

Education Otherwise  
Newsletters  
No. 108  
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**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS 1<sup>ST</sup> March 2008**

Please mark material 'for publication' and include your name, address, phone number and email (if you have it) as we may need to contact you to discuss your contribution (though details may be withheld from publication on request). Email contributions will be acknowledged within a few days. If you require a postal acknowledgement **please send sae**. If no acknowledgement is received, or in case of queries, please contact the NL co-ordinator (see inside back cover). Please also ensure your EO membership is up to date.

Send contributions to the appropriate section editor below:

**LETTERS AND ARTICLES**

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**BOOK AND SOFTWARE REVIEWS**

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Llandysul, Carmarthenshire, SA44 5EJ  
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[reviews@education-otherwise.org](mailto:reviews@education-otherwise.org)

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**Children's Pages - Deadline 20<sup>th</sup> February 2008**

Please send all material to Martine Frampton, Children's Pages Co-ordinator who will forward it to the relevant Children's Editors. This is to ensure that, if there is a problem, submissions from other children won't be lost.

**DISCLAIMER**

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

All contributions (including advertisements) have been accepted in good faith and have not been in any way endorsed by Education Otherwise, which cannot be held responsible for the consequences of responding to any of them.

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

EO is legally responsible for the material printed in the Newsletter, and sometimes it is necessary to edit letters and articles to ensure that there is no possibility of legal action against EO. We try to consult with authors when this is necessary but we reserve the right not to print anything we consider puts EO at risk.

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# Welcome to the February 2008 Newsletter

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## NEW CONTACT LIST WITH THE NEXT ISSUE. PLEASE READ PAGE 15

### EO Merchandise

To gain the 10% discount available to members who use the online store you must enter the code: **Romantic**. If you forget to enter the code you cannot claim the discount back later.



Any Safeguarding Children concerns should be reported to the NSPCC.

NSPCC Helpline Telephone Number is 0808 800 5000.

If you are a child and you need someone to talk to, contact Childline on 0800 1111

## Coordinator's letter

Dear EO

A whole new era could be starting for Education Otherwise this month when we vote on the new Articles and Memorandum of Association at the upcoming Extraordinary General Meeting. I would urge all members to take the time to read them and if possible attend the meeting. The newsletter is quite businesslike this month, a chance to find out more about what is going on nationally. Change tends to make me nostalgic so I include for the interest of ... well everyone I hope, an article researched by my partner for the Wikipedia online encyclopaedia on the background history of EO. To reconsider where it all started and what marks EO out as quite a unique organisation, seems to me to be an important part of considering where we might go in the future.

I agree with Nikki that the newsletter needs a new lease of life and we would love to hear people's ideas. Your contributions are what make the EO newsletter interesting. Everyone's perspective on EO life is unique, so please share your thoughts, opinions and experiences.

Best wishes Martine Frampton  
[martine-frampton@bbmax.co.uk](mailto:martine-frampton@bbmax.co.uk)

(Cover design by Duncan Moran)

To change your contact details or if your newsletter does not arrive, contact the database administrator (see back cover).

## NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

An Extraordinary General Meeting of Education Otherwise Association Ltd will be held at Westbourne Grove Church, Westbourne Grove (Corner of Ledbury Road) Notting Hill, London W11 2RW on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2008 at 1.30pm.

The business before the EGM will be to consider the proposed special resolution:

To Accept the new Articles and Memorandum as published in the insert included with the February 2008 newsletter, subject to any requirements by the Charities Commission, to take effect at the close of the Extraordinary General Meeting

In the event of a vote at the EGM, guarantors present at the EGM are entitled to take part, provided that they have paid their EO membership fee. Guarantors appoint another person as their proxy to exercise all or any of their rights to attend and to speak and vote at the meeting. (see details on the proxy appointment form at the back of the newsletter). If you wish to become a guarantor of EO, please complete the form included in the insert or contact the Company Secretary, 31 Framlingham Road, Peterborough PE2 8UG  
(an electronic version is available by email from [anne@annerix.demon.co.uk](mailto:anne@annerix.demon.co.uk))

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Education Otherwise Association Ltd will be held at Westbourne Grove Church, Westbourne Grove (Corner of Ledbury Road), Notting Hill, London W11 2RW on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2008 at 2.15pm.

The business of the AGM is to consider the accounts, to elect members to the Council of Management and to appoint auditors.

Agenda for AGM:

1. Minutes of the previous AGM
2. Consideration of the accounts.
3. Auditors Remuneration
4. Appointment of Auditor
5. Election of new Council Members

The number of Council Members is set at between 14 and 19. As at February 2008, 14 are in post (see back page of February newsletter), five (one third) of whom must stand down but may seek re-election.\*\* The Council may recommend other candidates for election.

Signed-up members (i.e. Guarantors)<sup>\*\*\*</sup> of EO may also propose candidates. In this case, written notice from the proposer and signed consent from the candidate (who must also be a guarantor) must both reach the Company Secretary no earlier than 26th January 2008 and no later than 19th February 2008.

In the event of a vote at the AGM, guarantors present at the AGM are entitled to take part, provided that they have paid their EO membership fee<sup>\*\*\*</sup>. Guarantors may also appoint another person as their proxy to exercise all or any of their rights to attend and to speak and vote at the meeting. (see details on the proxy appointment forms at the back of the newsletter). If you wish to become a guarantor of EO, please complete the form included in the inset or contact the Company Secretary, 31 Framlingham Road, Peterborough PE2 8UG  
(an electronic version is available by email from [anne@annerix.demon.co.uk](mailto:anne@annerix.demon.co.uk))

<sup>\*\*</sup>Following the EGM at 1.30pm the number of Council members may be fewer than the current 14-19. If this is the case then one-third of the new number of Council Members must step down but may seek re-election.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>The status of a guarantor may be subject to change following the EGM at 1.30pm. If this is the case, then guarantors will include all members of Education Otherwise (one vote per member family).

### DIRECTIONS TO VENUE

The church is right on the corner of Westbourne Grove and Ledbury Road, you can't miss the big spires on top. There is a map of the exact location on the website [www.westbournegrovechurch.org](http://www.westbournegrovechurch.org) go to the "contact and location" page.

The venue is accessible by bus and tube. Visit [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk) for journey planners..

There is no off street parking at the venue, on street parking is expensive until 1:30PM, free after 1:30, but spaces are hard to find, use public transport if you can. Disabled parking blue badge scheme does not operate in Westminster or Kensington.

For more information contact Phil Hicks at [phil@hicks london.com](mailto:phil@hicks london.com) or phone Phil / reception at the venue 020 7034 0500.

## **Please come and help us celebrate**

**Education Otherwise and Home Education  
at EO's new look**

**Festival of Home Education Day and  
Annual General Meeting.**

**Key note speaker: Terri Dowty from ARCH**

**Discussion about new plans for EO  
Workshops, cafe, children's room**

**23 February 2008, 10-5pm**

**Westbourne Grove Church,**

**Westbourne Grove,**

**Notting Hill, London W11 2RW**

**(corner of Ledbury Road and Westbourne Grove).**

**For more information contact:**

**Leslie - 020 8969 0893**

**Homeeducationfair@hotmail.com**

**Please contact us if you would like to book  
a place for your**

**4-11 year old child in the children's room**

## New Year, New Resolve

In this issue of the Newsletter, we bring you a lot of exciting news about the future of EO. It starts on 23 February 2008, which is an important day for EO for several reasons. At the Extraordinary General Meeting, at 12pm, we hope to pass a new constitutional document with a view to changing the way EO is structured. This will be immediately followed by the AGM, when business for the coming year will be shaped. (The new document is on view at

<http://www.educationotherwise.org/forum/default.asp> and is an insert in this newsletter or you can write to EO at the address on the back cover of this Newsletter to get a paper copy). Much is changing around us, and EO must change to accommodate this if we are to survive and flourish in our aim to support families who choose to educate children at home.

### **What will change?**

As has been said before, the present structure of EO was fine for a smaller organisation but now we are much bigger, and also we have to comply with many government changes brought in during the last five years. The new Articles and Memorandum will provide for modified governance (awful word, sorry) arrangements. At the moment, the Trustees also constitute the governing Council, leading to mixed roles that should be separate. The intention is to have fewer trustees who will ensure compliance with EO's charitable status and the law as well as having a visionary and ambassadorial role for the organisation. A separate managerial level will do the day-to-day support for parents and children and administration of EO.

The main changes that the new governing documents will make are:

**Who can vote:** At the moment, only members of EO who sign up with the administration can vote, either directly or by proxy. This will continue to be the case at the EGM but, if the new A+Ms are passed, this will change thereafter, and all members will have one vote per family (and the distinction between signed up members and other members will disappear). All members of EO will then have one vote (the first person named on the application form). This also means they may be liable for £1 if EO should go into receivership. This seems a much more democratic way of organising EO. Any member who would like to vote at this EGM must make sure they sign up and that the form is received by the Company Secretary, 4 days before the 23 February, that is by the 19 February.

**How to vote:** As we are a national organisation and members live all over the country, we want to make sure that all members can vote, whether they attend an AGM or not. In order to comply with the recent change to the law, we are introducing a proxy voting option (see the proxy voting form included in this issue).

**How EO is to be run:** Our vision for the management level will be discussed in detail at the EGM/AGM day, so please come along. We will include an article specifically on this in the next newsletter letting everyone know what was said at the meeting. We also hope the new style of the AGM day will set a new trend for EO by being more inclusive, more open and more purposeful.

### **Writing procedures, policies and job descriptions**

Many areas and volunteer roles within EO have not had policies or job descriptions and, in the light of internal changes occasioned by the growth of EO and external changes of law and culture, it is important that we develop robust policies. Developing these policies is what the Council has been spending much of its time doing in the past year. This work may not seem very exciting; it is very time consuming, but very important; it doesn't make a big splash, but it has to be done. There are many freely available examples of the policies we are writing on the web, but this is not an easy task. Each policy has to be gone through with a fine toothcomb for relevance and then correct procedure for EO. We are not a typical organisation and often the way generic policies are written by similar organisations are not relevant for us, or leave out some relevant area. Policies also need to be written to match or facilitate the long-term vision for the organisation. Trustees are meeting face to face once a month for an afternoon to go through and discuss policies, procedures and job descriptions. We have been reviewing, developing, and ratifying, after consultation, volunteer policies and agreements, data protection, confidentiality and privacy policies, child safety, bullying and CRB policies, Codes of conduct for trustees volunteers and members. This work continues and we have also the task of writing or revising job descriptions.

### **Child protection**

All Trustees have to have, and do have, Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks. We have also confirmed with the Criminal Records Bureau, through a solicitor, that despite not being a children's charity, our volunteers could come into contact with unsupervised children and therefore can have CRB checks. The Local Contact Coordinator and Company Secretary have begun to roll out a schedule of checks and they will all be done as soon as possible.

### **The Helpline**

We have had a number of resignations from the Helpline. It is always very sad to see long term volunteers go and is something that unfortunately is to be expected when management changes. On a more positive note, it does enable us to begin a new era of Helpline volunteers who will be recruited and trained under our new policies.

### **For the future**

We are working towards several new projects for EO.

- The first is regionalisation of the organisation. This has been talked about for some years, but we plan to turn aspiration into reality.
- Second is the implementation of new structures and recruitment of volunteers for new roles.
- Third is to ensure training courses for all volunteers and trustees in order to improve our practice and service.
- Fourth is a legal backing for the Helpline that we will be discussing in more detail at the AGM event day.

Members of EO who would like to stand for election to the Board of Trustees at the AGM must let the Company Secretary know (see back of newsletter for Janet Wilkinson's contact details) at the latest four days before the AGM, that is by 19 February, 2008

It is a very exciting time for EO. We hope you will be able to come and share it with us on the 23 February.

Leslie Barson (For EO Board of Trustees)

### Government Policy Group Report

As many will remember there was much anxiety in the home education community last year that the Government intended to introduce primary legislation to allow for much greater regulation of home education. Many Local Authorities were lobbying hard for compulsory registration and greater powers of inspection.

There was a government consultation that ended in July. A great deal of effort went into raising awareness and making the views of home educators known to the government. So it is very pleasing that the government has backed off and does not appear to be actively considering legislation. Instead, in November 2007 it published non-statutory guidelines, "*Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities*" they are about 20 pages long and are well worth reading.

They can be viewed at [www.education-otherwise.org](http://www.education-otherwise.org)

Members who do not have internet access can request printouts or copies in alternative formats by telephoning 0870 000 2288 or writing to the Department of Children Schools and Families, Public Communications Unit Sanctuary Buildings, Greater Smith Street London SW1P 3BT.

The Guidelines do not change the law, although they may be of some use in clarifying parts of it. Many home educators would have liked them to have gone further in the support of home education, however there is much that is positive and which can be used to our advantage, not least the requirement for Local Authorities to have clear policies on home education and to seek the input of home educating families in drafting the policies. It remains to be seen what effect the Guidelines will have in practice, we will need to continue to be vigilant and to lobby the government and local authorities whenever possible.

