

Education Otherwise

Editorial

I hope you will all enjoy this newsletter, I have certainly enjoyed reading the wonderful contributions and have been very pleased to have the opportunity of editing it - I've been meaning to do it for years! (Volunteers urgently needed - please see advertisement elsewhere.)

I'd like to introduce myself and my family: I'm Valerie Common, married to James and we have four children Geoffrey 14, Bradley 12, Jake 9 and Rosie 6. We have been members of EO for over ten years and so have met loads of lovely EO folk. EO has been a very important part of the last ten years for us, even holidays are planned around visiting EO families (many thanks to all those we've visited). EO has almost been our family and we have made many good friends through EO.

Our children have always been home educated, (except for the two months last year when Rosie tried our local school) and I have absolutely no regrets, I have thoroughly enjoyed our times together - I just wish life could be easier - I'm an idealist and (like so many others) would love to live in a more supportive network where our role divisions could be more equally divided.

Home educating can be isolating for the parents (usually the mother) and I feel strongly that we should be as supportive as we can to each other, we have our differences but we are all doing what we believe is the

best we can for our children.

We need the strength of our organisation to uphold our legal right to home educate and to continue to inform others of this possibility.

Lastly, I'd like to say a big THANK YOU to Pat Dixon, Howard Davies and June and Ian McDonald for their help in producing this newsletter.

Valerie Common

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Newsletter 105 August '95

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editor, nor of Education Otherwise as a whole. This newsletter is edited by a volunteer and its primary purpose is to provide support and communication between members.

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A REMINDER TO READERS

The EO newsletter accepts advertisements, offers of services, articles and notices of social events in good faith and CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE for the consequences of responding to any of these. Readers are reminded that sensible caution should be exercised when responding to such.

THE NEXT ISSUE

The deadline for the next issue is 1st September 1995, all copy should be sent to the editor by this date. All material intended as such should be clearly

marked "for publication". Please ensure you include your name and address. Contributions are more likely to be included if they are concise. Some editors may be able to use copy on computer disc.

Newsletter Editor for the next issue:

John Paddon,
63, Doyle Road,
Bolton,
Lancs.,
BL3 4SA
Tel. 01204 660671

The Children's Pages Editor for the next issue:

Hanno de Jong,
48, Montgomery Road,
Sheffield,
S7 1LQ

Educational Resources

Beverley Young is compiling a list of free/discounted entry into places of interest and discounts on books, equipment, toys etc. Please send any information to Beverley Young, 91, Lyndhurst Drive, Preston, PR2 1TB or Tel. 01772 735531

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Regional Diary.

AVON: Acting co-ordinators
Chris and Jean Smith 01934
414166, workshop info. from
Kathy Nott 0117 966 8265

BATH: Jean Edmiston
01225 334820

BEDFORDSHIRE: June McDonald
01234 341375 or Cliff
(Luton) 01582 508499

BERKSHIRE: Send SAE for
details of new venue with
camp fire cooking and
outdoor and indoor
activities. Also ice-
skating, German conversation
and art. Details Pat Connor
01734 662123

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE:
Joyce Moore 01908 562451

CLWYD, N. SHROPSHIRE,
W. CHESHIRE: Local
newsletter from Genny Bove
01978 754421 or Jan Flaherty
01691 791364

CORNWALL: Weekly events -
S.A.E. for listing from Anna
Wheeler 01209 890378
Complaints report sent to
L.E.A. Any problems with
L.E.A. contact Anna

CUMBRIA: Jane Gregory
01539 567344

DYFED: Camp at St. Davids,
8th - 17th September or just
come for a weekend. Details
Sue Hagerty, 01269 861902

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE:
New acting-co-ordinator:
Caroline Benham
01933 274273

STRATHCLYDE: Regular
activities. Details:
Rhona Cathcart 01563 522004
Shirley Shaw 01563 540063 or
Clair Young 01294 218562

SUFFOLK: Foxburrow Farm
Field Centre, 12th Sept.,
17th Oct., 14th Nov., 12th
Dec., Also parents meeting
17th Oct. details from Sandy
Howse 01473 712815
Reunion of EOers from
TJornham Field Centre/
Foxburrow Farm 1989 - 1991
August 31st. Details:
Mary Harding 01379 788285

SURREY: Meeting fortnightly
for outings centred around
Guildford. Details from
Penny Meader 01483 481882 or
Lynne Ryan 01483 503971

WARWICKSHIRE: August -
Walks in the Cotswolds.
(Philip 01203 318401).
September - Planning meeting
(Alison 01926 613619).
October - Ryton Organic
Gardens. (Barbara
01203 - 544562).
Young National Trust Theatre
"interactive" prouction -
"For Any Field" - 8th Sept.
Charlecote Park, Warks.,
Details. Sue 01203 543801.

