

## **Report from the Othona Trustees' meeting on 23 June 2008**

We began our meeting with the sad news of Sally Clarke's death on 20<sup>th</sup> June and Margaret Lydamore led us in prayers of thanksgiving for Sally. It was agreed to send a card to her husband and sons from the meeting, in addition to any personal cards sent by individual members. Arrangements were made for a tribute to be written for the next *Full Circle*.

### **Assets**

Tim Fox reported that the farm would be put on the market jointly by Stanfords and Savills on 27 June at a price not less than £1,100,000. He also reported that 2 East Hall Cottages had just been put on the market by Fen Wrights to be sold, along with the adjacent land for which the Community already had planning permission for equestrian use, for a figure in excess of £270,000 subject to a structural survey. As it would take until September to extract the piece of land from the lease, even a quick sale would not realise cash before then.

The Trustees authorised any three of their number to sign legal documents in connection with the sale of land or property in the Bradwell area. Sheila Maxey, Dave Evans, Tim Fox and Dave Ball all agreed to send copies of the photo-page of their passports and of a utility bill to Stanfords – apparently a new requirement to prevent money laundering.

Sheila Maxey reported that Michael Pearson, our solicitor at Hunt and Hunt, had been asked to register all Othona property with the Land Registry as this had never been done. He advised us to vest it in the official custodian on behalf of the Charities of the Othona Community.

### **Trust matters**

A new Trust Deed with the names of the current Trustees and incorporating the amendments approved in 2007 had been prepared by the Trustees' Secretary, with advice from Robert Ricks, and was duly authorised and signed by all the Trustees. It will be lodged with our solicitor and a copy put on all three web-sites.

The Trustees' Secretary also presented a draft annual report (covering 17 months up to 31 March 2007).

### **Community matters**

The Community Secretary reported on a free consultation with Interchange Legal Advisory Service on the question of incorporation. It was agreed to defer discussion until after the sale of the farm.

It was agreed to set up a small group to look at the present way membership of the Community is understood and organised. It was hoped to receive a first report at the November meeting.

### **Finance**

Steve Mortimer, the treasurer, presented the annual accounts for the 17 months up to 31 March 2008 in the draft form in which they had gone to the auditor. It was even clearer than before that, although the Community is rich in assets, it has a serious cash flow problem. The treasurer did, however, point out that the period covered two winters and only one summer, the time when both centres generate their major

income. Fund-raising for development at both centres had been going well and Gift Aid had added £13,412 to Othona's funds over the period.

**Data protection and the Othona Community.**

A brief statement, based on information provided by Robbie Spence, was approved and will appear on all three web-sites.

**Communications.**

The Communication Policy, approved at the previous meeting on condition appropriate reference to the Disability Discrimination Act was made, was reported as now being on all three web-sites. The Trustees approved a remit for a "Communications Trustee" but were not yet able to fill the role.

**Bradwell**

The Centre Manager's report was received, including a list of the many groups large and small which had used the Centre over the past few months. David reported that the application to EEDA for funding had been well-received and news of further progress was awaited. Trustees also received an account of the monthly financial position as against budget, and the projection for July and August.

It was proposed by the Chair that the Buildings Sub-Committee, originally set up by the Trustees during the period of Bradwell's closure, be formally disbanded, with many thanks for their work between 2005 and 2007 on plans to replace the Bank. It was agreed.

**Burton Bradstock.**

The Warden's report was received, including the good news that Con Cummins had been appointed as Facilities Co-ordinator.

A decision on the planning application for the rebuilding of Littleness would be received by 16 July at the latest and so far there had been no objections from the public or from relevant bodies consulted. If permission is granted it is hoped to start ground-works in September. The response with interest-free loans had been good and the Trustees were satisfied with the detailed planning done at BB. Because of the serious cash-flow problem, it was agreed that the financial situation would be carefully monitored by Dave Evans, Dave Ball and the treasurer and a halt called if the treasurer gave a red light.

**Annual General Meeting on 20 September.**

Jan Marshall with the Trustees' Secretary agreed to make all the arrangements as the Community Secretary had a wedding on the same day in Fort Williams – and had informed the meeting at the time the date was set.

Sheila Maxey  
24 June 2008