(EO disability group is monitoring the effect of the guidelines as they relate to SEN and has a meeting in the New Year with the Department for Children Schools and Families)

Natasha Arthur

## EDUCATION OTHERWISE MEETING WITH THE NEW DCSF HOME EDUCATION TEAM NOVEMBER 2007

On November 19<sup>th</sup> 2007 members of Education Otherwise Government Policy Group had a 3 hour meeting with Denise Hunter and Iain Campbell who are the new home education team from the Department of Children Schools and Families. We know from various letters and emails that Ministers Jim Knight, Ed Balls and Lord Adonis are all aware of these meetings before and after the event. The Chair of the Education Select Committee has also passed us a letter from Lord Adonis saying "my officials have recently met with representatives from Education Otherwise and we are very aware of their concerns. Further meetings are planned for the New Year." You can find a link to the full report of this meeting on the Education Otherwise website Home Page <http://www.education-otherwise.org/> but in case you don't have access to the internet, here are some of the main points.

When we met, the Guidelines and consultation report had not yet been published. The Department is very interested in models of good practice. We pointed out that most authorities think that their role is one to one inspection, to go out to people's homes and to inspect their provision on an annual basis. We are saying that is not a very good use of their time or their limited funding. We would prefer a Helpline so that home educators could enquire about exam provision, access to libraries and so on, but authorities tend to say they are not allowed or they are fearful about what Ofsted would think.

We asked about the remit of the Elective Home Education Team which is situated in the Independent Schools Partnership in DCSF Darlington. Denise and Iain said that their main job was to advise their Ministers and administer their policies. Part of their job also involves liaising with support organisations and in addition they see part of their role as talking with other Departments in relation to home education, often on the back of EO getting in touch and raising an issue. The home education team does not have a pro-active cross-department brief.

A representative from the 14-19 Unit attended part of the meeting. We were told that it was "an oversight" that home education had not been mentioned as a valid form of participation in any discussion of raising the compulsory education age to 18. We talked about Education Maintenance Allowance for home educators and access to local examination centres.

EO raised the subject of Truancy Sweep Procedures and how the Department's own guidance is not being followed on the ground. We said that police and officials don't understand the law about home education and they think that a child out of school is an automatic safeguarding issue. DCSF said that as a Department they can only intervene where a local authority is in breach of a duty. "If there is something

expedient which can be done, the Department can direct the authority to comply with that duty."

EO asked what about those cases where local authorities think they have a duty that they don't have? DCSF replied that it was much better if things could be resolved locally and they would expect local council and police complaints procedures to be followed. They also said that cases could be taken to the Local Authority Ombudsman if families were not satisfied with the local authority's response. DCSF agreed that if EO identified trends, then the home education team "could help local authorities better to undertake their duties."

EO expanded on the safeguarding issue. We gave the example of the London Safeguarding Board Council where we know that the allegations about child protection and home education were repeated in consultation responses. When we contacted the person who wrote the minutes of the meeting she turned out to be a civil servant from the DCSF, who was unable to tell us how the information could be substantiated or verified.

We also said that we had written to Ministers because we were very concerned that Jo Davidson who is the head of Children's Services in Gloucester, now sits on one of the three Children's Panels with Minister Beverley Hughes. Gloucestershire is where the abusive foster carer Eunice Spry lived. Spry also home educated. In addition, the Chair of the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Board wrote to Beverley Hughes and said something has to be done about home education. We said we believed that the other side had the ear of Ministers.

We raised the inter-connected issues of Children Missing Education, ContactPoint and the Common Assessment Framework. We wanted to discuss the fact that statutory guidance on Children Missing Education is being breached in a number of local authorities. Sadly, Sharon Pitchford from the DCSF Children Missing Education Unit was unable to attend this meeting, so we have agreed to arrange a further meeting in the New Year.

We stated that EO has previously met with the Department largely on the basis that the Department has had a policy or a document or a consultation that they want to move forwards so they use EO to sound it out. DCSF say that they are happy to meet with EO as one of their key stakeholders. DCSF has invited EO to contact them and also to copy them in on relevant correspondence.

We gave feedback from the home education community. If you appeared middle class, if you co-operated with having an inspection, if your children were meeting school age-related targets...you had nothing to worry about...whereas if you were a single parent, if you lived in the wrong area, if you had more than two children, if you had

taken your children out following disagreements with the school...then you were likely to have problems with the local authority. We said that in too many cases the inspectors came from a school background, knew almost nothing about home education, and they didn't have an open mind about different ways of learning.

EO Disability Group representatives were unable to attend the meeting, but the group sent a letter about the pressing issues for families who are home educating children with disabilities and special educational needs. Firstly, these families are increasingly being referred to Social Services. Secondly, many local authority employees do not realise that home education is a legal option for children with disabilities and SEN. We agreed that the DCSF home education team would meet with the Disability Group in the New Year.

Fiona Nicholson  
Chair Education Otherwise Government Policy Group

### GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS FOR WELFARE REFORM: HOW THIS AFFECTS LONE PARENTS ON INCOME SUPPORT

EO Government Policy Group posts regular updates on the Education Otherwise Campaign website at <http://www.freedomforchildrentogrow.org/update.htm> but we know that not all EO members have access to the internet.

In the December 07 Newsletter I wrote about how the Department of Work and Pensions was proposing to move lone parents off Income Support and onto Jobseeker's Allowance when their youngest child was 12 in 2008, with the age being lowered to 7 in 2010.

The DWP consultation into these proposals finished at the end of October and the consultation report was published on December 13. In the Ministerial Foreword, Secretary of State Peter Hain is quoted as saying that "lone parents who can work will be required to actively seek work once their youngest child is 12 or over from October 2008, 10 or over from 2009 and 7 or over from October 2010, with pre-work preparation and in work support built into a flexible system."

At first sight, this seems bad for us and I'm aware that some JobCentre staff are already jumping to erroneous conclusions about what this will mean for home educating lone parents. But we can take heart from the following :

1/ Page 114 of the report says: "There was a strong feeling that the system should not penalise those who have a genuine need to stay at home and care for their children, regardless of their age. There was a strong sense that support was needed long before entitlement to Income Support ceased. Support should be flexible enough

to deal with changes of circumstances and individual families' needs, and focused on progression and training as well as retention." It was strongly felt that increased conditionality was not appropriate for:

- parents with disabled children or whose children had additional needs;
- carers of both disabled children and adults;
- mothers fleeing domestic violence; and
- parents who choose to home educate"

2/ Unlike some JCP Lone Parent Advisors, the Department of Work and Pensions consultations people are highly aware of the concerns of home educators. I was in regular correspondence with the consultations co-ordinator by phone and email throughout the consultation and had tea with him the week before the report was published.

3/ The Government's Work and Pensions Select Committee is also critical of plans to make benefits conditional on searching for work and is against cutting benefits if lone parents do not comply. I think we are quite likely to be able to get this through at national policy level, the real work will come in making sure that it gets down to the JobCentre staff who will have to be properly briefed.

4/ We are still at the Green Paper stage and nothing has been decided, even though some JobCentre staff are behaving inappropriately as though all the proposals have already gone through.

5/ No point being tediously self-effacing about this, EO Government Policy Group is on the case and we fully expect to continue to represent home educators' interests and shape policy in this area. I am a lone parent on Income Support myself and these proposals made me CROSS. I am scrutinising the consultation report and going through the consultation responses from other organisations to see where we have allies and where we can exert some influence. GPG will also be writing to the Work and Pensions Select Committee.

The next stage in the process will be the Government White Paper. We've now had the initial Green Paper, setting out various policy options for consultation. In the following months these proposals will be firmed up towards a White Paper, containing more detailed proposals for any necessary changes in regulation or legislation. You can influence Ministers by getting in touch with your Member of Parliament, explaining what a valuable job you are doing and how your children's home education needs to be protected. You can contact your MP through the local constituency office, where you will also find the times for your MP's local advice surgery. Constituency addresses and contact numbers will be listed in local libraries or you can put your postcode into the search box on a site such as Write to Them, [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com) You can also write to your MP via the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Some points you might want to include in a letter: home educating parents are already doing a vitally important full-time job and this must be taken into consideration by the Department; children who go to school are out of the home and away from the direct care of the parent for 30+ hours a week. This is not the case for home educating parents who are full-time carers; Government childcare promised by 2010 relies heavily on the provision within extended schools; home educated children will have very patchy access to the facilities of extended schools and this could only apply between 4 and 6pm; sending a child to school would cost the state £5,000 a year + childcare subsidy + working tax credits ( eg for someone only working part time 16 hours a week ); one size does not fit all and a family's individual circumstances need to be taken into account ; lone parents are already being told at JobCentres that these measures have been decided and that their children will have to be put in schools; children present at these interviews are traumatised; Secretary of State Peter Hain said in a speech on 25<sup>th</sup> October that "there will, of course, be lone parents for whom work is simply not an option and I will ensure that they will be protected"; home educating parents already have full-time caring responsibilities; many home educated children have been removed from the state system following severe bullying; there will be Disability Discrimination cases if home educated children with SEN are forced back into schools through the Government's welfare to work proposals, since research by Mencap shows that more than half of children on the autistic spectrum have been the victims of bullying; Ministers have already said that lone parents who receive Carers' Allowance can stay on Income Support; home education is equivalent to being a full time carer and we EITHER need to be allowed to stay on Income Support OR the Jobseeker's Allowance needs to be specially tailored to our families' needs; the majority of parents would work if they could, so it makes more sense to give better help to the ones who want to work and for whom work is a viable option; with respect to the Government's target of ending child poverty by 2020, on 30<sup>th</sup> October the Government's cross-party Work and Pensions Select Committee said "we must learn the lessons of American welfare reform, where in some states many lone parents moved into work but remained in poverty."

You can read the DWP consultation report at <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/welfarereform/readyforwork/> Copies are also available in Braille, Easy Read, in large print format and on audio cassette, free of charge from: Work, Welfare and Equality Group, 2nd Floor, The Adelphi, 1-11 John Adam Street London, WC2N 6HT. The phone number given in the report online is incorrect, but you might try 020 7962 8383, Monday to Friday 9-4pm.

If you are a lone parent who has recently been told that the Government has already decided and that you will have to put your children in school, you can make a complaint to your local JobCentre. I'm also cataloguing these cases so that I can take it up with the Department, so I'd be interested to hear from you. ( I should add that my son

Theo is almost 15 and I've never had the slightest bother from the JobCentre. My most recent work-focused interview was on December 31<sup>st</sup>. My local Lone Parent Advisors are very respectful of my decision to home educate, but I'm aware that this is not the case everywhere. )

Fiona Nicholson [fiona\\_j\\_nicholson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fiona_j_nicholson@yahoo.co.uk)  
EO Government Policy Group EO Disability Group  
205 Leverton Gardens, Sheffield S11 8FD

## Education Otherwise

### Business

## IMPORTANT

## 2008 CONTACT LIST

## WILL YOUR ENTRY BE CORRECT?

The 2008 contact list will be prepared in February for distribution with 2008 Handbook and the April newsletter. To make sure your details are correct, I need to receive any changes by 14 February 2008. We will be restricting the address details included further this year by removing the last half of the postcode.

If you have changed your name, address, phone number, e-mail address or wish to add or remove any children or change their home educated status, then please let me know asap. If you are not sure what choice you made on your renewal or new member form, please contact me for confirmation, and so any necessary changes can be made.

If you do not want your details in the contact list and/or are not sure whether you ticked the exclusion box on your membership form, please check with me and I will make sure your entry is correct.

Thanks. Lynda Hitchman  
[database@education-otherwise.org](mailto:database@education-otherwise.org) Tel:  
01553 617551 (Address inside back cover of NL)

## LOCAL CONTACT UPDATE

### **New Local Contacts**

**Cornwall** Phone enquiries. Natasha  
01209 861168

**Hampshire** Cathie Hinson:  
01420538200 [cathiemeg@hotmail.com](mailto:cathiemeg@hotmail.com)

**Yorkshire North** Denise McCallum,  
01609 771120 [wobblymoo@ripla.co.uk](mailto:wobblymoo@ripla.co.uk)

**Lancashire** Joint Kath Gibbon  
01282870707 [gibbykath@aol.com](mailto:gibbykath@aol.com)

If you would consider being a Local Contact, please contact Carla: tel. 0117 9354389, E-mail [carlaeolcc@googlemail.com](mailto:carlaeolcc@googlemail.com)  
Even if your area has a local contact, you might consider job sharing with the current post holder.

The following areas are without a Local Contact or the post holder has give notice that they wish to resign.

### England

Hampshire  
 Bedfordshire  
 Essex: Barking and Dagenham  
 Essex, South East  
 South Glos/Gloucestershire  
 Herefordshire  
 Kent south East  
 Bolton, Lancashire  
 London North-West  
 London West,  
 Kingston and Richmond  
 Norfolk: West  
 Merseyside  
 Brighton  
 Birmingham and Solihull  
 Yorkshire: East  
 Leeds: Yorkshire  
 Hull: Yorkshire  
 Oxford

### Scotland

Angus, Dundee,  
 Perth and Kinross  
 Argyll and Bute,  
 Edinburgh and the Lothians,  
 Inverclyde and Ayrshire,  
 Glasgow,  
 Fife

### Wales

Vale of Glamorgan,  
 West Glamorgan,  
 Gwynedd,  
 Anglesey

### VACANCIES

**URGENTLY** need two volunteers, as current volunteer is standing down **immediately**.

#### **Selling Our Books**

Send out parcels of books as members order them. Currently 2-3 orders a week. You need some clean storage space and easy access to a post office.

#### **Distributing Our Stationery**

This is a smaller job and involves holding the stationery that those who volunteer in EO may need. Currently 1 or 2 orders a month. Again access to a post office would be helpful.

For either job contact Debbie Barker [debs.barker7@btinternet.com](mailto:debs.barker7@btinternet.com) or phone Priscilla Park Weir on 01980 629737 for further information. Even if you are just **thinking** about it, please contact Debbie now.