WEST MIDLANDS: Activities
Birmingham Central
Children's Library, last
Monday of every month 1 pm.
Details Paula Turner
0121 603 8673

Report of the
Open Council Meeting
York Youth Hostel, 27 May 1995

All EO members were invited to attend and speak at this meeting, provided they were prepared to behave in an orderly and disciplined way. Much of the agenda was given over to routine housekeeping, and there is only enough space here to summarise the main points. Why was it a 'council meeting' and not a 'directors' meeting'? Read on and you will see.

One subject discussed was **finances**. **Paul Bentley** (London-Southeast, treasurer) was not present but had sent a written report. We had a balance of some £6300, but a number of claims on this were expected, after which he estimated we would be left with £3000+. This was not enough to print new editions of *School is not compulsory* and the contact list, which together would cost about £10,000. Later in the meeting we agreed to **appeal for funds** to help meet these costs.

Council resolved to ask **Priscilla Park-Weir** (Surrey) to take over from Paul as treasurer from the end of the financial year (i.e. the end of June). Priscilla is a longstanding EO member with skills that should suit her to the job. We thanked Paul for his work as treasurer.

Enquiries secretaries were now being coordinated by **Eileen Wilson** (Staffs). Thanks to several recent offers of help we were getting back to full strength. Changing our address had inevitably caused problems, but mail to the old box number was now being sent on, and letters were being collected regularly from the new one. To accommodate our recorded message helpline, we agreed, after considering the financial implications, to install an 0891 line with **Jude Ashley-Walker** (Isle of Wight). [The number is 0891 518303.]

Sue Hutchin (Kent) felt the **newsletter** lacked a clear policy, and presented a number of proposals. They were accepted in principle, and she was asked to bring draft guidelines to the next meeting. (Contact her if you have something to contribute to this.) There was concern about the reduced size of the newsletter, but we reluctantly accepted that we would not be able to increase it until at least the end of 1995.

Jane Lowe (Herts) had resigned as **publicity officer**, and we thanked her for her past work. A number of people had shown interest in being part of a publicity team. We wanted to encourage a network of regional publicity people, who would each build up a list of local members who would help with the media. For the time being we did not wish to choose a single person to coordinate publicity.

Similarly, we agreed to work towards a **special needs** support network, based on a combination of regions and personal experience. **Sylvia Jeffs** (West Midlands) had resigned because of the recent acrimony, but was still helping us with problems in an advisory capacity. We were grateful but did not want to exploit her goodwill, and were not sure how much she wanted to do. We asked people to put their suggestions and offers of help to the next meeting.

Sandie Cottee (Essex) reported for **Marc Cottee** that our current **membership** stood at about 2,200. **Maggie Swatridge** (Cornwall) had taken over from **Gill Murley** (Staffs) as membership coordinator. There were not enough membership secretaries at present, but some of the people who had recently offered help might be recruited to this rôle. We discussed and accepted a policy suggested by Gill for dealing consistently with people who were unable to pay their subscriptions in full.

Isobel Bogucki (Sussex-West) reported on new **coordinators** and resignations, and **Lucy Charlton** (Leics) on **publications**. At present we could not afford to print as many things as we would like, and we were no longer able to buy stocks from other organisations for resale. **Pat Dixon** (Bucks) wanted to give up holding stocks of publications, and we would need a replacement in the near future.

The **next meeting**, in conjunction with the AGM, would take place at the September gathering to be organised by **Eleanor Stapleton** (London-North) at **Featherstone Castle**, Northumberland (see elsewhere in this issue). A group was set up to investigate future venues.

Now to return to **terminology**. Company law uses 'directors' as a generic term, but EO's articles of association refer to the 'Council of Management'. Both mean exactly the same thing, but many of us feel that 'council' is more in keeping with our ethos. So the last decision of the day was to use that term whenever possible.

As always, there was too much to discuss in the time available. Nevertheless the meeting was a productive and practical one.

Anne Wade
(London-Middlesex)

*Acting general secretary, and chair of the meeting
in the absence of Pien Maltz*

If you would like a copy of the official minutes, please send me an addressed return label and stamp (or an A5 SAE), plus two further first class stamps for photocopying.

**National Gathering at
FEATHERSTONE CASTLE**

Thursday 7 - Thursday 14 September 1995

A notice about this event appeared in the June newsletter. Formal notice of the AGM, to be held on the Saturday, appears directly below. If you would like more information about the week, please send a stamped addressed envelope straight away to:

Eleanor Stapleton, 21 Central Avenue, Edmonton, London N9 9RQ

The Annual General Meeting of Education Otherwise Association Ltd
will be held
at Featherstone Castle near Haltwhistle, Northumberland
on Saturday 9 September 1995, at 10 a.m.

The business of the AGM is to consider the accounts, to elect members to the council of management, and to receive reports from officers.

