

## The Othona Community

*Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 3.00 pm on Saturday 26 April 2003  
at the Parish Hall, St Michael and All Angels, Turnham Green, London W4*

Present: Andrew Pears in the chair and about 45 members

1. Richard Syms opened the meeting with **prayer**.

2. As the new Chair of Trustees, Andrew Pears began by **welcoming members** to a building for which he had been the project manager. He thanked David Jenkins, previous Chair of Trustees, for his work, and referred members to the Report published with the Annual Accounts for David's assessment of the year just past. He went on to thank the wardens and cores of the Centres, the Executive Committees and their chairs, and the Trustees, for their time and commitment, pointing out that Othona is the product of everyone's input.

While regretting the need to postpone the AGM from its original February date, Andrew felt that the decision to do this had been the right one, enabling as it did each member to act as they thought fit over the question of the Peace March.

He informed members that DEFRA have postponed any decision about the proposed Wetlands project at Bradwell; that, with regret, the Trustees have accepted David Burke's resignation as co-warden at Bradwell and that they have been pleased to appoint Sandra McGregor as sole warden until the end of September. He told members that Trustees have this year been discussing the future governance of Othona, which they see in terms of each Trustee taking on a particular area of responsibility. The Community will be informed when that concept has been worked through thoroughly, so that everyone will know who is responsible for which area. He stressed the importance of good management, and pointed out that the Trustee body at present is too small to cope with the challenging issues it faces. He asked for suggestions to be given to the present Trustees as to who might be approached with a view to becoming a future Trustee.

3. **Apologies** had been received from David Jenkins, Robert Ricks, Tim Fox, Mike and Jay Greenway, Clare Marshall, Michael Giddings, Michael Tucker, Vera Higginson, Kate Mulkern, Roland Leonard, Steve James, Gareth James, Graham Cox, Roderick McGregor

4. Acceptance of the **Minutes** of the last AGM on 16 February 2002, which had been circulated before the meeting, was proposed by Robin Stallard and seconded by Ruth Gilman.

5. Roger Pygram took the meeting through the **Financial Report and End of Year Accounts**

He commented that the year had been one of steady progress, although the net surplus for the year had fallen in real terms by about £4000. Insurance premiums had risen substantially, but this was a world-wide trend. The Burton Bradstock Centre had virtually broken even at the end of the year, and although there was still a deficit at Bradwell, this was less than in previous years. At around £120,000, the Community's liquid assets were more comfortable than in previous years, and the auditors had had no fault to find with the Community's financial affairs.

Andrew proposed a vote of thanks to Roger and to all those involved in handling finance at both Centres.

Approval of the Accounts was unanimous, proposed by Robin Stallard and seconded by Janet Marshall.

6. Roger Pygram was unanimously elected **Community Treasurer**, proposed by Andrew Pears and seconded by Ali Tebbs.

7. Richard Armstrong was unanimously elected **Community Secretary**, proposed by Tony Jaques and seconded by Carole Atkins.

8. The meeting unanimously authorized the re-appointment of Ansons of Brentwood as **Auditors**.

9. Date of **next AGM** confirmed as Saturday 21 February 2004. Agreed that the current venue (St Michael and All Angels, Turnham Green, London W4) was acceptable for next year.

10. Brief reports on the two Centres were given by Tony Jaques for Burton and Jonny Aldridge for Bradwell. Tony mentioned the work that had been done in extending the scope of the library, and on the appeal fund for chapel development. Around £16,000 has been raised of the £20,000 that is necessary to install heating and make improvements that will enable the space to be used effectively. He mentioned the Internship programme which had been run successfully last year. A decision has just been made not to repeat it this year, but he hopes Burton will return to it in the future. He offered the Community's thanks to Jennie Knight, who is moving on after more than three years on the Core.

Jonny said that Bradwell was looking forward to another year as good as the last, but that resources would be stretched, and that volunteers would be needed to cover the summer, and in particular two early summer weekends.

Christine Cox, Membership Secretary, asked that tax-paying members take care to Gift Aid any donations they make to the Community, thereby enabling tax to be reclaimed; and Ali Tebbs, *Full Circle* Editor, asked people to keep sending her contributions.

Andrew Pears ended by thanking Christine, Ali, and Richard Armstrong, Community Secretary, for all the work they do for the Community.

(Signed) ..... (Date) .....