#### **Children's Pages Liaison**

A Children's Pages Liaison person is needed to help the children produce their newsletter. If you have computer skills and can encourage the children to bring interest and innovation to their newsletter, please contact:

[eocouncil@education-otherwise.org](mailto:eocouncil@education-otherwise.org) or  
 Education Otherwise Association Ltd.,  
 PO Box 325, Kings Lynn, PE34 3XW

**VOLUNTEER WANTED** - to take over the maintenance of the Education Otherwise Website. This would involve a commitment of 2-3 hours a week. The volunteer would need to have software for web creation and editing along with some ftp software for uploading the new/edited files to the website. Please contact Janet Wilkinson on 01733 554436 or [janinuk2001@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janinuk2001@yahoo.co.uk)

### **New Council Member Résumé**

I am a former University lecturer, now a home educator, writer, researcher and painter.

In the past I have been a Trade Union representative, a campaigner and have volunteered in a local primary school and a senior citizen's club. I have also been a Labour party candidate at a local election, but I am no longer a member of any political party. I have a strong interest in human rights, animal rights, multiculturalism and environmental issues.

I am currently a home education point of contact for my local County Council, and a member of my district council's "people's forum". I have also recently begun to publish in the field of home education research, am a co-founder of the Home Education Research Association, and have been asked to act as an independent consultant for a large scale potentially ESRC-funded research project into traveller and non-traveller home education.

I have been a committed member of Education Otherwise for probably nine or ten years now, and during that time have been educating my three children, none of whom has ever been to school. I spent a short while working within the EO Government Policy Group, compiling background material to help support the consultation campaign, should it have been required, and have picked up odd small EO jobs here and there. I am the most recently co-opted member of EO Council and since taking up my post I have been working on policy development, particularly in the

areas of Health and Safety and Volunteer ratification processes.

I believe my main skills lie in my attention to detail, draughtsmanship and ability to work well under pressure. I consider myself to be efficient, organised and hardworking and would like to continue to help Education Otherwise in its transition towards becoming a more professional and productive charity, whilst not losing sight of its grass roots membership and its ethos of inclusivity. I believe strongly in the promotion and adherence to principled and ethical working practices and in transparency and efficiency in the workplace. I also believe in integrity of purpose and the need to maintain high standards of work and behaviour, and in the need to treat others with respect and courtesy.

Karen McIntyre-Bhatty  
(Gloucestershire Council Member)

## LETTERS AND ARTICLES

In answer to your notice inviting comments on possible changes to the newsletter: We would not like to see changes except perhaps to incorporate the children's pages in the newsletter. The present format suits us very well: It is small enough to read easily in any place, e.g. in the bath; it is relatively eco-kind; it reflects our view of EO; it is presumably relatively cheap to produce.

We are against advertising: to make a really useful income you have to adapt the magazine to suit the advertisers which is not what we want in EO; we do not have to leaf through the mag to find the articles. Most people will ignore the ads and find them an irritant.

As for seeking external funding, again you will be in hock to the funders: he who pays the piper...

Let the newsletter stay as it is: independent, interesting and reflecting EO ethos.

As for photos, with the advent of the Net, if people want to show photos or other format they can put them on the web.

Hope this is useful.

Micky and Trudi Macgregor (EO since about 1987) [mm@gibbonsolicitors.co.uk](mailto:mm@gibbonsolicitors.co.uk)

### **Cardigan area home education**

Teifimania has recently opened in Cardigan after a two year battle with the planning department. It is a large indoor play-area with the usual ball-pits, climbing things and so on. There is plenty of seating for parents, including large settees and a selection of magazines and daily papers. Hot and cold drinks are available plus health snacks and reasonably priced meals.

Group discounts are available. Teifimania also do children's parties with the dreaded goodie-bags included in the price. There is a choice of a set party meal or buffet (lots of healthy food). It is an ideal way to spend time with other families - parents can socialize while the children have fun. Without group discount the entry fee is perhaps a bit expensive for some parents, at £3.50 per child (4<sup>th</sup> child free), but if it is not too busy children can play as long as they want. When it is busy, there maybe a two-hour time limit.

It is difficult to find things to do inside during the wet and cold times of the year, so Teifimania provides the ideal meeting place, especially on weekdays during school term.

Nice to meet Jo, Serin, Guy and quite a few others. More parents are deciding to home-educate with several more families in this area adding to our numbers. Always good news, especially on the 'group discount' front!!!

Christine Jones, Fishguard SA65 9TS

### North East Vegan Gathering

We are organising a 3 day residential vegan event at Haggerston Castle, Berwick-upon-Tweed, which is a Haven holiday park. We wanted to put on an event for vegan families as there are not many similar things for them to do. Non-vegans are very welcome, but we are asking people to be vegan for the 3 days whilst they are there, otherwise it wouldn't be a vegan event any more! The dates are Friday 16th May for 3 nights.

You can find out all about the site here:

<http://www.havenholidays.com/Parks/scotlandNorthumberland/haggerstoncastle/>

You get lots of facilities included in the price such as swimming, sports, and kid's activities etc. There are many other activities available for a reasonable price. The site is a beautiful historic place with a big lake and woods, and is near Hadrian's Wall, Holy Island, Alnwick Castle (or Hogwart's school to Harry Potter fans), and the beach.

We have reserved some caravans at a discounted price, and are encouraging people to book as soon as possible as the price is only being held for us until 15th January, after which it will almost certainly go up, as Haven's prices normally fluctuate on a daily basis according to demand. Once the first block of caravans has been taken, we will reserve some more if necessary, but the later you book, the more you will expect to pay. At time of writing (31st December), it costs £150 for a 3 bed 8 berth luxury caravan, or £50 for a 2 bed room if you are willing to share a caravan with other people. The maximum no. of people allowed in any caravan is 8 for insurance reasons, so you could get together with friends if you wanted to economise.

We are hoping to hire a room and put on a children's party if funds allow. There will be 2 group meals, on Saturday and Sunday evenings. We are hoping to include local day visitors in these events for a reasonable charge, to help cover our expenses. This project is run by volunteers and is non-profit making.

I must stress that early payment is essential to get the best prices, as once our first 6 caravans have been taken, it will almost certainly cost more for the next block of caravans that we book.

If you would like further details and a booking form, email me [fj.flanagan@btinternet.com](mailto:fj.flanagan@btinternet.com), or write to Frances Flanagan, 14 Peel Street, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, SR2 8ED

## Dick Kitto and the Origins of EO

In 1972 Royston Lambert, the then head of Dartington Hall School, asked Dick Kitto, who had been working at Dartington since 1955, to set up a project in conjunction with Northcliffe School to provide education for a group of non-academic students who would have to take another year in school due to the pending raising of the school leaving age. Kitto established a Free/Democratic school model for the running of the project and was impressed by the qualities of the students even though they had effectively unschooled themselves within the school system where they were perceived as trouble makers.

Kitto's school caught the attention of Stan Windlass who had been working for a Children's Rights Centre in London - through which he had become aware of several families who were educating their own children. Windlass had just taken the lease of Lower Shaw Farm and wanted to establish it as a centre to explore ideas for an alternative society. Windlass asked Kitto to become the warden at Lower Shaw Farm after the Northcliffe School project ended.

Kitto was familiar with ideas about unschooled education through reading John Holt and Joy Baker's "Children in Chancery" along with his experiences at the Northcliffe School project. Kitto and Windlass were able to contact several families who were educating otherwise and arranged an informal network, and occasional meetings, between them throughout 1975 and 1976.

During 1976 Granada television made a programme about the group that resulted in around 200 enquiries. The informal nature of the group could not handle such a level of interest and so, at a meeting in September 1976 that included five deschooling families, a more formal structure for the group was established with stated aims and a regular newsletter. The response to the Granada television programme expanded the membership to over 50.

In 1977 Kitto presented a BBC TV Open Door programme about the ideas behind the organisation. This resulted in over 2000 enquiries and increased the membership to around 250.

The original "ethos" grew out of the attitudes and aspirations of the original members, it was not laid down from the start. Kitto saw EO in broad human rights terms: "As far as I'm concerned, E.O. does not have a particular kind of education to which it is committed. It is committed to the right of families to do what they want to do. It is a humans (sic) rights organisation. I don't feel we must do this, or we must do that. It is up to the members. To me it is not a specific thing where children have to run wild in the country, or have to pay visits to Winchester Cathedral, or anything else. There is this huge variation. Some people join EO in order to give their

children a good classical education that they cannot get at school. I have a fundamental belief in the freedom of choice. We must all be allowed to make our own mistakes. We don't want to be dictated to by a curriculum from central government." (Interview with Dick Kitto, Education Otherwise Newsletter Number 61, August 1988)

Taken from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education\\_Otherwise](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_Otherwise) where you can read more and add your own contribution to the history of EO

### EO Info Stalls at Spring and Summer Fairs and Festivals

I'm a long-time member of EO, but over the years have been low profile as far as newsletter articles go... My name is Habiba Willow. I have 'always' (since 1968 anyway) been a regular attender of Fairs and Festivals. I think it was in the summer of 1980 that I was at one of the many East Anglian fairs. I already knew about EO and had 2 children then, Melanie age 9 and Jack 1. We (partner David and I) knew we intended to home-educate Jack and any other offspring (Grace and Alice as it turned out).

At this fair we came upon Sarah Guthrie - Ed. Archie fame, though we didn't know that then.... Sarah was running an information stall with leaflets and books relating to EO and home education. We had a good chat, we joined EO and I came away with the idea that we could do that, i.e. run info stalls at fairs and gatherings. Of course, part of me said 'Really? Could you do a good job of that?'

I didn't give this voice too much attention, and by the next summer the Willow family were 'on the road', taking EO information out to many people at many diverse events. Our pattern for some years, was to leave home (then on the border of Essex/Suffolk/Cambs) in May and stay away till September or October. It was a most enjoyable lifestyle being outdoors all the time, first in an old and leaky bell tent and later (luxury) in a 12 foot caravan. As well as providing the EO information, we started selling handknitted hats and scarves, wool and jumpers, and second hand clothes, which meant we were making our living as we traveled. In between events we would sometimes stay with other EO families, or just find a place to park up.

What's prompting me to write this article, is to say to you all out there, 'you could do this!' Not necessarily all summer, I realize, but you could consider providing EO info at your local fair or festival. It's easy and fun and if you can't answer all the queries, hand them a leaflet, and/or direct them to someone who can, or the website.

At the present time I am still out there on the summer festival circuit, providing info and encouragement to all those folk who want to home-educate but just need a bit of a nudge and reassurance that they are not alone, EO is here to support them, and

chances are that they will have a local group close by. There are still very many people who have no idea that it is legal to home-educate. I still find it hugely rewarding to help people become aware of their right to home-educate, and to tell them how much freedom they actually have in this area.

Having done it for so long now, I am rewarded several times every summer by adults/ children coming up to me and saying 'Thanks, we did it because of your encouragement and it's been great!'

So - I can't cover the whole country! Think about if you would like to do this, and give me a ring for a chat, on 01297 443964 or 0845 458 2984 (local rate)

I look forward to hearing from you!

Habiba Willow (Dorset)

### Diary of a Home Educating Nobody

I've just been writing a report for the education authority. (EA). Not a report on our Home Ed but instead a report on them. It is a nice report because it was a very nice man who visited. But I did say I'd write one, like they said in their letter they'd do one on me, just so they know what that felt like!

This all happened because I found their standard letter informing me of their intention to visit so intimidating. They said they would need to come and assess our provision and would be making a written report. So I wrote back, mirroring their letter, and said they would be welcome to visit but I would equally need to assess their competence and I would also provide them with a written report. However I added on the bottom that if they found my letter inappropriate then they might like to consider that it was a reflection of theirs and maybe we could both do with revising our approaches!

Both the officer who came and ourselves had a good laugh over this for, as I said, he was a very nice man! Not only that, he was completely open to the fact that Home Education is relatively new for both them and parents and we all need to find our way in seeing that children get what they need.

For that's what it's all about really. However much we want to balk at being reviewed and assessed we perhaps do need some support system in place for the sake of all children. What services need to make sure of is that no child is being neglected or abused, either educationally or personally, and I know that does go on even though I would really like to maintain a rosy picture of all HE parents, particularly as all of the ones I've met are so caring and conscientious. And educational provision and welfare

are probably best assessed by an informal visit at the outset even if they don't happen regularly.

It's ages since we've had a visit. Last time they saw my youngest she was six - she's fourteen now! And it's been great not to have the interference. We've been bumbling along in our sometimes structured and sometimes haphazard way, sometimes producing a tangible piece of work that might impress someone if they were to look at it, but more often than not educating through conversation, child led interests, experimentation and experiences none of which have tangible proof that they took place. So you can imagine I was just a little on edge as to how this might be viewed not having seen anyone official for years!

As soon as the officer arrived I felt better for his whole approach was one of utmost respect. Respect not only for the fact that he was entering our home, but that we should not feel intimidated by his approach. He said, in fact, that he was so keen we didn't feel any kind of out-ranking he decided not to wear a suit and dressed casually. Secretly I thought he looked like next-door's gardener but I didn't tell him that. And what's even nicer is that he addressed all the issues I'd raised in my letter without actually having seen it, as I found out later!

