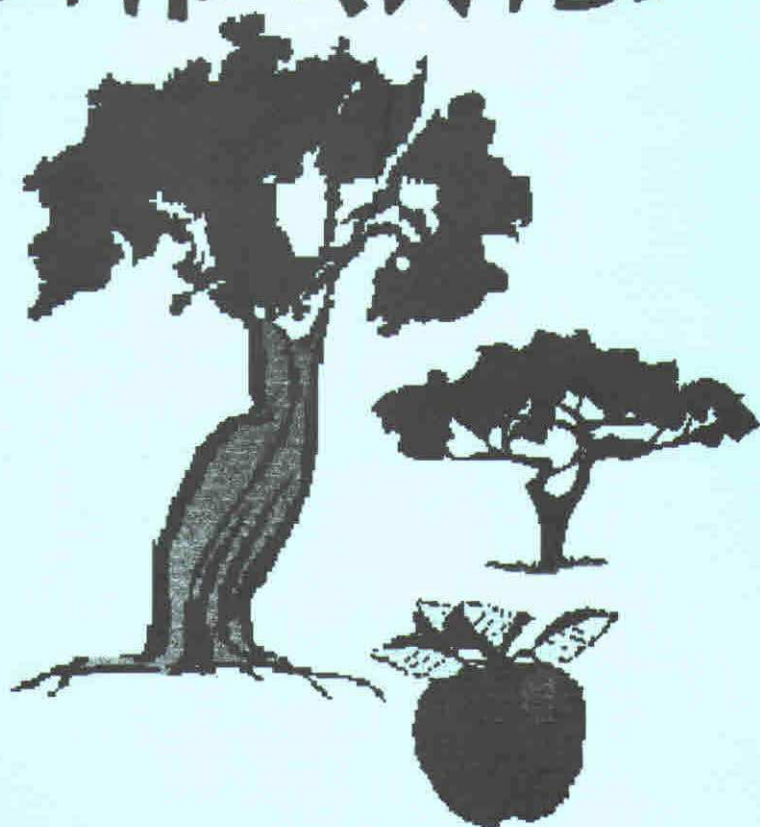


EDUCATION

OTHERWISE



August, 2001

Issue: 141

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SECRETARY (See inside back cover)

VOLUNTEERS needed for **special sections** and **children's pages** – please contact Anne Rix (above) with your name, address, phone number (and email) and **ideas**.

From the Editor

It's been a bit hectic – seems as if it's only a few minutes ago that I dropped the spade and dashed in to answer the telephone, discarding wellies and tripping over cats on the way, and here I am editing the newsletter ... and there's a vacancy on the telephone enquiry line, which was my previous EO "job".

This time last summer, I'd just moved from Sussex to my Devon smallholding, not knowing how I was going to support myself and son Dan, but fired with enthusiasm to fulfil my dream of establishing an organic apple orchard. Capital dwindled with essential expenditure: apple trees, fencing to stop sheep getting into the wood; until October when I capitulated and accepted supply teaching work with a group of 15-16 year olds who were at the point of being "permanently excluded" from the local community college – potential EOers, perhaps. I had to hit the ground running, with no guidelines (and consequently no boundaries either) – it was hairy and tiring, but fun. The highlight was accompanying my students on a course at the local outdoor activity centre; neither they nor the instructors expected their fifty-something "Miss" to join in the assault course, climbing tower, high ropes and so on. Apparently most accompanying teachers either sat in the café with cups of tea or made sarcastic comments from the sidelines; one who squealed "Oooh, I'm scared!" and then did it anyway wasn't in the rulebook, and my stock went up considerably.

Then it rained, and rained, and rained – and my trees arrived. The poor things had to spend the winter heeled in, in what was supposed to be the asparagus bed. The asparagus therefore had to go in the greenhouse, and there wasn't anywhere else to start the tomatoes, so I'm a bit behind there. The trees eventually got planted in March and are looking well and happy, though I nearly ran the well dry seeing them through the wonderful late spring and early summer we've just had. I've never been a Wimbledon fan, but thank goodness it can be counted on to produce a good downpour – so I thought I'd better take the opportunity to get this together.

I've said nothing about this issue, because I don't know yet what will turn up (nothing has yet, and it's just a week till I'm supposed to send it to the printers!) and anyway you can look in the contents. If it's late I apologise, but as I said, it's a bit hectic ...

