

Dear Friend



Hello again from West Dorset. Let's start this newsletter with something *not* directly about Covid for a change. Both amusing and serious, this celebration of unity and diversity was sent to us by **Richard Evans** who wrote it last month.

The Billion Faces of One

The British beneath their umbrellas,
the Jamaicans a-bake in the sun –
we gaze at the skies
through differing eyes
and yet, Heaven knows, we are one.

A truth found in Science's test-tubes,
a truth from Kabir or John Donne,
be it gilt-edged St Paul
or just scrawled on a wall,
if it's true then it's true – it's all one!

Must you parcel us up in compartments
labelled "Welcome!" or "Worthless!" or "Shun!"?
Don't compel us to view
everything just like you
before you'll accept we're all one.

We don't pray the same, play the same, stay the same –
in Christ that's all part of the fun!
At each opportunity
celebrate Unity's
billion faces of One!

Your Circles of Friends

Our picture today comes from **Katie and Malcolm Leach** who found themselves away from home, in New Zealand, when the lockdown began. Malcolm made their own version of a Circle of Friends in pottery class last year.

Katie says "he has added one figure (to match 6 sitting round a dinner table in more sociable days) and he has included some female figures in the interest of sexual equality!" I'll share a few more DIY circles in future editions.

By the way, tuning in to **Joanna Eden's** live Requests Evening on Facebook last Friday, I spotted her Circle of Friends from Othona on the shelf just behind where she was playing keyboard. Every time I or another member of her audience clicked an emoji to show our approval of the music, a miniature heart (or whatever) floated up the screen. And they disappeared into thin air... just as they reached Jo's circle. (If you want to listen in this Friday at 8pm it's [this Facebook page](#) again.)

Trustees' message

Part of Othona's vital infrastructure - mostly out of sight - is the work of those who serve as trustees. They're responsible for the whole charity, our centres here and in Essex. What's required of charity trustees these days - legally, financially, strategically - is a world away from how it used to be.

Othona being the sort of organisation we are, these trustees take a real pastoral interest too. It can mean countless hours of effort, done entirely for love. And too often it can seem a literally thankless task. Well, my colleagues and I are thanking them now.

The trustees didn't ask me to say any of this, by the way!! I just believe it needs saying from time to time. What I *am* asked to do is tell you there's a single-page message from our trustees, all about Othona's response to coronavirus, which you are invited to read on our website [here](#).

Come Walk With Me 3

Finally, another walk. After two short ambles round Othona grounds, anyone care to join me for glimpses of a favourite Spring walk on Eype Down, just west of Bridport? This was a treat for the senses in lots of ways. Paths soft and almost bouncy underfoot where umpteen years of leafmould cushion your tread. Birdsong galore and a distant child's laughter. Scents of woodland and wild garlic, gorse and apple blossom, hints of badger and fox. And one flower gloriously carpetting the wooded slopes - you can probably guess which. Here's the [youtube link](#).

I'm uncomfortably aware that *you*, reading this, may have little or no chance of enjoying the outdoors as we do here. But I also know you may be finding many other creative ways to nourish body and soul during the lockdown. Do write and tell us - if you want to. These newsletters are for your news, not just ours.

Tony - on behalf of all of us isolating at Othona: Robin, Liz, Kate, Gavin and Sean