What a shame all officers who visit could not have this approach. So that HE families don't feel intimidated, judged, bullied or belittled as some have done. But as I said, this is such a new experience for everyone, the scale of which is going to enlarge I would imagine, that perhaps by letting people visit and helping them to see all the different ways of educating there are, the EAs will gradually become more enlightened.

This man was definitely enlightened; a new breed of officer who was willing to listen, who was ready to broaden his understanding of education, who respected what dedicated parents were trying to do. Interestingly he said that he was a former head and I have to say I immediately bristled. However, he went on to explain that he had stopped for just about all the reasons that HEors stop using the system too, most particularly because of the OFSTED farce. I could have hugged the man when I heard that!

Facing a forthcoming visit can be quite an anxious time. It is easier for me, I think, because the education of children has always interested me so I have spent years thinking about it and formulating ideas. And I think this is exactly what helps when it comes to demonstrating what you are doing to your EA. If you have thought out *your own* ideas and your own objectives and reasons for doing what you do, you will be able to talk about it and display a confidence. If you can talk about what you do, perhaps even more importantly why you do not do other things that school children do, and how you approach your child's learning, then the officer has something to put on his

little form and has done his duty. And if you're starting out don't be afraid to ask for time to formulate your ideas and objectives - you need time to adjust.

Our officer admitted that was his biggest concern - filling in his form. He has to satisfy his bosses that a) provision *is* being made, b) *what* provision is being made and c) *how* that provision is being made and some longer term objectives. And that doesn't necessarily mean masses of written work in all subjects on the National Curriculum, you could equally talk about play led experiences, travel and visits, interaction with others - both adults and children, child led activities, television programmes, Internet and CDROMs. Thinking about those three issues above throughout your HE will help equip you for dealing with the EA.

If you feel a sense of rising panic thinking 'oh my goodness, we haven't done anything educational for ages' you might like to try a technique I use sometimes when I need to get my nerves back in hand! When I feel we're not getting anything achieved I record a little list of everything we do actually do day to day, even conversations, which are just as educational, and I can really surprise myself. One such list on a day I felt we'd 'done' nothing was: looking at a physics book (just a picture book) which led to a discussion and learning on forces, studied world map as a spin-off from that, continued with a chart we'd started, went swimming. Added onto the rest of the week this soon builds up into a range of activities you can talk about, even if there is no heap of paper work to prove it. This helps towards maintaining confidence in what you're doing.

EAs are increasing their understanding of how HE children are learning and not all necessarily want to see masses of 'stuff' to prove it. Some are keener to see a happy, contented, busy child and caring parents than a stack of paper. They also want to hear about a wide range of activities rather than just purely academic ones.

And do remember that many children in school are kept busy producing 'stuff' to prove to others what they do rather than learning anything new. As a HEor you might want to consider how valuable this is. Also remember on days you can't cope and do nothing, there will equally be days when teachers can't cope, and they'll be doing little more than crowd control. Your child has a better deal just left to play at home whilst you take care of yourself, than they would if they were stuck in school with poor teaching and a bad atmosphere. Don't feel you must always be producing 'stuff' for the sake of it.

The more we HE, and the more the EAs learn *how* we HE and that it works, the better it will be for everyone. And hopefully one day we will all be visited by a very nice man!

Ross Mountney. ross.mountney@tiscali.co.uk

## Cruel At School

My name is Bev Powell. I have a young daughter who was bullied at school at the age of 11. We didn't know at first that she was being bullied; we believed she was just a child that didn't like school. From the age of around 8 she became unhappy, she wasn't herself anymore. We questioned her about what was wrong, the usual question, are you being bullied? But her answer was always a firm no, I'm not being bullied.

She continued to be unhappy, Sunday nights were the worst, she would cry herself to sleep, Monday morning I would walk her to school, she would be crying I would have to walk her into the classroom and walk out leaving her behind in tears. That was the worst thing that I, as a mother had to do and not only one day - every day.

We then noticed that she was losing weight dramatically; only to find out at a later date that she had not been eating her packed lunch. We could also never convince her to eat a decent breakfast; all she would put near her mouth was a quarter of an apple or pear.

So we took her to our GP who then referred her to CAMHS and after a few appointments she was diagnosed with Separation Anxiety. This was due to several traumas happening within our family - beginning when she was around 6 years old. The counselling she received helped a little but we were then told that it was a school issue/problem/phobia. Still questions were put to her, are you being bullied? But still her answer was 'No, I'm not being bullied'.

Because of her severe weight loss she was now weighing 3 stones, looked extremely pale, was withdrawn, unable to sleep or eat or even smile. We decided to allow her to come home for lunch everyday so that we could ensure she was eating something. But this, as you can imagine became difficult as my husband, my eldest daughter and myself had jobs. However we managed to work our lives around it as our daughter always came first.

After a few months of having lunch at home she began to find it difficult to return to school for the afternoon, again there were tears but we persevered and always got her back after her lunch.

But eventually things worsened and nobody could even get her into the classroom, she would have severe panic attacks and almost faint. I had continuous meetings with her teacher and the Headmaster of whom were both extremely helpful. It was decided that my daughter would be taught in the Headmasters office as this was the only place she was happy, well not exactly happy but willing to get on with a slight smile. This way of teaching her went on for the last few months of Primary School, still she was coming home for lunch but was still upset about going back to the Head teachers office of which now was her classroom.

It was a terrible time, not only for our daughter but for all the family, it was excruciatingly painful to see her so unhappy during her young life. The problems continued to follow her into Secondary school, and now my feelings had turned into guilt - how could I, her mother, keep putting her through this by continuing to send her to Primary school and even worse, Secondary.

She started off doing well, because prior to her first day at secondary school I had arranged a meeting with her new tutor to see if she could be put in a group with some of her good friends. This arrangement was agreed, she was in a tutor group with her close friends.

Day 1 arrived and she did very well, she coped with the pressures of her anxiety, she coped just as she had with her 3 days induction back in the summer. She was coping, at least we thought she was coping - she was now good at hiding her feelings, just as many 11 year olds are.

Again several traumatic weeks went by for her with us not realizing all the things that were happening in her life. She was even staying for her lunches, but soon enough Sunday nights were beginning to become a challenge for her, she would become quiet with no smiles, no happy face just a young girl totally unhappy with her life.

So I spoke to her tutor, her reply was that she was doing really well and was coping with the pressure and anxiety, I spoke to my daughter once again and her reply was just as normal - that everything was fine and she just wasn't keen on school. Several more weeks passed by, we could see that she wasn't herself, Fridays and Saturdays she would try to be happy but Sundays were her worst nightmare, we still just didn't understand why?

On a cold December morning at 11 years old she couldn't take it anymore and she locked herself in my parents (her grandparents) garden shed - they were away on holiday. It was a freezing cold morning; we all presumed she had gone to school as normal. I was at work; my husband and eldest daughter were at home.

My older daughter received a missed call on her phone - it was a call my daughter had made from the shed. She called her back right away to find out what was wrong the reply was " I can't take it anymore! What's wrong with me? I just don't want to live like this anymore! " She told her sister where she was and was found as soon as possible, the sight of her in the shed was terrible, a scared, tearful little girl turning blue from the cold - she was taken back home where she opened up about everything.

Her story went like this... I'm being bullied, I cant take it any longer they've taken my friends, they whisper about me, say nasty things about me and put drinks bottles around the tables so I cant sit with anyone - they've left me isolated!

My husband called me at work to tell me about the ordeal, I felt terribly guilty for not being there for my daughter when she was going through this.

When I arrived home I phoned the school and demanded a meeting, my request was honoured and I had a meeting the next day, I took all the notes and diaries that had been written about the bullying. Notes that I didn't know my daughter had. The head arranged a meeting for my daughter, the bully, her mother and myself. My daughter asked the bully about why they put bottles at tables and the bully replied, "the teacher told me to". At the end of the meeting the girls were made to sign contracts saying they would be nice to each other, but I still knew then that the bullying wasn't going to end.

My daughter carried on going to school but the bullying didn't stop - just gradually lessened. Time passed on until I found my daughter sitting on her top bunk, legs dangling out the window in a daze - I gently took her arm and brought her away from the window. This made me make the decision that our daughter would now be home educated, I wrote to the school and to the local education authority telling them that I would be removing my daughter from school and why. I also contacted Education Otherwise and my LEA visit came very quickly. She was a lovely lady and was extremely helpful. My daughter and I made a timetable and bought some books and she began her Home Ed adventure! She was back to her happy self - the girl she used to be! Meaning the whole family was happy as well.

A few months past and the bullies turned their attention to some other girls whose parent's contacted me for advice, this incensed me to set up [www.cruelatschool.co.uk](http://www.cruelatschool.co.uk). The site has been running now for almost 3 years and we have helped many children and their families, who have been or are being bullied. The site has links to many great organisations such as KidScape and BeatBullying. BBC Points West, This Morning and Channel 4 News have also added links to us. I also recently appeared on GMTV. The local press have run stories on the site and why I set it up.

Cruel At School is continuing to help people overcome bullying and my aim is to keep on helping, I have also gained the backing of our local MP and Council.

My daughter is still receiving counselling to help her overcome her anxiety and bullying past and she still finds it hard to trust children her age. I know she will get there in the end and will be back to her happy go lucky self - the happy young girl she deserves to be.

Thumbs up for home education, all children deserve to be happy and as long as they are happy they will learn.

Bev Powell (Gloucestershire) [bev@cruelatschool.co.uk](mailto:bev@cruelatschool.co.uk) [www.cruelatschool.co.uk](http://www.cruelatschool.co.uk)

## WORLD BOOK DAY VOUCHERS

March 6th is World Book Day, and enclosed with your newsletter you will find three WBD vouchers. A voucher can be redeemed in a participating bookstore for one of 9 specially commissioned WBD £1 books or used against a book or audiobook purchase in the same. Full details can be found at <http://www.worldbookday.com/>

Vouchers are issued on a per child basis. If you require more than the three that are included please send an SAE (indicating how many you need) to June Wilson-Billing, Barton House, Newton, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 2DQ

## CRAFTY CORNER

### Wind chimes

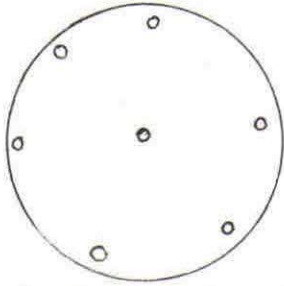
Hi, It's Maria back again with another crafty idea for you and your children.

You will need six lengths of bamboo cane, string, glue, two jar lids (one slightly smaller) and a charm or weight to hang from the centre. Once again, I have drawn some rough pictures to guide you but I promise that they are very easy. The pictures are not to scale and don't show all the canes.

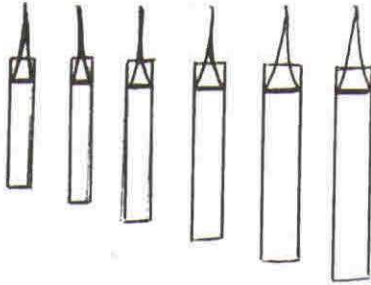
1. Take your lid and punch one hole in the centre and six around the outside. You can paint the lid if you want it to look a bit fancy or leave it plain for a more \*rustic\* look.
2. Cut the bamboo cane into desired lengths. I prefer to have six pieces all slightly longer than each other.
3. Attach some string to each length of cane. I pop a line of glue around the cane and wrap the string round it but you can be technical and drill a hole if you prefer.
4. Tie the six lengths of cane to the larger lid with a small knot. You can dab a piece of glue over the knot for extra security if you want.
5. Take your smaller lid and pop a hole in the centre.
6. Attach your charm or weight to a piece of string longer than your bamboo canes.
7. Put a small knot in the middle of the string and push it through the smaller lid. The lid will rest on the knot and then tie the string to the larger lid at the top and you're done.

You can always replace the lids with cardboard rings and the bamboo cane with feathers or strings of beads or popcorn if you prefer.

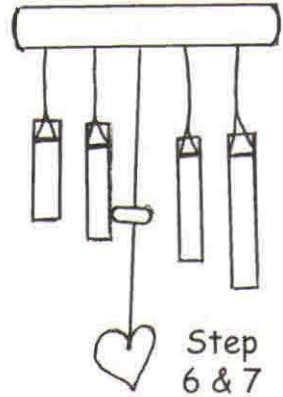
We're going to make a selection for the garden as Spring will soon be here.



