

Othona at Bradwell-on-Sea – Open Community Meeting 11th August 2022.

Debbie welcomed everyone and introduced the meeting. 16 people were in attendance. This is a chance to have your say –

What have you enjoyed this week?

The structure and framework, timetable has been very good and helpful.
However, a challenge to hear Announcements at meals when people are eating outdoors.
Really enjoyed it! lovely people, programme and food.
Art is amazing, Volume of work produced is amazing.
Lack of pressure, relaxed, but guided and supported.
Very, very good - keep Art Week.

Anything that can be improved – we can do better?

Lovely to be welcomed by people on arrival.
We are always trying to make sure there is a Greeter
Liked all the cleaning & rotas- The whole place looks amazing - new improvements - well done very good, especially considering how busy June & July were.
Chris is great as quietly effective & doing - washing up & fixing things
Everything feels more in control this year.
It is clear and good that there are assigned tasks in the team, i.e., kitchen, office, etc.
Some people need to speak up more clearly in the chapel.
Encourage & guide someone to speak more loudly & clearly.
Lovely mixture of chapel services and leaders.
Linking the Art contributions to chapel is powerful and brings variety.
Lovely music of Coco playing the flute.
Also encouraging people to stay behind and the end of the service to listen and view the art is lovely.

What Ideas would you like to share for future Programme?

Nice pace and balance of Voluntary participation, not compulsory, but dipping in & out.
'Silent conversations with God.'
We do have the Christian meditation weekend in Autumn
'Hay Camp' - Jonney
Another Art week, also there was positive news of Well-being week!
Programme focussed in the afternoons to allow work in mornings

Communication – How can it be improved?

Also – Membership - What does it mean? And it's Value?

Annual General Meeting is important but having it by Zoom means we miss face to face and presence.
Virtual meetings attract more people to gain inputs & participation.
Saturday 20th August is the next open community meeting, and it will be blended as online virtual and face to face.
When are memberships renewed? We don't currently have a Membership Secretary so Limited capacity for promoting.
Example of CAMRA is a Ltd company with Memberships and members input to ideas and feedback.
Membership of Othona is £12 and it should simply be a way for people to say "These are my people, this is my community"
It may be helpful to think about Ideas & Options for membership, it's meaning, recognition, a token, perhaps a Badge.

Othona has four pillars of Work, Worship, Study, & Play: Membership should show a commitment to our pillars + Environment + Creation Care

Membership shouldn't be about rights but should be more about our responsibilities.

Discussion followed to confirm that "Othona is a Christian Community, open to people of all faith of none" both by its founder & purpose & its leadership.

At Othona we focus on what we share and agree and not what separates us.

Chapel is predominantly Christian & spiritual by nature of community we all share our contributions & experiences into chapel & sharing together.

Community is a healing process & spiritual process in itself.

Communications: It would be good to specifically ask young people, VAPs about social media – Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, Facebook. This was previously led by Olivia last year.