At July 1 the members of the council were:

Elected at or before the last AGM

Jude Ashley-Walker (Isle of Wight)
Gwen Baldock (Yorks-North)
Paul Bentley (London-Southeast)
Sandie Cottee (Essex)
Maxine Griffith (Yorks-South)
Jane Lowe (Herts)
Pien Maltz-Klaar (London-North)
Eleanor Stapleton (London-North)

Co-opted since the last AGM

Andy Archer (Leics)
Isobel Bogucki (Sussex-West)
Lucy Charlton (Leics)
Dineke de Jong (Yorks-South)
Sue Hutchin (Kent)
Priscilla Park-Weir (Surrey)
Anne Wade (London-Middx)
Bruce Wallace (Highlands & Islands)

Paul Bentley and Jane Lowe have both expressed an intention to resign before the AGM. One third of the remaining council members (i.e. five from the column on the left) are required to retire by rotation, but will be eligible for reelection. There will also be an opportunity to ratify or reject those council members coopted during the course of the year (in the column on the right). Since this leaves only one person, I anticipate that in practice the entire council will retire. Any candidates other than those listed above (or those recommended by the council) must be proposed by a signed up member of EO. Written notice from the proposer and signed consent from the candidate must both reach me no earlier than August 11 and no later than September 4.

Under the articles of association, signed up members are entitled to vote, provided they have paid their subscription. Members may either vote in person or appoint another member as a proxy to vote on their behalf. Proxy votes are valid only if a formal poll has first been requested.

Our practice is for new signed up members to be proposed and seconded by existing ones. I can provide names of current signed up members.

The form for appointing a proxy is prescribed by our articles. Completed forms must reach me at least 48 hours before the meeting, i.e. by 10 a.m. on Thursday September 7.

If you wish to become a signed up member and/or to appoint a proxy, please write to me as soon as possible, enclosing an SAE or return address label with stamp.

Other meetings

We expect to hold an **informal discussion meeting** on Saturday afternoon immediately after the AGM, with an **open council meeting** starting at 10 a.m. on Sunday. All EO members are welcome at both of these, but the Sunday meeting will be strictly for business, and everyone present is asked to play a part in ensuring that it runs smoothly and efficiently. If you have an item for the agenda, please let me know as soon as possible.

Anne Wade, Acting general secretary

19 Perkin Close, Wembley, Middx, HA0 2LY; 0181-904 7155

RESEARCH AND HOME EDUCATION

For some months, I have been meaning to write an article for the newsletter about home education research ...

Fourteen years ago, I started reading about home education because a representative of the local education authority suggested that we taught our daughter at home. At first, we were very cautious, wondering whether it was allowed. Four months later, the situation at school became impossible and we were again asked to consider home education until a new school could be found for her the following September. It took two and a half years for her to want to tackle school again!!

Later, we went to live in Australia for two years and we had to deal with the New South Wales Ministry for Youth and Community Services in order to obtain permission to home educate. Realising that the regulations governing home education were very different from those in Great Britain, I became interested in how they varied from state to state and from country to country and how individuals within education authorities interpreted laws, circulars and guidelines.

Work started on my Ph.D. thesis in 1987 after returning from Australia, and in 1988 I undertook a survey of local authority procedures for dealing with, and their attitudes to home

educating families throughout the UK; reasons for conflict between their representatives and home educating families were investigated and suggestions were made for the reduction of such conflict. My Ph.D. was awarded in 1992 and I am currently bringing the study up to date.

Some home educating families have asked me why it is necessary to do research at all. In my view, home education research is vital.

In the United States, until about ten years ago there had been a great deal of opposition to home education in many of the states. Little research had been done. Since then, a number of excellent studies have demonstrated that home educated children are usually sociable, achieve well academically and are very well adjusted, without necessarily needing to be with children of their own age. (Many home educators may retort - so, tell us something new!!) Since this research was undertaken, opposition by educational administrators has more or less faded away.

By comparison, original home education research in the United Kingdom has not been very extensive. Researchers have chosen to investigate the procedures of local education authorities, the number of home educated children, and evaluated correspondence sent to home educating families by LEAs (Bates, Lowden - England and Wales; Paterson - Scotland).

Others (Blacker, Brown, Meighan, Mills and Webb) have investigated the reasons for parents to choose to educate their children at home. Webb also looked at whether home education equipped people for adult life. Thomas, who is based in Australia, is studying how children can learn without formal teaching, and is currently interviewing some home educating families in the London area.

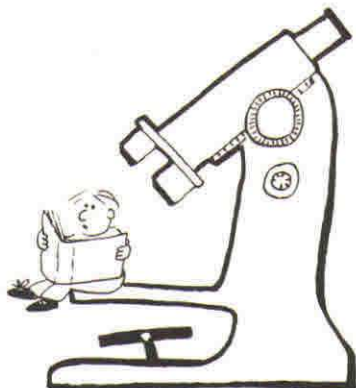
For the last three years, I have been investigating the legal status of home education in the countries of Western Europe and have given papers at two international education conferences. It is very apparent that many education professionals confuse compulsory education and compulsory schooling, equating education with the four walls of school. Needless to say, after giving my papers, I had many lengthy discussions about the efficacy of home education. It was thanks to being able to quote from research undertaken in the USA that my arguments were believed. The European participants, however, were more doubtful that US research could be applied to Europe. Some of the representatives at such conferences work for national governments or are consultants to education administrations all over the world. Arguments based on sound evidence can influence their attitudes to home education.