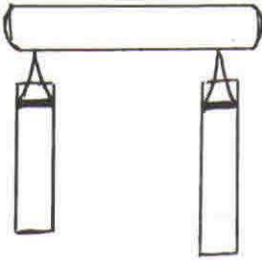
Step  
1



Step 2 & 3



Step  
6 & 7



Step  
4



Step  
5

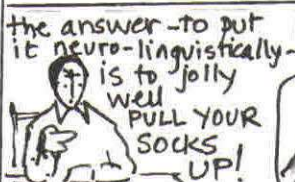
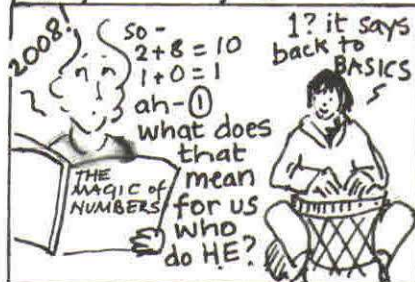
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# EDUCATING ARCHIE

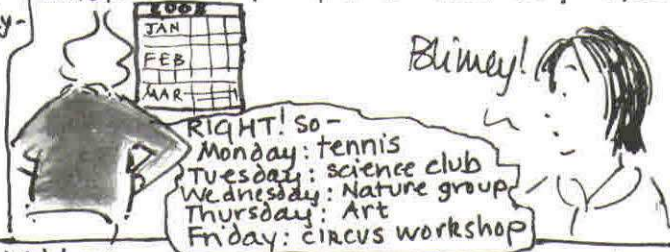
number crunching for Mrs G in 2008 •

Mrs G is reading her New Year's present]

gfd



LATER - after a few phone calls + a Big coffee:



## REGIONAL DIARY

All regular meetings listed below are included automatically in every issue, please let us know of any changes. Events organisers please remember when giving details of events that the newsletter can be read by people who are not EO members, and please check your details. Not all groups are run by EO members. Please call the number given for further details of the meeting/event in your area. Changes to Jo: jo4eo@aol.com or 01392 438876

### ENGLAND

#### **BEDFORDSHIRE**

Luton Home Education Group, for a copy of latest newsletter contact: franticfran100@yahoo.co.uk

South Bedfordshire Home Education Group, covering Houghton Regis, Dunstable & surrounding areas. We meet regularly with a variety of activities. Bernie: southbeds.homeed@ntlworld.com

#### **BERKSHIRE**

email list for home educators in Berkshire & surrounding counties. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BerkshireHomeEducators>

Varied activities & HE events for all ages most days, details & list of all Berks activities Gail: gborrows@gmail.com or 01628 483895

Hero's Education Centre 4 days/wk, workshops, lessons, activities, Dawn 01628 783107, thirdEye1@compuserve.com : [www.homeeducators.co.uk](http://www.homeeducators.co.uk)

Lambourn Meeting weekly on Fris on an organic farm for play, activities & support. Tracey, 01793 813325 or roge.tracey@virgin.net

#### **BRISTOL**

Thurs meeting at St Paul's Adventure Playground, Ian or Silke 0117 9412707. Email list for Bristol & surrounding areas at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BristolHomeEducation> : Also local group website for more information about home ed in Bristol: [www.bristolhomeeducation.org.uk](http://www.bristolhomeeducation.org.uk)

Bristol Home Education Learning Place meeting Monday + Friday pm, Carla 0117 935 4389

#### **BUCKS**

Newsletter for Bucks/Northants & Milton Keynes home educators network extends a warm welcome to all. Extends a warm to all, multi activities and support, also have excellent relationship with LEA/LA. Local Contact Georgeanne 01908 662256 [www.mkhen.co.uk](http://www.mkhen.co.uk) MKHE - Milton Keynes Home Educators, friendly group welcomes all, monthly newsletter + online discussion room, Georgina 01908 371945 [www.miltonkeyneshomeeducation.co.uk](http://www.miltonkeyneshomeeducation.co.uk) South Bucks: meetings for craft, activities, play, speakers, drama, trips etc. Jackie 01753 886924 or Gail 01628 483895, gborrows@gmail.com

High Wycombe, Hughenden Village Hall, 1.30-4pm every Tuesday, Claire 07841 474398 : <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/highwycombehomeducators>

#### **CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

Cambridge: regular meetings & outings, Jane: 01223 241925, JLLHellings@aol.com Alconbury monthly activities run by Christian group. All welcome, Audrey 01480 219881 Peterborough weekly meetings, Sarah 01733 265043, sarah.lambert7@ntlworld.com Peterborough Muddle Puddle Group The group is primarily for under 8s + meets 3 Friday afternoons a month. To contact the group see Yahoo list at: <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/PboroMuddle>

Cambridge/Norfolk border, North Cambridgeshire: Fortnightly at March, Jane 01354 677869 or Sarah 01354 688245 or Pat: Northcamps@chauntryhouse.fsnet.co.uk

#### **CHESHIRE**

Chester area Outside Education Group for details of all events contact Clare 01490 412167: [cefarrall@corwen.net](mailto:cefarrall@corwen.net)

Delamere Weekly alternative education programme with Delamere Forest Rangers, 01490 412167

Chester, meetings every other week for music crafts & educational activities, 01490 412167 Frodsham Social meetings & Youth achievement/ DoE award meetings every other week, 01490 412167

Deeside Monthly ice Skating, 01490 412167

**South Cheshire and North Staffs Group**, regular activities, meetings and trips for all ages. Teen activities. Contact Carrie 01782 786720, scans.heag@yahoo.co.uk

**CLEVELAND & DURHAM** (see also DURHAM) email list:

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/tvhe/>

**Billingham**, Linz, 01642 800940

#### **CORNWALL**

Free events sheet bi-monthly via email or SAEs. Contact Helen, Pro-Tem, West Pentire Road, Crantock, Newquay, Cornwall, TR5 8RZ 07779 559535 or email Beth on

bethany.sampson@talk21.com : Local information on our local home ed website:

[www.freewebs/cornwallhomeed](http://www.freewebs/cornwallhomeed)

**Menheniot near Liskeard**, Home Grown Small School, Mondays, term time only, Kath 01752 851091 or Tania 01822 835902

**Pensilva**, Forest Day, 2 last Tuesdays of each month. Ele: 0845 345 8596

**Penzance PZ HOME ED** Mon pm, Ruth Boulton 01736 350887 : tboulton@phonecoop.coop

#### **CUMBRIA**

Cumbria Otherwise Newsletter, for full details contact Martin, 01539 732918,

cumbria.otherwise@dsl.pipex.com

**Kendal** 3rd Friday each month Contact Jayne 01539 534541 or jaynewoodbank@yahoo.co.uk

**Kendal** alternate Mondays, Jo 01539 567005.

**Penrith** alternate Tuesday, 1.30-3.30, Sarah 01768 896019

**South Lakes**, Wednesday, Lex 01229 885206

#### **DERBYSHIRE**

**Chesterfield Home Ed Group** meet

Wednesday. Outings & activities, Yvonne 01246 555645, Suzy 01246 240917, Alastair 01246 520820

**Chesterfield - Hasland Village Hall**, Art Class, age 10 & over, Thursdays, 12-2pm, term time only, Sian or Marek on 01246 473902

**Derby Group**, 4th Thursday of month, Andy 01332 752998 or andy@derbyhe.co.uk

**Amber Valley**, Alfreton area, meetings, 30 minute drive from Derby, Nottingham, Matlock & Mansfield, Deborah 01773 778380 or Helen 01332 883545

#### **Derbyshire**

Family group including tai chi & French plus playtime, Ian: Ianalderson7758@tiscali.co.uk  
Family swimming sessions, Wednesday pm, Ian: Ianalderson7758@tiscali.co.uk

**Derbyshire & beyond - AHEAD**. Meet weekly on Thursday for French, tai chi, special events & time for playing/chatting & Weds for swimming. Website:

<http://www.geocities.com/aheadhomeeducation>

#### **DEVON**

**EO Devon Newsletter** for details contact

Kate:katefernhill@aol.com or 01392 851370

**National Trust (Devon)** for details ring Neil 01363 82314

**East & Mid Devon** Local Contact: Kate 01392 851370

**Okehampton** Monday, alternate weeks, Barbara 01837 55805

**Exeter** Wednesday, Free Range Learning for all ages, Annie 01392 434167

**Exeter** Thursday, fortnightly Pottery, Neil 01363 82314

**Exeter** Friday, Green Woodworking, Neil 01363 82314

**Exeter** weekly teenage group, Erinn 01392 434167

**North Devon** local Contact: Jo 01237 478211

**Bideford area** fortnightly social meetings on Tuesday, Louise 01237 441786

**North Devon Home Grown Kids**, twice weekly meetings & events.

**Swimbridge** Wed 2pm-5pm, 01271 830456

**Barnstaple** Fri, Funderzone, term time only. [www.homegrownkids.co.uk](http://www.homegrownkids.co.uk) 01271 830456/830804

**South Devon** Local Contact Bridget, 01803 862158, bridgetmeadows@onetel.com

**South Devon Home Education Group:** Mons: swimming at Totnes, Ivana 01803 840830

Tues: outings, museums + camping trips, Sally 01803 551955

Wed: weekly meetings in hall near Totnes, Helen 01803 665604

Thurs: workshops, Sara or Helen 01803 665604 see Devon Newsletter (details above) for more info.

**South Devon, Dart Valley H.E. Network** regular meetings & one-off events. Gordon/Hannah:lindnich@tesco.net or 01803 762788, for more details see Devon newsletter.

**Devon East/Dorset West** Lyme Regis, Axminster, Bridport, Chard, Habiba 0845 4582984

**South West Dorset/South East Devon/South Somerset**, every Monday from 10-2.30 term time, all ages welcome. Mary or Danny 01297 560342

#### DORSET

**Dorset/Somerset/Devon borders**

Regular meetings on Tuesday, Karen 01460 30461, on Thursday, Ali 01297 489775

**Dorset** Rosemary 01747 853593

**Bournemouth** Weekly Monday Meetings, Carol: 01202 677066, Carolstonehe@yahoo.co.uk  
local website: www.he-ed.org.uk

#### DURHAM

Email

list:<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/tvhe/>  
or [http://groups.yahoo.com/durhamhome\\_ed/](http://groups.yahoo.com/durhamhome_ed/)  
**ESSEX**

**Chelmsford** monthly meetings, third Thurs, 2-4pm, Sarah: tower@tesco.net

**Colchester** Bowling & Swimming monthly on last Wednesday, term time, Sharron:

sharron@brainydata.com

**Southend OTHENA** - Older children/Teens News & Activities (11+) for details contact Michelle: ab006h6097@blueyonder.co.uk or 01702 307834

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/OTHENA/>

**Tiptree** monthly meetings, last Tuesday of month 2-5pm, julie.ashton@ntlworld.com

**Various venues across Essex**, New Teens Group, meeting monthly.

Sally@brisley.freerve.co.uk

**Around Essex** Educational visits twice monthly Thursday. Details of Essex groups & events in Epicycle available from Corinne:

epicycle@wavy.org 07802630693

**Southend**, Shirley: 01702 308698, indigoshirl@gmail.com

#### GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Monthly social meetings open to all. Regular workshops & outings. Website:

<http://members.lycos.co.uk/GlosHomeEducators/index.html> also Email list for events & forum.  
Rob & Fiona 01684 290087

openhorizons@ntlworld.com Caroline 01242

890351 cambrose@ieee.org Beverley 01242

524091 or Mhairi 01452 384104.

**Gloucester** meetings & swimming. Dawn 01452

540019 dawnandmike@blueyonder.co.uk or

Tracy 07941 612092

**Stroud** regular meetings, Nick 01453 840036

nick.weir@freeuk.com

#### South Gloucestershire

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SouthGlosHomeEd>

#### HAMPSHIRE

**Havant**, meeting most weekdays. Julie 01243 552472, activeo@btinternet.com :  
[www.activeo.org.uk](http://www.activeo.org.uk)

**Fareham & Gosport**, FAREGOS HE meets twice weekly for craft, swimming & other activities. Tracey 02392 551870 or Julie 01730 261468, email: jkbar1955@myrealbox.com

**North Hampshire**, NHEO. Open to all home educators in North Hants & surrounding areas. Regular meetings in **Oakley**, ice skating & other activities.

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/NHEO/>,  
Carol 01264 357650, eo@azakit.com

**Farnham/Aldershot area**, under 10s;

fortnightly, Paula: 01252 316497

paula.oakley@talk21.com or Emma: 01483

426277 emmajevons@supanet.com

**Romsey/New Forest area**, fortnightly, anniemax1@yahoo.co.uk

**Southampton & area**, SEEDS meetings at least weekly, Lyn 02380 487879

lynb@dsl.pipex.com :

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SEEDS1>

**New Forest** I'm back to running the home ed social group for the New Forest and we are moving to a new location. Join us on Fridays between 11am-1pm for crafts, tea, workshops and socialising! Contact Karen on 01425 656856

#### HERTFORDSHIRE (see also N.London)

To join **Herts Yahoo Group** please email:  
karenbartlett@btinternet.com

**Stevenage Swimming Pool**, Swimming Lessons every Thursday 10.30am, term time, email Kathleen: kathleen.darby@ntlworld.com

#### ISLE OF MAN

Isle of Man Home Education Network. Meeting monthly,

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/hen-iom/>

#### ISLE OF WIGHT

Local Contact Shara 01983 562313

**I.W.E.O. Group**: craft sessions, visits, swimming, theatre, picnics, barbecues, mutual support, especially older EO kids but new members & visitors always welcomed, Jude 01983 531680

**Isle of Wight Learning Zone**, Sue 01983 241095

**KENT**

Wealden please see Sussex

Ash, Sandwich, Dover, Canterbury,  
Ramsgate & surrounding areas, Leanne 01304  
814498

Isle of Thanet, Vanda 01843 842629  
Medway towns, Bridget 01634 234938

Tunbridge Wells group meet every Monday  
from 10-4, Kim 01892 863941

SEFLAGS Edenbridge, Kent; Sussex & Surrey  
Weekly sports & meetings, Karen 01732 864  
524 website: <http://www.flags-education.org.uk>

Leham anyone wanting to meet in this area  
please contact Jayne 01622 859882

Medway Towns, regular meetings & visits, Liz  
01634 323959

**LANCASHIRE**

Old Cobblers, Pam 01706 215585, for a  
comprehensive list of monthly events please  
email Pam at: [davidandpam@ntlworld.com](mailto:davidandpam@ntlworld.com) or  
send SAE to: 2 Melia Close, Rossendale, Lancs,  
BB4 6RQ

Blackburn Ice Rink monthly, Jackie 01695  
424220

Botany Bay, Angela 01204 659634

Preston Badminton/Swimming, Angela 01204  
659634

Lancaster, monthly meetings, Thursday 12-  
3pm, Gillian, 01524 62918,  
[kenworthyfamily@talktalk.net](mailto:kenworthyfamily@talktalk.net)

**LEICESTERSHIRE**

5 regular meeting venues across  
Leicestershire. Alex 0116 2720209 :  
[alex.caldwell@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:alex.caldwell@tiscali.co.uk)

Leicester area-Syston Group for the under 8s.  
Tammy on [mattamsam@btinternet.com](mailto:mattamsam@btinternet.com) or 0116  
2692499, or Vikki on [martinvikki@aol.com](mailto:martinvikki@aol.com)

**LINCOLNSHIRE**

Activelincs Home Education Group, Helena  
01724 720595

Boston and surrounding area. Families with  
teens who'd like to meet for swimming, bowling  
or other activities contact Ross on 01205  
870773 or [ross.mountney@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ross.mountney@tiscali.co.uk)

Central Lincoln, Bluebells, regular meetings,  
Ruth 01522 804583.

