

News from the Trustees of the Othona Community

A 24 hour meeting of the Othona trustees, the Bradwell centre manager and the Burton Bradstock warden was held on 17/18 March 2007.

The meeting was held at Bradwell and was facilitated by Rosemary Tucker, an experienced management consultant. Robin Stallard was unable to attend and Dave Evans was unwell and went home after the first session. We missed their contribution.

The purpose of the residential, agreed at the January trustees meeting, was:

1. Spend time with each other and with God building and developing relationships.

We spent the first session telling each other what had drawn us to Othona and what kept us still involved. We also, over meals, found out about each other's lives apart from Othona. Jan Marshall and Margaret Lydamore led us in both evening and morning chapel services.

2. Review the current vision documents and their pertinence and relevance. *Following a useful two hour discussion it was agreed that the Community needed a new brief statement of its purpose - a mission statement - which could be used on publicity and which might last for the next 10 years. Sheila Maxey and Margaret Lydamore will bring a first draft to the June trustees' meeting.*

3. Review the structures that serve to enable us to meet our vision and review the key accountabilities, relationships and roles that enable the structures to function. *We spent a considerable amount of time on this and, as a result, decided we needed a second 24 hour meeting just on this – and fairly soon so that we did not lose the momentum. Pat Price-Tomes and Sally Clark agreed to research, using an organisation called 'Governance Hub', the structures which a range of other comparable charities find appropriate in these changed times. It was hoped to hold the next meeting at Burton Bradstock within the next 3 – 5 months. It would also have an outside facilitator.*

4. Agree future key objectives, assign roles and time frames. *In addition to the above, Dave Ball agreed to outline a process (in a paper for the April meeting) leading to an integrated computer-based financial system across the Community by March 2008. We were also reminded of our need to find a new treasurer as Roger Pygram had indicated that this would be his last year.*

Sheila Maxey