I have also been locating people who were home educated between 1890 and 1960. Most authors of history of education textbooks ignore them and falsely believe that home education stopped in the latter part of the nineteenth century and restarted in the 1960s. I have conducted interviews with people, some of whom are retired, who were educated at home.

I have just finished compiling a list of publications on home education (books and research papers), to help those beginning home education research, or who want to know what has been written.

If anyone is interested in taking part in, or undertaking research, I can be contacted at the Department of Education, University of Liverpool, 19, Abercromby Square, P.O. Box 147, Liverpool, L69 3BX.

Amanda J. Petrie



EO..from my point of view..

My daughter (Yolanda Muckle)'s article (N/L 102) sounded very clear and together as if we always knew what we were doing. It wasn't like that from my point of view. We were experimenting, not knowing what the outcome would be. I often think that the only thing I would change would be the anxiety. I always felt unsure, particularly in the face of what seemed to be other people's constant questions.

Both friends and strangers seemed to hint darkly that no good would come of it ... "Are you a qualified teacher?... "What about their social like?... But it will be so much hard work for you Yvonne..." Interestingly people rarely mentioned education as a reason for going to school.

Looking back, I've made a career out of being a mother. At the time we just went step by step.

In 1978, when my eldest child was three weeks old, I remember thinking "She'll have to go to school" and felt a sinking feeling. I promised myself to examine all possibilities. A friend told me of the Campaign for State Supported Alternative Schools and gave me an info. pack. This contained an article by Diane Cox. Diane explained that she had tried to set up an alternative school and when this had not come about, decided to teach her children herself. She was a founder member of an

organisation called "Education Otherwise". I wrote to Diane, who sounded very confident and explained that her children learned mainly by imitation and conversation. She gave an example of Geography being learned while they were on a car journey and the children saw things and asked questions. This sounded rather vague. I doubted whether I knew enough to be able to answer. Like many people new to EO, I thought I had to "do" some kind of "work" with the children for six hours a day.

Later I read John Holt, who seemed to suggest that children would naturally learn whatever they needed and that if they didn't learn a particular thing then maybe they didn't need it. This sounded a bit too way out. The man also suggested that children should have the vote....!

What I didn't realise at the time was that a certain process was taking place within me. I was learning, slowly, to see differently and to question, to examine and to come to my own conclusions. It was very hard work and I have often felt alone, but I am grateful for the way I've come. When parents say to me "I don't have the patience to home educate" I look them in the eye and say "You learn a lot about yourself when you spend time with your own children". It also means you grow, perhaps in ways you can't imagine in advance.

It is a strange society we live in...if you admit that you like your own children's company then people regard you oddly, if you want to be with them instead of sending them to school then you are very strange...and if you want to look after other people's children...well you'd better have police checks and health checks...! Thanks to those early EOers who encouraged us...especially...Diane Cox, John Elenor and Sarah Guthrie...

I recently saw the Guthrie teenage children on TV...both the presenter and the audience seemed to suggest that THEY were OK and unusual but EO would not be good for others...imaginary others not present.

In the early days, I remarked to a friend "well perhaps they won't learn as much at home but I think they'll be happier". She gave me an odd look. She was a primary teacher...I didn't realise at the time that from her point of view they were already ahead...

I think the main things I've given my children are attention and honesty.

I know how little academic work we did at home. We did do some. I went out with them a lot. Yolanda was born when Gemma was 16 months. I read to them a lot. We sat on a pile of cushions, not having much furniture in those days.

We lived in an inner city

area. The streets seemed to be full of broken glass, dog dirt and rubbish. I used to point upwards and show them the sky, cloud patterns, trees and glimpses of sunsets. We seemed to spend a lot of time walking along the street on our way to parks or visiting friends.

In Summer we took a picnic and stayed out for hours. I preferred to be outdoors whenever possible. If we had to be indoors because of bad weather, then I played background music and put out paints, collage materials or cooking ingredients. There was always a practical activity on the table each day, sometimes just crayons and paper. They did lots of art work. I would sit for a while and do some with them and then they might run off and play or we might have a story time.

When we were thinking about EO, I started to keep a desk diary open on the kitchen worktop and as I passed by, made a quick note of what they were doing. This was mainly to reassure myself, as I couldn't always feel that we were doing much. When I wrote it down it always seemed a lot. Most of my anxiety was about their social life as it seemed this was the most common question I had from other people. This now seems silly and I don't worry so much about my third daughter.

I was able to meet other EOers about once every two months or so. It was always a wonderful relief to be with people who just

accepted us as we were and this kept me going. I regard myself as one of the second wave of EOers: the first ones being people who home educated alone, before there was an organisation and the second wave, like me, joined EO and knew it was legal but still felt rather isolated. The third wave have much more support with local groups and outings every week in some areas. Also there is much more general acceptance now as media articles appear from time to time.