Variety of informal events & get togethers,  
Christine 01507 338070,  
[christinehalse1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:christinehalse1@yahoo.co.uk)

Lincoln Cathedral Home-educators - Central  
Lincoln, regular meetings, Ruth 01522 804583.

Christine 01507 338070,  
[christinehalse1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:christinehalse1@yahoo.co.uk)

South Lincolnshire, drama group, Brothertoft  
Village hall, 10 - 12 Tues, 01205 821044  
[Krististevens@aol.com](mailto:Krististevens@aol.com)

**LONDON**

Ladbroke Grove/Queens Park group, Monday +  
Wednesday, Sarah 07816 872841 or Gigi 020  
732 88990

South East London/Kent borders regular  
meetings, Ann 01689 826504

East London HE Group alternate Wednesdays  
in Leytonstone 1-4pm, Call Jo, 020 8520 5709 :  
[acoo@mirehall.freereserve.co.uk](mailto:acoo@mirehall.freereserve.co.uk)

East London Home Educators, Forest Gate,  
Meeting Friday 1-3, Annalise 0208 5001053

Bromley/Croydon Chrysalis Group, Jenny 020  
8654 3972, [jen9@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jen9@blueyonder.co.uk)

Dulwich, Wednesday, Gina 020 8299 1135

Forest Hill contact Denise 020 8699 6866

Grove Park group meets every other Friday,  
Claire 020 8402 5831

Kidbrooke rollerblading, Fiona 020 8852 9756 :  
[bettleslake@clara.net](mailto:bettleslake@clara.net)

Lewisham Thursday 11-1 then to park  
afterwards, Joolz, 0208 2895026 :  
[teachyourrown@hotmail.com](mailto:teachyourrown@hotmail.com)

New Cross, term time swim on Tuesday at  
12.30, Denise 020 8699 6866

Sydenham, Chrystia + Keith 020 8776 8597

NW London Otherwise Club Leslie 020 8969  
0893

Chelsea Open House Project SW London, Mon  
afternoons, call Sophie on 020 7581 5238 to  
book

Stanmore events on Tuesday + Wednesday.  
Programme available from Vivienne:  
[fimsharkey@aol.com](mailto:fimsharkey@aol.com), call 020 8954 1885 or  
Vicki: [Aceva@btinternet.com](mailto:Aceva@btinternet.com)

N London, Hornsey Home Educators Club,  
Mon mornings, Tina 020 8340 4212

N London Barnet Group, Mon, Mirelle 020  
8449 7868, or [lance.e@virgin.net](mailto:lance.e@virgin.net) or  
Lynda 020 8368 9046

West London (& Middlesex) Home Ed group  
Tuesday, Betsy 020 8993 0677

[betsyhomeed@yahoo.com](mailto:betsyhomeed@yahoo.com) Contact Betsy (EO  
West London Local Contact) to join West  
London Home Ed yahoo group,

West London, Wednesday 12-2.30 pm  
fortnightly during term time, Alison 020 8569  
9398 or Kathryn 020 8566 0543 or

kathrynvglenn@hotmail.com or  
 Alison@rothwell1973.fsnet.co.uk  
**West London (Chiswick & Ealing) Tuesday,**  
 Naomi 020 8567 7589 or  
 naomisandler@yahoo.co.uk. Also contact for  
 details of yahoo group membership - discussion  
 & information about events in the area.

**Greater London, meetings,**  
 fizzaatmuslimhomeed@hotmail.co.uk :  
 http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MuslimSisters  
 HomeEducationNetwork

#### MANCHESTER

**Manchester.** Sue 0161 881 4830  
**Madcow Manchester + District, events &**  
 support email list from Lesley:  
 lesley.blackshaw@ntlworld.com

#### MIDDLESEX

**Hayes, meetings every other Thursday from**  
 10.30 to 1.30, Jenn 0208 573 9042,  
 Jenn@shadowdale.demon.co.uk  
**Pinner, Meadowsweet Home School, Tuesday-**  
 Friday, qualified teachers, 10am to 3pm,  
 Deborah 01895 623640

#### NORFOLK

**West Norfolk**  
 http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/WestNorfolk  
 HomeEducators: Lynda 01553 617551

**Norfolk, Mattishall** The music club here runs  
 fortnightly: alisonbrennan@tiscali.co.uk  
**Downham Market HEDD (Home Educators**  
 Downham & District)  
 www.freewebs.com/heddownhamdistrict or  
 Nicola 01366 385380.

**Norwich area - Free Wheel for under 10s,**  
 activity group Wednesday fortnightly 07760  
 203728

**Norwich Yoga Bugs, Sally 01603 279832**  
**Thetford, Swimming, indoor sports/play at**  
 Leisure Centre Term-time, Thurs 2.30-4.30,  
 Fay 01953 681785

**Norwich, Fri, fortnightly activities run by**  
 Christian group, Sue: 01953 454278

#### NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

www.northantshe.org.uk Imogen 01604 781316  
 or 07756 011189, info@northantshe.org.uk  
**Daventry, monthly meetings, Ley 01327**  
 360909 or 07772 542966

**Northamptonshire, Local home ed teens, Lynne**  
 01604 454240

#### NORTHUMBERLAND/NORTH EAST

http://groups.msn.com/EducationOtherwise

#### NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

**Nottingham Weekly meetings, for full list,**  
 Local Contact: Damian 0115 9603005 or  
 damian.carnell@ntlworld.com or Louise 01773  
 780634

**Amber Valley area, meetings, contact: Deborah**  
 01773 778380 or Helen 01332 883545

#### OXFORDSHIRE

Group meets alternate Thurs for varied  
 timetable of activities. Children split into 3 age  
 groups. Workshops & regular speakers.  
 Contact: Wendy 01865 514973

#### RUTLAND

Weekly meetings & activities, Jackie or Iain  
 01572 755 959, jackiecrave@bluebottle.com

#### SHROPSHIRE

**South Shrops regular meetings every Tuesday,**  
 outings & workshops, Maria 01588 630314  
**Newport Nr Telford, meetings & outings, Fri**  
 from 12.30, Julieann 01952 401571:  
 weshalllook@aol.com

#### SOMERSET

**Bath H.E.L.P. group meets regularly for outings**  
 & activities. Louise: 07957 618988  
 jensen-thomas@clara.co.uk

**Bath Meetings 3 days per week for semi-**  
 structured child-centred learning activities  
 with parents & a teacher, Andy & Rachel,  
 01373 464754

**Frome & Beyond (FAB) home educators'**  
 support group. Social gatherings, group  
 activities, outings+ newsletter, Sally 01749  
 674842 or Jennifer 01373 813830

**Wiveliscombe/Taunton area - regular get-**  
 togethers & outings, Maggie 01984 624651.

**Wells & Glastonbury area, regular social**  
 meetings, Lesley 01749 689241, Tanya  
 01458 83487, Steph 01749 812959

**Somerset North - Regular get-togethers &**  
 activities, Vicky 01275 848425

**Somerset North W.A.V.E.S group meeting**  
 fortnightly for crafts & activities in **Weston-**  
**Super-Mare.** Friendly group. Viv 07957  
 580935

#### STAFFORDSHIRE / S. CHESHIRE / N. SALOP

**Stafford HESEO, meeting 2nd + 4th**  
 Wednesday each month 11-3pm, bring lunch,  
 karen 01543 422577, karen@karista.co.uk

**North Staffs and South Cheshire Group,**  
 regular activities, meetings and trips for all  
 ages. Teen activities. Contact Carrie 01782  
 786720, scans.heag@yahoo.co.uk

**SUFFOLK**

**Woodbridge**, Foxburrow Farm, activities organised by Suffolk Wildlife Trust, to book call Jenny on 01394 380113

**Wetherden** meetings 3rd Fri 10.30-2pm, Heather 01953 688128

**Wild Meadows**, Ringsfield, regular meetings, Mell, 0845 337 0282

**SURREY**

**P.A.C.T.** Surrey's home education group. Monthly newsletter containing information about activities, outings, events etc, pact@jellyed.com or Jeremy on 01483 546515  
**Surrey**, Piers 01932 228940, www.bloohouse.co.uk

**Guildford** Spectrum skating, Fri, Rachel 01483 565703 (No Sunday calls please.)

**Cobham** area, Learning Group for parents + children 0-7, Rachael: 01932 706191 : rachael.underwood@classicfm.net

**Guildford** area: Theatre bookings: Tisha 01483 898575.

**Guildford**: Under 10s: Nicky 01483 232080  
**Dorking/Reigate** area, Helen Burnett 01737 243606

**Farnham/Aldershot** area, friendly group for under 10s, fortnightly meetings & occasional outings, Paula, 01252 316497, paula.oakley@talk21.com or Emma, 01483 426277, emmajevons@supanet.com

**North Surrey/Croydon** meetings, contact Jenny 0208 654 3972 : jen9@blueyonder.co.uk

**SUSSEX**

**Wealden Home Ed website:**

www.when.omnia.co.uk also email group: wealdenhomeeducatorsnetwork@yahoo.groups.com

**Sussex east:** regional contact, Winnie Durdant-Hollamby: 01342 826087

**Sussex Newsletter for Home Education** Monthly newsletter gives full details of news, groups, events & activities throughout the county, for details, Roslyn: 01323 848973, rossi@screamteamuk.com or ring these numbers:

**Lewes:** Jan 01273 514528

**Hastings HEDGE Group:** Ali 01424 814175, Rachel 01424 422178 or Emily 01424 719570

**Brighton** Lucy 01273 699099, lucygulland@hotmail.com

**Brighton**, meetings, Elaine 01273 581852 : elaine.haslip@btinternet.com

**Eastbourne 'SHINIES' home ed. group:** Loretta: 01323 509283 : madboys@tiscali.co.uk

**Forest Row Area:** Winnie: 01342 826087

**Sussex west**

**Worthing/Shoreham Beach:** Avis: 0127 542589 or 07703 647954

**Central West Sussex**, 20 mins Crawley, Brighton, Chichester, 10 mins Worthing, EtudEO-home-ed group, various clubs and groups meeting daily in term time. Jo, 01903 742989 : jodavis\_@hotmail.co.uk

**Chichester**, meeting most weekdays. Julie 01243 552472, activeo@btinternet, www.activeo.org.uk

**TYNE & WEAR & NORTHUMBERLAND**

Regular, frequent & varied activities. Age range from 1 to 17yrs. New members welcome.

Website:

http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/home\_ed\_tyneandwear

Music - Rosemary: 0191 2853707 : paul@thenews.icom43net

**National Trust & English Heritage Visits + Woodland visits**, Deborah: 01434 674713

**WARWICKSHIRE**

**Coventry & Warwickshire** Monthly meetings held at the locations given, plus monthly outings. Full details of meetings & outings given in HELM (see under West Midlands).

**Bedworth**, meetings 1st Tuesday 10.30-1.30pm, Alison: 07769 740925

**Coventry**, meetings 4th Tuesday 1-4pm, Sarah: 024 7627 9633

**Wolston**, meetings 2nd Thursday 10.30-3pm, Sue 024 7654 3801

**Rugby, Daventry**, meeting monthly, Ley 01327 360909 : 07772 542966

**WEST MIDLANDS**

Meetings, trips out, activities etc are held throughout each month at a variety of locations all over the West Midlands. The newsletter HELM lists many of them. HELM is available free by email or by post for a small charge & covers HE related articles & events throughout the West Midlands & surrounding areas. All entries for Helm should now be sent to: 01562 720046 or helmeditor2112@blueyonder.co.uk  
**Birmingham** HE Group, regular meetings, Linda 0121 742 7368 :

linda@tustin2532.freereserve.co.uk

**Coseley, West Midlands, Meeting**  
monthly, 10am, Fri, Debbie 01902 570787 or  
Glenda 0121 556 0189 :  
highwaygirl@supalife.com

**Coventry, Daventry, meeting monthly, Ley**  
01327 360909 or 07772 542966

#### **WILTSHIRE**

Beccy 01985 840174

**Biddestone, Chippenham, Out and About**  
Learning Centre Nr. Chippenham Tuesdays  
termtime 9.30am to 3.00pm :  
info@outandaboutlearning.org.uk

**Warminster meeting each Monday from 2.30,**  
Beccy, 01985 840174

**Salisbury meeting Tuesday afternoons, Vicky,**  
01722 324863

#### **North Wiltshire**

To link up with almost 100 HEers in North  
Wilts, NWilts\_HE-subscribe@yahoo.com

**Swindon (term time) Monday, swimming at**  
Oasis, from 1:30; 2nd & 4th Wednesday, ice-  
skating at Link Centre, 1:30-3:30

**Swindon Wednesday, Shena:** 01793 686433 or  
Mandy: 01793 644472

**FLL Robotics team, phone Shena:** 01793  
686433

**Calne book club, contact Janet:** 01249 818672

**Devizes Thurs, 11.30 - 2.30, contact Janet:**  
01249 818672 or email Janet for this + book  
club: janet@eldekvisit.com

#### **WORCESTERSHIRE**

LC Sue, meetings, events, trips out etc  
happening all through the month throughout  
the county, 01905 458423.

