

Fundraising by the Community: May 2007 - The story so far –

This is not a message from the Fundraising Committee exhorting you to give more money to us for the 'going green on the grid' drive to put Othona onto mains electricity. Rather it is to tell you of some of the events that members of the community have done to bring in money.

The big picture is that we are about half way to the amount needed for going on the mains. Much of that has been raised by Ruth Bull, with expert assistance from several people, from outside bodies.

Another important strand is the money that Community members and friends have given to Othona via covenants, monthly standing orders and one off gifts. The only person to know the details of this form of giving is the Community Treasurer Roger Pygram.

However to raise the rest of the money we will need to keep up our efforts, both group and individual. So far there have been several initiatives and events that members have given money to. Many of you will know of some or all of these events, but we thought it was a good idea to ensure that all of the community knew what has happened and what is going to happen.

Fundraising got off to a good start at the beginning of the Christmas 2006 holiday season when we invited you to give a day's pay to Bradwell. The day in question was the first day of Advent, Monday 4th December. Some people did send in a day's pay and we raised £470 from this.

After that quiet, contemplative start to our fundraising the events got a bit more active. Many members will know Paul Seckleman, and have seen him with and without a beard and with hair of many lengths, often depending on what part he is playing in the Southend Dramatic Society's current production. In December he was in 'The King and I' which required him to have a bald head. Therefore he did a sponsored head shave for Othona. For those of you who have not seen the pictures I am sure he will let you see them over the summer. This sacrifice raised well over £770.

Another event that I am assured there are pictures commemorating, and plenty of live witnesses to, was our intrepid Manager's Christmas Day swim. After a splendid Christmas lunch David Williams went for a swim (in the sea of course) and raised £375 and earned our respect. In the spring another Othona stalwart Roo Bull earned our respect, and Othona £152, by losing 12lbs over lent with a sponsored slim.

Starting from last summer we have had a fundraising table in the foyer at Bradwell, selling cards, packets of tea and donated items, so far this has raised £47. We have a couple of collecting tins out and about around the centre, suitably labelled, to relieve people of their loose small change and this goes into the building fund. Another ongoing initiative is to invite people to have their name forever engraved on a metre of Othona land. For £30 you can buy a metre of electricity cable (yes, I know you can buy electrical cable for less than that at Maplins, but this includes digging the trench) We

do not promise to engrave each metre of wire itself, but to record your donation on a plaque or commemorative wall or book when the cable has been installed.

So, the story so far is that Community members have persuaded other members and friends and family to part with over £1,800.

During the summer holidays (Saturday August 4th to be precise) we will have a Grand Fun Day. This will have stalls, attractions and amusements to keep all the family happily occupied and be a great start to the family activities week.

Please let me know (ann@vfroggatt.wanadoo.co.uk) if you are holding any other events or activities to raise money for Bradwell and we can tell people about it.

Ann Froggatt, Bradwell Fundraising Committee