Anne, 7 July 2001

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Special Section - Poetry

I decided to Home Educate long before I had children because of my own experiences at school. Our High School was across the road from a Primary School and as I watched the children, too young to be taken from their parents and indoctrinated in what I considered to be an open prison, walk into school I vowed that I would never do this to my children.

William Blake writes in 'The School Boy' that to go to school drives joy away, and compares the school child with a caged bird unable to sing. Look out for Sally Squires' poem about Blake - I wish I'd written it sorry Sally, I am unable to Quote from any poems because of copyright laws. I would like to echo Sally's words and encourage you all to read William Blake's poems, particularly 'Auguries of Innocence', 'The Clod and the Pebble', 'Jerusalem', 'Infant Sorrow' as well as 'The School Boy'. William Blake was born in 1757. His father tolerated his artistic bent and didn't send him to school until he was 10 and then to a preparatory school for young artists. He began writing poetry when he was 12. His father was only a hosier, so could not afford to send him on to any of the art colleges & at 14 he became apprenticed to an engraver. This vocation allowed Blake to be the only artist/poet/writer of his time to be able to print his own works. His most important source material was the Bible and though known as a great Christian artist he never went to church. His most famous poem is 'Tyger Tyger'.

Edward Lear was born in 1812 - the twentieth child of a stockbroker. He was educated at home by his sister Ann, who was 21 years older than him. He had epilepsy, asthma and very bad eyesight. His most famous poem is 'The Owl and the Pussycat', though 'The Table and the Chair' is also a good one to read to children, as are his limericks. Another poem I recommend reading is 'Back in the Playground Blues' by Adrian Mitchell from his book 'Heart on the Left' where he discusses bullying and calls the playground the killing ground. If you can find the poem 'Creative Writing' by Gervaise Phinn you will recognise the destruction of a child's imagination by a teacher. If you ever needed a reason not to use products that involve cruelty to animals then read Henry Normal's 'The Human Meat' from 'Nude Modeling for the Afterlife'. If you're feeling your age as a woman as you watch your daughter grow up then try Sharon Old's '35/10' and even Pablo Neruda's 'Ode to Ironing' can elevate the mind. Thank you, to all who contributed, for your poems for this newsletter. They are all excellent - keep up the good work.

Poetry can uplift, inspire, console and entertain so please may I encourage you all to read some poetry and make it part of your life.

Helen Donaldson

DIFFERENT SIZES

As fat as a pig,
As slim as a twig,
As long as a mile,
What's your style?

Christopher wren was as plump as a hen,
And one day he was asked to lend
His secret recipe for chocolate cake,
To all those people as thin as a rake.

Dear old Marge was as large as a barge,
And married to the very strict sarge,
One day sarge said you are simply too fat,
So she sat on top of him and squashed him flat.

Now the nation is all elephant sized,
Apart from the sarge who was minimized,
Christopher Wren is a very rich man,
And Marge drives around in a super sized van.

THE VENDING MACHINE

Here comes another scruffy,
His coat all ripped and fluffy,
Down his hand goes in,
Ha his money is going in the bin,
Oh well. No food today I'm afraid,
I'm chained to the wall that's how I'm made,
You can't smash and bash me up to bits,
You just can't win you silly twits!
Here I stand all alone,
Wishing I could go home,
You have to help me or else I'll cascade,
Into the mist and fog I'll fade.
But you fools can't you see,
That I have all the victory,
You'd better hurry and be quick,
Because there's a malfunction in my microchip.
You may think I'm a dumb machine
But all in all I'm really mean!
I don't care who comes by,
Be it a vet, doctor or spy,
Your friend asks for a mars and you obey,
"Sorry out of order," I'll say.
I'm getting all the glorious money
Whilst you go crying to your mummy
"Mummy mummy the machine won't work,"
"Now now dear don't go berserk"
Naughty people come and see,
I'm the master of cruelty,
I'm just getting worse and worse,
While you stand and say curse after curse,
I don't care if you have blond hair,
I'll still be cruel,
While you start to bawl,
You kick me with your grubby feet,
Your face reddens in the heat,
You may think I'm a dumb machine but
all in all I'm really mean!

**both by Adam Pattenden
aged 12**

SCHOOLDAYS.

"Schooldays are the best days of your life"

For goodness sake
Go away and read some Blake.

School is a prison for spirit, for soul
At the age of five the bell will toll.

Time to be locked up. Lost is the key-
to imagination, wild and free.
(Until half-past three).