What did we do?

I think we did very little formal academic work, although we did do some. I used a maths course, "Hey Maths" recommended in EO educational supplements by Julia Hallet and an English course R. Ridout "Words". We used the workbooks and if they didn't know something I tried to work out a practical way of showing them. Malcolm made some wooden bricks, sticks and squares to represent units, tens and hundreds.

I always feel nervous when I read articles in the EO newsletter about the wonderful things madly creative parents are teaching their children with science experiments etc. We didn't do any of that, just pottered around and lived our lives. How did they learn?

Let's take reading, as that is often discussed, and it is apparent from Yolanda's article that she has

excellent use of words. We played games like matching words and picture. I was usually busy and very quickly tore up some pieces of paper to make rough sketches of objects one day. These stayed in use for years. I got the ladybird sets of word cards: the 300 most common words. I took out the nouns and drew my own wobbly sketches to represent "apple", "milk", "horse" etc. I'm not sure that everyone would recognise my horse but it didn't seem to matter in a home environment. I say this because I think it would matter in a school environment where emotions like fear may enter into learning. At home it is all a bit of fun anyway. We developed a game where the children place the pictures in rows and then spread out the words and tried to match them. I helped and gave clues as necessary. At first we only used a few words, three or six perhaps, and later added more.

I got a video when we decided to home educate and used TV to suit myself. Typically I recorded schools TV programmes as we were usually out when they were on, and then I played them back at 5 p.m. when I arrived back with tired children and I had to cook. They enjoyed "Words and Pictures", so I sent off for the teacher's notes and photocopied the worksheets that went with the programmes. In my third pregnancy, I was often very tired and sometimes put on a two hour tape of collected

schools programmes while I had a nap. I later compensated for this by not having a TV for almost two years. It is so important to find your own way. I hope I've taught them to select TV programmes and not just watch rubbish. My teenagers tell me they are the only ones at school who don't watch "soaps", although their choices are not always mine. We all like "Startrek" and watch it as a family.

Yolanda always liked stories. I was reading to her while she was in the womb as I had a toddler, her elder sister, to read to. When I had a new baby to feed, it was easier to read to the toddler at the same time, so Yolanda heard stories while she fed at the breast. When she was three she would take her favourite stories to bed and put them under her pillow. By the time she was four, I was getting fed up with many of the children's books, so, when we went to the library, I looked for something to interest me. I developed an interest in folk and fairy tales. I remember one called "Tales of the Highlands and Islands" which had many Scottish words: "Bake me a bannock and roast me a callop". So I didn't always understand all the words myself. This meant that I would sometimes stop after a difficult paragraph and ask the children if they understood. We worked out the meaning together. As they always leaned on me when I read, it meant their "eyes were bathed in print"

which John Holt says is a necessary stage of learning to read.

When Yolanda was five I began reading Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings" out loud. I love the book still. It took about two years to get through the first time as we read many others and our third baby was born. A few years later we read it together as a family evening activity, even Malcolm didn't want to miss it and we had to wait for him to come home from work.

Despite all this, Yolanda was not particularly interested in reading to herself at this age. At age seven, if she'd been tested as they do now with the National Curriculum, she would have seemed to only recognise a few words and possibly been resistant to being made to read. She did write - short letters and Christmas cards - which she copied out.

A few months later, she began reading the C.S. Lewis "Narnia" series. At first I couldn't believe she was actually reading. I tried to leave her and not interfere. "There are some words I don't know in here mummy", she remarked one day. "That's okay" I said, "sometimes I find words I don't know. If you don't know a word just say mmmm and carry on". I realised why she'd chosen the "Narnia" books. They were a family favourite and I'd got them on tape from the library. Yolanda had loved

the tapes and played them over and over again. She had a good memory and actually knew sections of the book very well, particularly the dialogue, and so found she could follow parts very well as the words were already in her head....!

So she never read "easy readers" and had no patience for "Peter and Jane" type books, although I had them: they were boring! She has always been clear on her likes and dislikes.

Having found out she could read, she never stopped. And still hasn't. I have told her off for reading many times over the years. (What a bad EO mummy!) At age nine I had two rules: no reading when crossing the road and no reading on the escalators. She went everywhere with an open book. She reads at great speed. Read at mealtimes with a book on her knee. We tried to discourage this but she just picked it up again when we weren't looking. She read everything she could get hold of. When she was nine Malcolm held out a book to me "Do you realise Yolanda has read this?" It was an old hard-backed book called "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare". I couldn't believe this. I hadn't read any Shakespeare myself except for what I'd been forced to at school. "I don't think so", I replied. I later asked her. "I've not read the poems at the back" she replied, "just the plays". She told me a bit about Romeo and Juliet

that she liked and said she hadn't liked the historical plays so much.

