by our founder Norman Motley, are still true today- 'There is no doubt that Bradwell is what some would call a 'holy place'. There is a silence

and a stillness. The great skylscapes and the spread of the saltings bring an immense degree of peace to mind and heart'

Every Blessing

All the Othona Bradwell Team

Tim Fox is our Warden/Manager. 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