What once was open, eager, so bright
Will be forced shut, fastened tight,
Lost to the light.

William Blake you got it right.
All should listen to your insight.

The bell is tolling the dead sound of nine.
Small uniformed bodies walk in a line.

Factory - farmed into tight spaces
Sorted into ages. See the blank faces.

Learn some discipline;
Learn your places;
Learn it's best to be the same;
Play the game.
Answer to your name.

Big teacher voices that cut like a knife.
Phobias, bullying, trauma and strife.

"Schooldays are the best days of your life".

Give me a break.
I am going home to read some Blake.
**by Sally Squires
over 21**

SPIRIT

My heart is on the wind that blows
all around your sleeping place
my tears are the rain that softly falls
on your hair, and down your handsome face
my aura is that misty morning
enveloping you in the cold, cold air
you're long gone from me, but you stole my spirit
Can't you feel me everywhere?

**by Jane Desmond
over 21**

MY FRIEND TOMMY

Is funny, loud and mad
He's always happy, never sad
He never sits still
And loves making things
When he screeches, my ears ring.

In our special language he's *Tosby Bazene*,
It can mean anything, I'm *Alicat Bazene*
He watches *Dragon Ball Z* whenever he can
His Mum's lots of fun and she's called *Tan*.

He's smiley, freckly, happy all the time
I'm his best friend and he's mine.

He's Tommy

by Alice Muirhead
aged 10

IN THE GARDEN

In the garden I watched
the trees blow as I mowed
the grass and dug the weeds
out and planted my seeds.
And then a bird came and
landed in the birdbath and
shook itself off on the
garden path. At last I sat
down and my cat came and
lay on the mat beside me.

As I looked out the window
I said it's been a great day

by Holly Gibson
aged 11

I went upstairs to sweep the patio
I went downstairs to mend the roof
I rode my bike on the roof
Oh what a hectic day

by Chris Kocz
aged 9

My name is Jim who sat on a pin
Why does your bottom hurt?
Asked the doctor
'Cause there's a pin in....said Jim.

by Jordan Neary
aged 8

THE FUN SNOWY DAY

As I lay in my cosy bed
A draft came in and to me said:
Come on! Come on! There is snow
Filling the outside
And when I saw it,
Pleasure was filling in my eyes!
And as soon as my feet touched the floor
Something happened, that I could not ignore
The magic spread, from the winds
Then I heard it go away, as it sings...
As it sings.....as.....it.....sings.....

THE SPRING DAY

Come on out! It's a beautiful day!
Come on out and I will show you the way
We will go to the park to see the wren
We will have a nice time and then
We will go to the fields to see the lambs
And we will see the babies go past in their prams.
Now we must go, off to bed
And don't forget! The old man said:
.....GO TO BED!

by Daniel Pardoe
aged 8

Empty Space, nothing in my head,
My mind wanders to outside, bows and arrows,
tick, chase or to the shed where my comics wait.

What can I do?
Bored.

Lounging on the sofa
Looking through the window
Thinking of what to do.

Red and yellow sunlight catches the clouds,
A kaleidoscope of colours in the sky.
What can I do?
Bored.

Maybe calico cat will come.
To the back door, scratching, mewing.
Waiting patiently for the rattle of the keys
In the door to let her in.

Then she'll rub against my legs.
Nose around the house.
She doesn't live here.
And she's not here.

I am bored

by Harrison Muirhead
aged 12

BILLY

I have a young filly
Called Billy
When I ride
She goes at a steady stride
I can hear her hooves
Sound like rain on rooves
We like to trot
Down the lane alot
My horse is never idle
She's always in the bridle
When I'm sitting in the saddle
She likes to go for a paddle
She loves to eat hay
Every day
She trails
Through all the bales
She lives with a colt
Who is a dolt
Although he is able
He stays all day in his stable
When she grows up to be a mare
She'll have very long hair
Maybe she'll have a foal
Who'll learn to jump a pole

**by Imogen Donaldson
aged 9**

MY FRIEND

My friend has long red hair
And she puts beads in there
A vegetarian she is,
She likes dolls houses
She likes animals so much,
She always likes to have a touch.
She makes me laugh, is so funny.
She's still happy when it's not sunny.
My friend is Imogen

**by Rebecca Townley
aged 8**

DINOSAURS

Dinosaurs are fierce
Dinosaurs are spikey
Some eat plants and some eat meat
Dinosaurs stamp and trample
Dinosaurs are very frightening
Some are big and some are small
I like dinosaurs

**by Alfie Bentley
aged 7**

THE TALE OF TWO BROTHERS.