Yolanda is now nearly 16 and loves writing poems and stories. She reads whenever she doesn't have to do anything else. Her school teachers say her writing is very mature, I think this is because she had the opportunity to read freely during her time at home. I think we have some affinities we are born with which develop in the right environment. I think Yolanda has an inborn feel for words which has had the chance to develop. Her two sisters don't read as much as her, but they are two different people (another story).

When Yolanda started school at age ten and a half, she said "Shall I take a book?" I said "I don't think they'll let you read and if they do, you'll have to read what they want and stop when they say so." It is a very interesting exercise trying to explain school logic to a ten year old who's not experienced it.

I've been a member of EO for fourteen years and this is the first article I've written for the newsletter. I hope it's useful. I've felt a great personal need to write down my thoughts and experiences and over the last two years I've written over 63,000 words in what I grandly refer to as "my book". If anyone wants to write to me I will answer.

Yvonne Muckle,
10, Warner Road, Hornsey,
London, N8 7HD

PENPALS

Letters

Hi! My name is Rachel Eyler, I'll be 11 years old on October 7th. I play the piano and I dance. I enjoy reading, cooking, and listening to music. I love cats and art! I'm not home schooled, but would love to hear from anyone who is! My address is:
13249, Creagerstown Road,
Thurmont, Maryland, 21788,
U.S.A.

Abby ... likes to dance, read and cook and is home educated

Melissa ... likes to play violin, travel abroad (is going to the Ukraine for her second visit this Autumn) and create graphic art

Abby Northcott and
Melissa Dickens,
P.O. Box 93, Carrboro,
N.C. 27510, U.S.A.

English Language Club ... is interested in different information and literature in English for adults and children (books, magazines, cassettes etc.) also Latvian children requiring penpals:

Mrs. Rita Liepina,
c/o English Language Club,
Riga dist.,
p.n. Ragana 10 - 7,
LV 2144, Latvia.



Dear E.O.,

Some time ago I subscribed to The International Home Education magazine (cost NZ\$40, approx. £12 for 4 issues). I received one issue only and, despite several letters to inform Inhouse Publication of this, have never had a reply.

I should like to add that, although there are sometimes difficult situations within E.O., I think that people who run this organisation are doing a great job, I admire the energy and care you all put into it, so, congratulation.

Best Wishes to you (some of whom I've met).

Andree Roberts-Keen
France

Dear. E.O.,

We have two boys aged 12 and 14. They have always been home educated. We would like to hear from anyone with experience of taking G.C.S.E.'s at home. Please write to us at the address below. We look forward to hearing from you.

Vijay and Pam Kumar,
10, Arnesby Road,
Lenton,
Nottingham,
NG7 2EA



Dear E.O.

In reply to Gwen Baldock's article on p.14 (The Labour Party and Home Education) in N/L 104.

I also contacted David Blunkett M.P. over the Labour Party's intentions towards home education. I never received a reply.

I even had Tony Wright M.P. request him to answer my letter. However, I wrote to the Labour Party at their policy section at John Smith House, 150, Walworth Rd., London, SE17 1JT

The reply:

Dear Mrs. Erdwin,

You wrote enquiring about Labour Party Policy on home education and Education Otherwise.

The Labour Party has no plan to amend section 36 of the 1944 Education Act which allows for children to be educated "otherwise" than at school.

All LEAs have a clear duty to ensure that all children are receiving a suitable education, and they have the right to inspect any provision that parents arrange for their children. It is up to each LEA to decide on it's policy of providing advice and support for home educating parents. We are aware that there is some variation in the way some LEAs approach this issue. Of course, the LEA cannot deny parents the right to home educate, if that is what they choose to do, and may only intervene where there are serious concerns about the child's educational well being. This policy will not change under a Labour Government.

Yours sincerely,

Liz Allen
Education Policy Officer

c.c. David Blunkett M.P.
Shadow Secretary of State
for Education

Tony Wright M.P.

On the 18th June 1995 Labour had their first National Political Education Conference "The Regeneration Project".

David Blunkett's speech did not mention home education but did mention an education report just made available called "Education For Tomorrow". Also of interest for young people is "Labour Youth" which they can join from as early as 16 years.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Maureen Erdwin
Reading, Berkshire.

NOTICES

Donations wanted!

EO's finances are gradually getting healthier.
The prospects for long term stability are good.

But...

Right now *we need money urgently* to meet essential printing bills.

- We need to print a new edition of *School is not compulsory*.
- We need to print a new contact list.
- We need to restore the newsletter to its former size as quickly as possible.

These publications form the heart of the support EO offers its members.

Can you help?

Please send donations to: **Priscilla Park-Weir**
212 Gordon Avenue
CAMBERLEY
Surrey
GU15 2NT

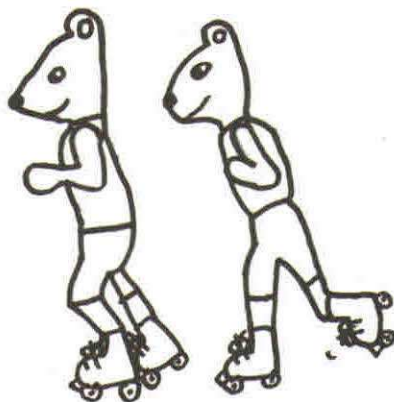
Cheques to: **Education Otherwise Association Ltd**

Thank you!