**Worcester Home Education Group meeting**  
Tuesday, Jayne 01905 424451

**North Worcs/Kidderminster meetings, Gail**  
01562 822034, gail@tqmi.co.uk

**YORKSHIRE EAST Regular meetings & visits,**  
Alison 01405 769902

**Bridlington, for meetings, Jacqui** 01262  
679769 or Alison 01377 240324

#### **YORKSHIRE NORTH**

**Regular meetings & outings. Karen** 01904  
400317, kkarensandy@aol.com

**near York, new group meets Wednesday for**  
various educational activities, crafts & social  
contact : contact@yorkeo.co.uk

**North/West Yorkshire Group, Steeton Church**  
Hall, Fortnightly meetings on Fri, Sarah  
Thomas 01535 655405

**Skipton Home Ed Group Meeting monthly on**  
Friday, Judith 01756 791356  
**near Malton, meeting weekly on Monday, Tess,**  
01947 825772 : tess@chrisgeall.com

**Scarborough, weekly meetings, outings and**  
activities, 11.30-3pm on Fridays. All welcome.  
Lisa, 01723 378252, Lisa\_riley@tiscali.co.uk  
or Tess, 01947 825772, tess@chrisgeall.com  
**Harrogate, Hookstone Chase community**  
**centre. Tues 1-3pm, Liz** 01423 320341 :  
Blessingway1@aol.com, or Kate 01423 865777  
ksbtscott@aol.com

#### **YORKSHIRE SOUTH**

**Regular meetings for arts/crafts, visits, swims,**  
hanging out & more, Jo 01709 820866 or  
Denise 01226 733478 or Gary 0114 2585702.

**Sheffield, Highfield, Tuesday, Annette** 0114  
2583502 or Fiona 0114 275 1142

#### **YORKSHIRE WEST**

**Bradford Weekly meetings & activities. For a**  
monthly schedule of activities, Sarah,  
01484 361206 : sl.marshall@ntlworld.com  
**Halifax: Mon in term time, Gill,** 01422 311876,  
Gill Kilner@aol.com

**Huddersfield: Swimming, Wed, Tracy** 01484  
317176.

**Huddersfield monthly meeting, Wednesday,**  
Helen 01484 841041 or Jane 01484 645034.

**Huddersfield, "Lunch & Chat", monthly,**  
Thursday, Tracy 01484 317176.

**Huddersfield Art Gallery, Art Workshop,**  
Thursday, contact Jane 01484 645034.

#### **SCOTLAND**

**ARGYLL, Home-Ed Group, regular meetings,**  
Joanne 0845 345 2291 or Debra 01631 730469  
: debra@celtic-soul-music.com

**FIFE, Friday fortnightly meetings, Nicola**  
01334 478530, nicola.stubbs@btinternet.com

**HIGHLANDS/MORAY, Toni,** 01463 831574,  
tee.kay@hotmail.co.uk or Rebecca 01343  
542245

**IRVINE, Rhona** 01294 273644, Shirley 01563  
540063, Vivien 01563 537428

#### **LOTHIAN, CENTRAL & S.E.**

**SCOTLAND fortnightly, meetings + outings,**  
Jane 01835 862118

**WALES****SOUTH WALES**

South Wales Home Educators Network, weekly meetings in Llantrisant & Swansea. For information & support: SWHEN@aol.com or bev1.french@btinternet.com or Louise 01443231362 (Llantrisant), Bev 02920 797628 (Cardiff), Juliet 01639 760987 (Port Talbot), Amanda 01792 862305 (Swansea) or see: www.swhen.netfirms.com

**MID GLAMORGAN**

Rhondda Cynon Taff, meetings on a Friday, Lisa 01443 772278

Caerphilly, fortnightly meeting on thursdays, Kate : caerphillyhomeed@aol.com : www.caerphillyhomeed.blogspot.com

PEMBROKESHIRE & Cardigan area, for local information contact Yvette 08454 589251

**CEREDIGION & CARMARTHENSHIRE & PEMBROKESHIRE**

Childwise Education Newsletter A local bimonthly newsletter for home educators with 'what's on' listings and contact list. Regular trips to museums, NT properties, country parks etc. Up to date local group info for

Aberystwyth, Lampeter, Camarthenshire, Rhonda, Swansea. email: childwise.newsletter@talktalk.net or phone Laura 01545 580528

**GWYNEDD**

Bangor & area home ed network, Heather 01248 352336

Tregarth meeting every Wed, free weekly newsletter of events, Julie 01286 678181 ; jdchapmanmaurice@aol.com or Nick 01407 811049.

**POWYS**

Local Contacts Dave & Dee 01938 590098: d.yeoman@tesco.net, e-mail list for home ed info: david@visionetics.com, home ed camps, activities & outings

Brecknock/South Powys area occasional events, Hela 01874 610190 : ry.ella@tiscali.co.uk

Newtown area: Fortnightly in Newtown, Sue 01686 688748: smw5@tutor.open.ac.uk

**N.E. WALES / BORDERS**

Oswestry/West Cheshire/NE Wales local newsletter of events please send your details & £2 payment to: HENWOS, Berllan Gron, Llanycil, Bala. Gwynedd LL23 7YG  
Froncysyllte fortnightly meetings, Sam 01978 861011

**Inspirational****February**

Make Chatter Matter Month

26 Jan - 2 Feb National Storytelling Week

- 1 - UNICEF Day for Change
- 2 - World Wetlands Day
- 3 - National Potato Day
- 4 - 10 World Orphan Week
- 5 - Shrove Tuesday
- 7 - Chinese New Year 4706 (Year of the Rat)
- 14 - St Valentine's
- 14 - Gold Heart Day
- 15 - International Childhood Cancer Day
- 21 - International Mother Language Day
- 22 - World Thinking Day

**March**

- 2 - Mothering Sunday
- 6 - World Book Day
- 7 - National Doodle Day
- 8 - International Women's Day
- 7-16 - National Science and Engineering Week
- 7 - VSO Big Curry Night
- 10 - Commonwealth Day
- 12 - No Smoking Day
- 13 - World Kidney Day
- 20 - Earth Day
- 20 - World Storytelling Day
- 21 - First Day of Spring
- 21 - World Poetry Day
- 21 - World Forestry Day
- 23 - Easter Sunday
- 23 - World Meteorological Day
- 30 - British Summer Time Begins

## EDUCATION OTHERWISE ADVERTS

### Where to Find Resources

A list of information on National Curriculum materials and resources and where you can get them is available free from:

Henrietta.turnbull@btinternet.com  
(rtf or wpd or doc file);

or by post (please send a stamped SAE plus £1 for printing costs) from  
H Turnbull, Hadlow House, 2 Hadlow Road, Sidcup, Kent. DA14 4AF

### EO Car Stickers and Re-Use Labels

*Help spread the word*

Available via the EO online store

### EO/NEC Vouchers

£30 discount per course

A5 SAE to Sarah Cook, The Old Cottage,  
Croglin, Carlisle, CA4 8RZ  
(quoting EO membership number)

### EO Home Education Cards

*("Truancy Cards")*

Extra cards are available at £1 each card required from: EO HE Cards, 22 Lewis Drive, St Germans, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3FB

Please send a stamped, addressed envelope plus a cheque or postal order or the equivalent in 50p or £1 stamps.

Cheques and postal orders made payable to

**'Education Otherwise Association Ltd'**

Email queries to  
[database@education-otherwise.org](mailto:database@education-otherwise.org)

### Ethical Phone Calls

EO has an affiliation scheme with the Phone Co-op. This excellent organisation provides inexpensive phone calls, line rental, dial-up, broadband and much more. There are a number of different phone call schemes to suit your needs. The co-operative is "owned" by the members and any profits go back to the members, not into the pockets of phone moguls!

If you buy your phone calls through the Phone Co-op, EO benefits with a small percentage. So help us and help yourself. Just remember to quote our affinity number when you sign up: 017.

Three ways to find out more: go straight to their web site [www.thephone.coop](http://www.thephone.coop); go to the bottom of the front page of the EO web site or phone 0845 458 9000.

### Learnpremium

This is an online educational service owned by the Guardian Newspaper. EO pays LearnPremium a lump sum and is making a small charge to each user to cover this cost.

Current subscription expires on 20 October 2008 and costs £23. Sign up using the renewal form on the EO web site or contact Lynda.

There are around 130,000 pages of online lessons and resources on a wide range of subjects including English to Design & Technology or Physical Education. It offers interactive lessons and resources, games and activities, video lessons, Guardian lesson packs, whiteboard activities, randomly generated tests, a daily news service for 9 – 14 year olds and the facility to generate tests.

**Free Trials** – contact Lynda  
01553 617551

[learnpremium@education-otherwise.org](mailto:learnpremium@education-otherwise.org)

Publications	Member Price
Early Years	£3.60
Teach Your Own by <i>John Holt</i>	£7.50
Free Range Education – <i>Ed. Terri Dowty</i>	£9.90
Home Educating Our Autistic Spectrum Children: Paths are Made by Walking <i>Edited by Terri Dowty and Kitt Cowlshaw</i>	£13.50
Learning from Home Based Education	£4.50
School's Out - Educating Your Child at Home - <i>Jean Bendell</i>	£3.60
Educating Your Child at Home – <i>Jane Lowe &amp; Alan Thomas</i>	£10.75
Evaluation and Research in Education, Special Edition Home Education - <i>Guest Editor Paula Rothermel</i>	£6.00
Educating Children at Home - <i>Alan Thomas</i>	£9.85
Their Own Voices	£3.15
Paula Rothermel's PhD Research (2002) Leaflet	£0.54
<b>EO Leaflet Series</b>	
All leaflets are <b>45p each</b> and are available free to download from the EO website	
1. <i>Choosing your approach to home-education</i>	
2. <i>Deregistration and contact with local education authorities</i>	
3. <i>Legal aspects of home-education</i>	
4. <i>Home-education research</i>	
5. <i>Further reading</i>	
6. <i>Useful organisations</i> (part of membership pack)	
7. <i>Courses and qualifications</i>	
8. <i>GCSEs</i>	
9. <i>Educational resources</i>	
10. <i>Home-education and Steiner</i>	
11. <i>Flexi-schooling</i>	
12. <i>School anxieties</i>	
13. <i>Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Home Education</i>	
14. <i>Dyslexia</i>	
<b>T Shirts</b>	
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Navy: Home Education – a real option Sizes 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-11 or 12-13	£4.50
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Oskar: The World's My Playground Purple, Royal Blue or Sky Blue Sizes 1-2, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-11, 12-13	£4.70
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Hoodie: SINC with triangle logo Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL Black, Navy	£20.00
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Clip on Clock	£3.59
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Dinosaurs	£1.80
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<b>Stationery</b>	
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Recycled Pen	£0.77
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Set 10 Coloured Pencils	£4.32
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## EO Merchandise Order Form (Prices are for members only)

Item	Size	Colour	Quantity	Cost	Total
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Cheque Number:

Please send this order form to:

EO Trading, 38 Garwood Close, Westbrook, Warrington. WA5 8TF Email:

merchandise@education-otherwise.org

***Cheque to be made payable to: Education Otherwise Trading Limited***

***Postage and Packing***

Order value £0-5: £1

Order value £5-10: £1.50

Order value £10-20: £2.50

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Order value £30-40: £4.50

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Order value £50+: £6.50

## ADVERTISEMENTS

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## THE CONTINUUM CONCEPT

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### [www.savechildhood.org](http://www.savechildhood.org)

Welcome to Open EYE, the campaign for an open Early Years Education. Open EYE was set up in response to fears that the government's new Early Years Foundation Stage is:

- overly prescriptive
- potentially harmful to the development of children
- a breach of the human right of parents to have their children educated in accordance with their own philosophies

From September 2008, it will be unlawful for providers of childcare to refuse to implement the EYFS. Open EYE calls on the government to downgrade the legal status of the EYFS's educational framework to guidelines, so allowing other educational philosophies of equal validity to be followed by early years providers.