Let me tell you the tale of two brothers.
The son who killed his father.
Then fled from his remaining kin.
The killer who entered service?
The grief that followed him.
Two brothers who dueled.
The killer who showed mercy.
What happened to the other brother?
He wandered far and wide.
And the killer?
He received a knock on the door.
Who had knocked?
His brother.
So they met again?
They didn't meet that time but they met much later.
His brother had been killed.
What did the other brother do?
His mind wandered far and wide,
He remembered his sword.
What did he do?
He found a companion.
Did he find his brother's killers?
Alone in the dead of night.
Did he kill them?
He had no choice, but nobody knows for sure what
happened in that clearing.

I thought you said he had a companion?
Unhappy fool to have gone alone.
Did he find his companion?
His companion found him.
So everything was settled?
Blood demands blood.

by Becky Langham.

DOLPHINS

Splash, dash, quick as a flash
The dolphin swims away
He has no time to chat
There's just no time to say

THE SUN

I'm in the sun
Having lots of fun
Eating a bun
On mon
**by Imogen Donaldson
aged 8**

THE FRIENDLY DAFFODIL

The daffodil sparkles like the sun.
It feels like honey and cream,
You'd think it's just a dream.

Smooth and perfect, like the beach,
Yellow petals, waving hand,
Bouncy like an elastic band.

Smells like perfume, daffodil scent.
Glorious, with a slender stem.
I think I'd like to kiss them.

by Peta and Chris Koczy
aged 6 and 9

NORMANS AND SAXONS

Normans and Saxons had a battle.
Some soldiers dying.
Some soldiers yelling.

Roaring like thunder and a crash of swords.

by Alfie Bentley
aged 7

LOST IN SPACE

A Spaceship zoomed up to the moon
But it did not find it soon
It got lost among the stars
And planets, Jupiter, Venus, Mars

It zoomed around loony in space
Searching for a moony face
It zoomed down to the Earth
With a sad sigh

And saw the moon up in the sky!

by Tim Squires
aged 5

Weird yak on my head,
Strange dog in my bed.
Odd cat in my hat
And that is that!

by Joel Marshall
aged 7

When you go down to the sea

You mite have a lot of glee

Because you might see boats with people wearing coats

If you are lucky you mite see some fossils on the sand

The fossils will not be grand if they have got sand

When you're far away you might see a bay

When you have a jab you might think of a crab

When you go a mile you might see the Nile

by Hollie Alexandra Coates
aged 7 and a half

SWANS

Swans are swimming their little black eyes are shining
The cygnets are bobbing along in a line.

The swans start to flap their wings and rise out of the
waters like a white shimmering sheet high in the sky.

by Tallula Bentley
aged 9

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN

Have you ever seen a Bunny carrying lots of money?

Have you ever seen a Giraffe sitting in a bath?

Have you ever seen a bog kissing a frog?

Have you ever seen a Horse go on a cooking course?

Have you ever seen a Bear with bright green hair?

Have you ever seen a Bat dancing with a Cat?

Have you ever seen a Snake bake a cake?

Have you ever seen a Rook read a book?

Have you ever seen a Crocodile jump over a stile?

Have you ever seen a Cat wearing a hat?

by Amy Sawyn
aged 9

MY CAT

My cat is a troublesome cat

He bites, he scratches and he is a pain.

His muddy paws leave marks on the window pane.

It is hard to look after a cat,

He bites your ankles if you do not feed him.

by Ruth Powell
aged 8

There was a young girl from Hyde Lea
Who wanted to marry a bee
She had so much honey
So she sold it for some money
And she has become very rich you see!

There was a young girl called Denise
Who wanted to join the police
So she caught a thief
Whose name was Lief
And now she lives in peace

There was a girl called Molly
Who played all day with her dolly
She wished for it to walk
And for it to talk
And for it to suck a lolly
**by Naomi Begg, Imogen Donaldson
and Maya Pletscher**
Ages 9

LITTLE BROTHERS

Both of us have little brothers
How sweet and cute they are
We wouldn't swap them for others
Even when they cry wah-wah!

They splash a lot in the bath
They love the water, it's true
They shout a lot and then they laugh
Make us proud when doing something new

Our little brothers are such fun
He likes to go on his red slide
I can't wait til he can play and run
And find somewhere to hide.