I want to compile a "Home Education Reference Library" for E.O. members, research students and my lecture course. If you have newspaper/magazine articles to photocopy, books to sell, etc. or find anything in the future, please contact me! Thanks! (Also material about any other alternatives in education).

Anne Mills,
Waverley,
Murton Way,
Murton,
York,
YO1 3UJ

Tel. 01904 488088



JOB VACANCY

PUBLICATIONS BY POST

We need someone who is unlikely to move house to store bulk supplies of publications (between 50 and 80 boxes).

The job also entails posting around a dozen packages a week.

For more details please contact:

Pat Dixon 01908 316555

JOB VACANCY

**MEMBERSHIP
SECRETARIES**

We are looking for several people to act as regional membership secretaries.

The job entails receiving completed membership forms, collating and posting appropriate publications and keeping simple accounts.

For more details please contact:

Maggie Swatridge
01503 272087

PUBLICITY

We wish to compile a list of people willing to be interviewed (often at short notice) by the media.

Please contact:

Beverley Young,
91, Lyndhurst Drive,
Preston, PR2 1TB

01772 735531

**A WEEKEND OF EVENTS
AND
WORKSHOPS ON
HOME EDUCATION**

September 9th -
10th

£15 - £45
(negotiable)

Workshops to include:

Home Education,
Green Parenting,
Creative Parenting,
Travellers, Underground
Power, Theory to
Practice ... bonfire,
vegan food,
storytelling, circus
skills and much more.

Details: Jane or Emma,
Brambles Housing Co-op,
82, Andover Street,
Burngreave, Sheffield.
01142 797164

ADVANCE NOTICE

SUNDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 1995

NORTHERN REGION CONFERENCE AND SOCIAL GATHERING

AT MERCHANT ADVENTURERS HALL, YORK

We will be holding a series of lectures, workshops and activities for all the family including an opening address by Professor Roland Meighan, ideas for science at home, glass painting, the Internet - Information Super Highway - is it for you? Puppet theatre and story-telling, Dyslexia and legal workshops - Further ideas very welcome!

Please send S.A.E. to Gwen Baldock, 6, Villa Grove, Heworth Green, York, YO3 7TB.

P.S. Any role-players interested in playing BUGHUNTERS (at the gathering) - especially those who can D.M. the system - please ring John Baldock on 01904 421982.

Early evening barndance

EDUCATION UNLIMITED GATHERINGS

These gatherings offer an opportunity for home educating families to get together to share ideas and activities. We plan to continue with three gatherings each year and the next are likely to be:

*October - Beaumanor (Leicestershire)

*January - Wick Court (Bristol)

*May - Featherstone (Northumberland)

If you would like to be included on our mailing list and receive details about the gatherings please send £2 (cheques or postal orders should be made payable to E.U.) to

Miryam Bush
c/o 48 Montgomery Road
Sheffield
S7 1LQ

For further information contact:

Nadine Edwards 0131 229 6259
Jill Gillings 01624 824275
Julie Lyones 01226 700716

**CHILDREN'S PAGES
CO-ORDINATOR**

Hannah Bush is no longer looking after the Children's Pages. Is there anyone out there who would like to do this job for a while? It involves keeping a list of Editors and sending out a set of guidelines for each issue.

Contact: Sue Hutchin
01580 762448

CONTACT LIST

Concern has been expressed about L.E.A.s and other bodies surreptitiously obtaining names of home-educating families. Could we remind each other to be careful about confidentiality, and to guard our Contact Lists against the abuses mentioned inside the front cover.

GWERSYLL DEWI SANT

A camp by the sea for home educating families at St. Davids, Pembrokeshire

Fri 8th - Sun 17th Sept

Details: Sue Hagerty,
4, Eclipse Terrace,
Five Roads, Llanelli,
Dyfed, SA15 5YS
Tel. 01269 861902

CONGRATULATIONS ...

Kim, Rod, Samuel,
Matthew and Miriam Wark
are pleased to announce
the safe arrival of

Abigail Sarah
on 26th June

Visitors welcome,
please telephone first.

The following areas need new co-ordinators:

Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
Cambridgeshire
Gloucestershire
Grampian
Norfolk
Northumberland
Surrey
North Yorkshire

Adverts

Correspondence courses in English, Maths and Science from Junior level to G.C.S.E. and 'A' level, also G.C.S.E. law.

Contact:

Roger Freeborn,
4, North Fen Road,
Helpringham,
Sleaford,
Lincs., NG34 0RR

Tel. 01529 421 218

FREE CATALOGUE.

Over 1,000 books, video games and C.D. ROMS in the new Dorling Kindersley catalogue.