<http://openeyecampaign.wordpress.com/open-eye-petition/>

**Private tuition in Mathematics** given in your own home on a one-to-one basis or to small groups by experienced teacher in the **East Sussex / Kent area**. Pre-GCSE, GCSE, AS and A2 GCE ( A-Level ), International Baccalaureate etc. Please ring **01424 223633** Bexhill-on-Sea

**Services and products advertised on these pages have not been endorsed by Education Otherwise. EO does not make recommendations about any tutors or youth leaders, whether members of the association or not. Use of people in any such role, whether paid or unpaid, remains the responsibility of the parent.**

## Home Ed Activity Camp 2008

Majical Youth are a children's theatre company that have toured the UK's festival scene for over 20 years. Our aim has always been to provide top-quality children's entertainment while subtly promoting healthy living and a greater ecological awareness. We've recently acquired farmland in Carmarthenshire (south-west Wales) that we're currently developing as a children's activity centre. We hope that our visitors will experience many new things, acquire many new skills, and make many new friends ... all within an ecologically-aware and planet-friendly environment. Our next camp is exclusively for home-educated children and their families and will run from Saturday 26th April - Saturday 3rd May 2008. It will be funded by Magic Hat donations. If you'd like further information or a booking form then please contact Jo Dominguez via the 'Contact me' link on our website <http://activity-centre.mysite.orange.co.uk>. Alternatively, send an s.a.e. to: The Home Ed Activity Camp -50 Shernhall Street, Walthamstow, London E17 9HP

**We offer tuition for five years and upwards, in most core subjects. Sessions range from one to two hours. There is also to be a Saturday School in Vauxhall. Group sessions may be arranged for drama and physical theatre, and for cultural out-visits.**

**We do not advise formal lessons with very young children unless there is a strong reason. And maybe not even then. Real learning is a single unified experience, that should spin off in unexpected directions. Schools can rarely offer this as lesson plans and schemes of work negate open-ended educational experience. This may be why your children are not in school.**  
**[tuesdaytutor@allmail.net](mailto:tuesdaytutor@allmail.net) tel:020 7735 8268 text:07906 312541**

Proxy Appointment Extraordinary General Meeting of Education Otherwise Association Ltd. 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2008 at Westbourne Grove Church, London W11 2RW. at 1.30pm

To be returned to The Company Secretary 31 Framlingham Road, Peterborough PE2 8UG by midday on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2008

If you do not know a person attending the meeting you can write "The Company Secretary" in the form below and the Company Secretary will act as a proxy for you.

I(name).....

Of (address).....

being a member of Education Otherwise Association Limited hereby appoint

(proxy's name).....

Of (proxy's address).....

or failing that person,  
(2<sup>nd</sup> choice proxy's name) .....

Of (address).....

as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the Extraordinary General Meeting of Education Otherwise Association Limited to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2008 and at any adjournment thereof.

Signed this..... day of .....20[ ]

This form is to be used [in favour of][against] \* the resolution.

Unless instructed the proxy will vote as he thinks fit.

\*strike out whichever is not desired

Proxy Appointment Annual General Meeting of Education Otherwise Association Ltd.  
23<sup>rd</sup> February 2008 at Westbourne Grove Church, London W11 2RW at 2.15pm

To be returned to The Company Secretary 31 Framlingham Road, Peterborough PE2  
8UG by midday on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2008

If you do not know a person attending the meeting you can write "The Company  
Secretary" in the form below and the Company Secretary will act as a proxy for you.

I (name).....

Of (address).....

being a member of Education Otherwise Association Limited hereby appoint

(proxy's name).....

Of (proxy's address).....

or failing that person,  
(2<sup>nd</sup> choice proxy's name) .....

Of (address).....

as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of Education  
Otherwise Association Limited to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2008 and at any adjournment  
thereof.

Signed this..... day of .....20[ ]

This form is to be used [in favour of][against] \* the resolution.

Unless instructed the proxy will vote as he thinks fit.

\*strike out whichever is not desired

## SMALL GROUPS

New volunteers for any of the groups most welcome, with expertise or just an interest. For more information contact any of the council members listed (in bold). If you would prefer to volunteer for infrequent or small tasks please contact [database@education-otherwise.org](mailto:database@education-otherwise.org)

### Small Groups:

**Finance:** Lynda Hitchman, **Pauline Butterworth**, Janet Simpson, **Janet Wilkinson**

**Enquiries:** **Anne Rix**, Iris Harrison,

**Publications:** **June Wilson-Billing**, **Gail Borrows**, Lynda Hitchman, **Joss Nowell**, **Jo Berry**, Ross Mountney

**Core Govt. Policy:** Fiona Nicholson, Annette Taberner, Ann Newstead, Karen Bowlzer, **Jo Berry**, Ann Samuel Till, Kira Patefield-Smith, Natasha Arthur, **Janet Wilkinson**

**Disability Group:** Karen Bowlzer, Fiona Nicholson, Jennifer Skillen, Emma Birkenshaw, Sheryl Boothe, Christine Waterman, **Celia McDonagh**

**LA/EA Group:** Sarah Cook, Priscilla Park Weir, Kathleen Thompson, **Jo Berry**, **Gail Borrows**, **Joss Nowell**, **Janet Wilkinson**

**Scotland Group:** Ann Samuel Till, Fiona Chaff, Rebecca Kail, Jane Bathgate

### Grievances and Complaints:

**Pauline Butterworth** 80 Grange Avenue, Stockton on Tees, TS18 4PP  
Tel: 01642 672370

[pbutterworth@education-otherwise.org](mailto:pbutterworth@education-otherwise.org)  
Lynda Hitchman, 22 Lewis Drive, St Germans, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3FB  
01553 617551 [database@education-otherwise.org](mailto:database@education-otherwise.org)

**Anne Rix** Hembury Orchard, Frithelstock, Torrington, EX38 8JT 01237 451535  
[arix@education-otherwise.org](mailto:arix@education-otherwise.org)

**Jo Berry** East Wing Harrington House, Tunstall Road, Bosley, Cheshire SK11 0PE  
Tel: 01260 222934  
[jberry@education-otherwise.org](mailto:jberry@education-otherwise.org)

### Media Contacts

Please contact one of the following people if you would like to volunteer to be interviewed or are contacted by the media and would like help/advice/support on giving an interview:

**Media co-ordinator:** Ann Newstead, 020 30027702  
[mediaco-ordinator@education-otherwise.org](mailto:mediaco-ordinator@education-otherwise.org)

**Scotland:** (VACANT) *Volunteers please!!*

**NI** (VACANT) *Volunteers please!!*

**North West:** Stewart Eyres 07792 777750  
[northwest@education-otherwise.org](mailto:northwest@education-otherwise.org)

**North East:** Eva O'Rourke, Wilsden  
01535 274520 [northwest@education-otherwise.org](mailto:northwest@education-otherwise.org)

**Midlands:** (VACANT) *Volunteers please!!*

**Wales (S):** Celia McDonagh, Cardiff,  
07763 729055 [wales1@education-otherwise.org](mailto:wales1@education-otherwise.org)

**Wales (N):** Edwina Theunissen, Wrexham  
01978

661 882 [wales2@education-otherwise.org](mailto:wales2@education-otherwise.org)

**East Anglia:** Vacant

**South West: (Acting)** Kay & Simon Smith,  
01726 842057 [southwest@education-otherwise.org](mailto:southwest@education-otherwise.org)

**South East:** Ann Newstead, Kent 020 30027702  
[southeast@education-otherwise.org](mailto:southeast@education-otherwise.org)

**London:** Winnie Durdant-Hollamby,  
01342 826087 [london2@education-otherwise.org](mailto:london2@education-otherwise.org)

**Isle of Wight:** Shara Ouston, Ryde  
01983 562313 [iow@education-otherwise.org](mailto:iow@education-otherwise.org)

### EO Email Lists & Forums

EO runs four email lists with Yahoo Groups. The Yahoo! lists are open to all, members or non members. The forums are available in the Members Area of the EO Website. See ([www.education-otherwise.org](http://www.education-otherwise.org)) to join one of the Yahoo lists

To access the Forums, send an email to [forums@education-otherwise.org](mailto:forums@education-otherwise.org) giving your preferred User Name which should be between four and fifteen characters, your Full (real) Name, the email address you wish to have associated with the forum and either your EO Membership Number or your full postal address.

## WHO DOES WHAT IN EO

### Council Members

**Leslie Barson** (London) 0208 969 0893  
lbarson@education-otherwise.org  
**Jo Berry** (Cheshire) 01260 222934  
jberry@education-otherwise.org  
**Karen McIntyre-Bhatty** (Glos) 01594 840159  
Kmcintyre-bhatty@education-otherwise.org  
**Gail Borrows** (Bucks) Tel: 01628 483895  
gborrows@education-otherwise.org (Membership Secretary)  
**Pauline Butterworth** (Cleveland) 01642 672370  
pbutterworth@education-otherwise.org  
**Carla MacGregor** (Bristol) 0117 935 4389  
cmacgregor@education-otherwise.org  
**Joss Nowell** (Staffs) Tel: tba  
jnowell@education-otherwise.org (Publications Sec)  
**Anne Rix** (Devon) 01237 451535  
arix@education-otherwise.org (Enquiries Sec.)  
**Janet Wilkinson** (Peterborough) 01733 554436  
jwilkinson@education-otherwise.org (Company Sec)  
**Rowenna Williams** (Gwynedd) 01678 521348  
rwilliams@education-otherwise.org  
**June Wilson-Billing** (Dorset) 01258 471949  
jwilsonbilling@education-otherwise.org  
**Celia McDonagh** (Glamorgan)  
cmdonagh@education-otherwise.org  
**Judi Wilson** (London) 020 89697963  
jwilson@education-otherwise.org  
**Phil Hicks** (London) 020 72294385  
phicks@education-otherwise.org

### Membership

Membership and newsletter subscription enquiries, membership cards, address changes, new member packs, other queries or missing newsletters contact : Database Administrator, Education Otherwise, Lynda Hitchman, 22 Lewis Drive, St Germans, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3FB  
01553 617551 or 0870 765 3650  
Email database@education-otherwise.org

### Stationery

Leaflets, posters, letterhead, compliment slips, membership forms, car stickers etc: free (donations toward postage welcome); reuse labels £4.00 per 100 (free for EO business use). Vacant

email: eostationary@education-otherwise.org

**Truancy Cards (HE cards)** (free on joining). Extra or replacement truancy and membership cards SSAE + £1 per card. P.O./cheque (payable to 'Education Otherwise' or in 50p or £1 stamps, to Lynda.  
hecards@education-otherwise.org

### Publications

Books, information leaflets and back issues of newsletter. For a full list send SAE to : vacant.  
publications@education-otherwise.org (please ring to check availability of items before ordering)

**Website & Email Lists** Vacant  
website@education-otherwise.org

### Useful Contacts

#### **Contact with LA / Member Support / Other Problems**

If you need help in dealing with your LA/EA please ring your Local Contact or any Council Member.

If you have a query not covered below please contact your nearest Council Member (list left)

**Anti Bullying Support** (Acting) Jacqui Halson (Kent) 01227 277869 12a Clifton Road, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1DQ

**Autonomous Education Support** (acting): Maya Lucas, 79 Chagny Close, Letchworth Garden City, Herts SG6 4BZ Tel: 01462 630786

**Campaign Team Contact:** Fiona Nicholson  
campaignteam@education-otherwise.org 0114 275 1142 205 Leverton Gdns, Sheffield, S11 8FD

**College Contact** (Acting) Roger Scaife, Glen House, Cragg Vale, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire HX7 5SQ 01422 884682  
collegecontact@education-otherwise.org

**Company Secretary:** Janet Wilkinson (See CM List)

**Coordinator for Enquiries Secretary:** Iris Harrison (Worcs.) 01584 781341 esco-ordinator@education-otherwise.org

**Enquiries Secretary:** Anne Rix (See CM List)

**EO LA/EA Bridgebuilder:** Kathleen Thompson  
Kathleen Thompson 01942 795975  
la-eabridgebuilder@education-otherwise.org

**EO Stalls:** Jacqui Houlding 01925 654856  
website@education-otherwise.org

**GCSE Contact:** Sarah Cook: 01768 896019  
gcsecontact@education-otherwise.org

**General Secretary:** Vacant

**LearnPremium:** Lynda Hitchman (01553 617551)  
learnpremium@education-otherwise.org

**Local Contacts Co-ordinator:** Carla MacGregor (See CM list) lcco-ordinator@education-otherwise.org

**Membership Secretary:** Gail Borrows (See CM List)

**Newsletter Coordinator:** Martine Frampton (01608 812411 and Nicola Haxell (01302 863195)  
nico-ordinator@education-otherwise.org

**Publications Secretary:** Joss Nowell (See CM List)

**Research Contact:** Sue White, 2 Pretoria Villas, Eye Rd., Brome, Eye, Suffolk IP23 8AL 01379 870036  
research@education-otherwise.org

**School Induced Anxiety Support:** Kathleen Thompson 01942 795975  
Anxietysupport@education-otherwise.org

**Single Parent Family Contact:** (Acting) Cal Bailes: 0191 241 4870 (for address: see contact list for Tyne & Wear)

**Small Jobs Coordinator:** currently vacant. Please contact Lynda Hitchman.

**Special Needs:** Christine Waterman, 85 Elfrida Rd, Watford, Herts WD1 8AT 01923 464773

**Treasurer:** Pauline Butterworth (See CM List)

# education otherwise

*Education Otherwise is a membership organisation which provides support and information for families whose children are being educated outside school, and for those who wish to uphold the freedom of families to take proper responsibility for the education of their children.*

Our principal aims are to:

- encourage learning outside the school system;
- reaffirm that parents have primary responsibility for their children's education and that they have the right to exercise this responsibility by educating them out of school;
- establish the primary right of children to have full consideration given to their wishes and feelings about their education;
- promote knowledge, understanding and acceptance of education otherwise than at school in the world at large.

For further information send an A5 sae to:

PO BOX 325  
KINGS LYNN PE34 3XW

Helpline 0845 478 6345

(the 0870 number will be phased out over the next year or two)

**Web Site:** <http://www.education-otherwise.org>

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