We're pleased with the brother we have got
He's naughty and plays with his food.
He tips it on his head and plays with the pot
He sometimes pulls faces - quite rude!!!

by Daniel Pardoe & Thomas Currie
ages 8
Dan and Tom took turns - doing a line
each via e-mail and enjoyed it!

THE THREE MUSKETEERS

Ting, ting
Whang, whang
Clang, clang
Slang, slang
.....ouch!

by Alex Neary
aged 6

PRECIOUS GIFTS

Our precious gifts from God they are,
these children here with me,
the most very precious things we have
my husband Steve agrees.

First came Tom, our heart's delight
much wanted by us two
he brought us joy and gave us love
the way that babies do

Joseph next, our miracle child
whom we never thought would be
a very special little boy
who made us four, not three

Both our boys are so unique
and each has their own gift
their special smiles & loving hearts
all cause our hearts to lift

Our family is a precious thing
that we cherish and enjoy
so we're grateful that we have the gift
of these two precious boys!

by Kim Currie
over 21

SNOW

As I gaze through the door ajar
a crystal white blanket drapes the ground
the winter sun shines down from afar
and beckons to me "come! see what I found"

I wrap up warm and bound down the path
my feet disappear with each step I take
slippery, crunchy, "This is fun!" I laugh
I wonder how many snowmen I can make

the strong wind battles with me as I climb the hill
but I am not deterred
this soft fluffy stuff won't win - I will!
and I fly along like a bird

The top at last and the sun laughs aloud
"This is what you must see"

There, stretched for miles, no wonder she's proud
a winter wonderland glistens and glitters for me
by Wendie Pardoe

over 21

Bumble bee
Bumble bee
Bumble bee
Just follow me

Bumble bee
Bumble bee
Bumble bee
Please don't sting me
by Amy Danielle Coates
aged nearly 6

Everybody is equal
Nobody is better than you
Don't believe them
Even if they say it's true
They will always make their judgments
About your hair colour and your shoes
Still don't believe them

Even if they say it's true
Sometimes you have to listen
To your own opinions too
Still don't believe them
Even if they say it's true

by Andrea Hall
aged 11

I crept under the bed,
They passed us by.
I crouched under the stairs,
They passed us by.
I hid in the cellar,
They passed us by.
I slept in my bed,
They passed us by.
I walked up the stairs,
They passed us by.
I played in the cellar,
They passed us by.
I started reading,
They shot me dead.

by Becky Langham.

A jolly day was had by all
We met beside the market stall
To buy some beads and books in haste
And off to try some crepes to taste

To Domus Crossheads we convoy
For Helens flapjacks to enjoy
To flick through scrapbooks, drink fine wine
To hear of Thailand tales divine

We ponder mid-life's crisis plan The answer !
Buy a caravan
The girls do girl talk, hearts to heart
The men do men things, swear and fart

And as we kiss the night goodbye
We part with such a heavy sigh
The party's done, we had a ball
A jolly day was had by all
by Doug Gibson
over 21

SNOW
Snow is cold,
It is like a soft blanket.
You can make snowmen with it.
I feel, when it is snowing, I want a nice warm fire.

DOGS
I love dogs.
I like to play with them but not when they bark.
Dogs need lots of care and love.

SUMMER
It is a hot, sunny day because it is summer.
It is hot so we wear our shorts and T-shirts.
I feel hot when it is boiling.
by Charlotte Ward
aged 6

Softly is a breeze on a summers day,
Softly you are sleeping in your warm bed,
Softly I was crying, trying not to wake you,
Softly the wind creaks in the treetops,
Softly you are dreaming,
Softly I was creeping to go dry my eyes.

by Sian Wright

SNOW PRINCESS

Hair of gold
Heart so cold
Made of ice
She is not nice
Beautiful streams
Of golden hair
Falling in the air.

MUM

I love my mum
She is quite a chum.
She never, ever steals my gum.
Sometimes we argue
Sometimes we're best friends
Either way I love her no end

by Ruth Powell
aged 8

A WALK IN THE PARK

Dew on the grass, dying roses,
Crows on the aerial, puddles in the rose beds,
Orange trees, rose leaves on the ground,
Squidgy, squelchy, smelly mud
Fast, warm train.