Call Jill Brooks -

01883 347914

or write -

215, Coulsdon Road,
Caterham,
Surrey, CR3 5NW

BOURNEMOUTH AND POOLE AREA

ART - Based on National Curriculum to G.C.S.E. standard by Teacher qualified Artist - Fees arranged.

Individual or Group Tuition

Contact: Barrie Hopson. Tel. 01202 515583 Daytime

BRASS TEACHER - All exams taken - lessons to suit. Fees arranged. Individual or Group Tuition.

Contact: John Clark. Tel. 01202 579195

ENGLISH LESSONS - National Curriculum to G.C.S.E. standard. Fees arranged. Individual or Group Tuition.
Contact Lynne Warner. Tel. 01202 600579

Services and Products advertised in this newsletter have not been endorsed by Education Otherwise.

Adverts

ADVERTISING RATES

Small Ads: are 10p a word to members and should be limited to 30 words.

Box Ads: will be included if there is space and the rates are as follows:

	Members	Non Members
Half Page	£50	£100
Quarter Page	£25	£50
Eighth Page	£12.50	£25

Copy for Box Ads should be sent ready for printing, as a fraction of an A4 page (this is then reduced to A5). All adverts should be sent with a cheque made out to 'Education Otherwise' to the Editor.

Deadline for the next issue
1st September 1995.

PARK SCHOOL

At Park School we want children to enjoy their childhood to the full, exploring the world around them, and the inner worlds of the imagination, mind and spirit.

For 3 - 11 year olds, located in the beautiful South Devon countryside.

Fees based on ability to pay

*For a prospectus or to arrange a visit, phone
01803 864588
Park Road, Dartington,
Totnes, Devon, TQ9 6EQ*

I want to compile a "Home Education Reference Library" for E.O. members, research students and my lecture course. If you have newspaper/magazine articles to photocopy, books to sell, etc. or find anything in the future, please contact me! Thanks! (Also material about any other alternatives in education).

Anne Mills,
Waverley,
Murton Way,
Murton,
York,
YO1 3UJ

Tel. 01904 488088

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Educating

SURFING THE INTERNET

ARCHIE



Thank you Paul Beasley

Where To Get What

The following publications are available from
Pat Dixon, E.O. Publications, 110, Cambridge Street,
Wolverton, Milton Keynes, MK12 5AH

Early Years	£2.50
Newsletter Digest ('82 - '86)	£1.50
E.O. Newsletters (4 back issues)	£1.20
Teach Your Own - John Holt	£4.50
Learning All The Time - John Holt	£4.50
Learning From Home-Based Education - Roland Meighan	£3.00
U.K. Postage and Packing	£1.00

STATIONARY

Envelope Re-use labels at £2.50 per 100,
E.O Stationary, Leaflets, Posters, Membership forms
and car stickers are available from:
Lucy Charlton, Church Lane Cottages, Newton Harcourt,
Leicestershire, LE8 9FT.
Contributions towards printing and postage welcome -
cheques payable to Education Otherwise.

E.O MEMBERSHIP CARDS

E.O. Membership Cards are available from Marc Cottee,
17, South View Road, Rettendon Common, Chelmsford, Essex,
CM3 8DX upon receipt of a S.A.E.



EDUCATION OTHERWISE OFFICERS

General Enquiries: Send SAE for membership and other details to: P.O. Box 7420, London, N9 9SG. For recorded telephone message phone 0891 518303 (calls charged at 42p minute peak rate 33p minute cheap rate).

Chair: Pien Maltz-Klaar, 39, Landrock Road, London, N8 9HR.
Tel. 0181 348 0653

Vice-Chair: Vacant

Acting General Secretary: Anne Wade, 19, Perkin Close, Wembley, Middlesex, HA0 2LY. Tel. 0181 904 7155

Treasurer: Priscilla Park-Wier, 212, Gordon Avenue, Camberley, GU15 2JJ. Tel. 01276 22735

Publicity Officer: Vacant. Contact Beverley Young, 91, Lyndhurst Drive, Preston, PR2 1TB. Tel. 01772 735531

Publications Director: Lucy Charlton, Church Lane Cottages, Newton Harcourt, Leicestershire, LE8 0FT. Tel. 0116 2592118

Newsletter Co-ordinator: Sue Hutchin, 13, East Hill, Tenterden, Kent, TN30 6RL. Tel. 01580 762448

Single Parent Family Contact: Sarah Martin, Rose Cottage, Three Holes Bridge, Wisbech, Norfolk, PE14 9JR.
Tel. 01945 772336

Special Needs: Vacant

Co-ordinator's Secretary: Isobel Bogucki, 20, Rusper Road, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 4BD. Tel. 01403 261178

School Phobia Young People's Support: Angela White, 30a, Field View Close, Coventry, West Midlands, CV7 8BJ.
Tel. 01203 312461

Subscription Renewals: Marc Cottee, 17, South View Road, Rettendon Common, Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 8DX.
Tel. 01268 733259

Research Secretary: Vacant

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