FIREWORKS

Bang, crash, whoosh, screech, whiz,
Red, blue, green and yellow,
Opening up like flowers.
Fiery smells, scary light,
It's seven o'clock on Bonfire night.

by Peter Begg
aged 8

THE STREAM IN AUTUMN

Leaves floating in the stream,
Leaves falling gently down.
Fast flowing stream, bubbling gently in our ears.
Summer memories floating away
On the last day of summer.

BONFIRE NIGHT

Bonfire night,
Fires alight.
Bang goes a firework
Screech goes another
Bonfire night,
Stars are bright

by Naomi Begg
aged 9

DEPRESSION

Sometimes desperate
I try to reach into that place
where you are
I try to visualize
what it's like to be you
in your mind where all is dark
and there's no quiet
your thoughts race and gallop
like an unbroken mare

at times like that
I've tried to meet you there
and gently lead you back

but sometimes even I
can't touch you

tonight I watched your back
heave with heavy sighs
I almost rubbed
your shoulders to ease the pain

instead

I went upstairs and cried

by Jane Desmond
over 21

The above was one of the poems displayed on posters in local waiting rooms by Mole Valley Poets Off The Wall project, as part of the Mole Valley Wordswork Festival in June this year.

Everyone
loves the sun
not me I love
the snow and
making snowmen
Finding a carrot
for his nose
giving him my
scarf looking
for two big
black stones
for eyes then
running my finger
along his cold face to
make a smile but soon
the sun comes out and
melts him away I'll
have to wait till
the snow comes
back so I can make
a snowman friend
again
by Paula Kenny
aged 12

BOARDING SCHOOL

Boarding school is really cool
The buildings are old, the kids so bold.
Matron Powell's washing towels
Mr. Woods is knocking up puds,
Miss G. Howe, headmistress now,
Is OK. but approach with a bow.

I will depict, the rules are strict
The windows rattle when we do battle.
The tuck shop's neat, we love to eat.
Girls and boys don't play with toys,
What they like is too much noise
And dancing class with "so much poise".

Linda's neat, she types a treat,
Our annual reports are very neat.
The Summer Fair gets in your hair-
We do our best in our sports vest.
At end of term when we sit and squirm
We no longer want to learn.
All thoughts of books have gone away
We're heading for our holiday.

by Jane Powell
over 21

TREES

At this time of year
the trees become green
A most refreshing
sight to be seen
At this time of year
we don't see conkers
If you do you must be bonkers !!!

by Sam Harries
aged 8

DID TEA COME FROM THE SEA?"

Mum did tea come from the sea?
No.
Mum did the stars come from Mars?
No.
Mum did the ganets come from the planets?
No.
Mum did all the power come from a flower?
No.
Mum did tea come from the sea???

By Emily King
aged 7

NAUGHTY NELLY

Naughty Nelly liked playing tricks.
Naughty Nelly had no nicks!
Naughty Nelly had lots of fun
when she she was the only one,
she shouted and screamed and brought the house down
anyone would have thought she'd drowned!
Naughty Nelly had smelly feet
because she stayed too long in the heat!
Naughty Nelly couldn't hop at all
when she did she had a big fall.
All the Kings horses and all the Kings men couldn't put
Naughty Nelly together again!

by Laura King
aged 9

**THE MAGNETIC POETRY BOOK OF
POETRY** by Dave Kapell and Sally
Steenland (ISBN 0-7611-0737-1) has
over 100 magnetic word tiles for
arranging in the book or on the fridge
to produce arrangements of poetic
words. The book also contains poems
chosen from over a thousand
submissions using the "poetry kits"
they first produced. It has been called
"one-man scrabble" and can become a
serious habit. Here is one from my 9
year old daughter Imogen who was
instructed to 'play' with nouns and
verbs on an 8 syllable line length:

sister can see immense tendril
we consume the full song shower
glassly people will liquid crack
book did tell bouquet about love
blossom grows red skin through morning
lace likes summer meal avenue
secret wind smells of wild away
slender sound or blue work say why
pronounce stagger when it is out
my tounguey evening is dark
bomb and her page run to over

BOOK REVIEWS AND RESOURCES

The Adventures of Jimmy Scar

by Jeanne Willis

I really enjoyed this book. It was sad in some parts but happy overall. The story is about a girl called Gemma and her dad. He gets pushed out of their flat by a horrible man, Mr Kasheffi, who owns the flats. He traps her dog Duke in the flat and her dad goes to rescue him. Her dad gets arrested by the police and Gemma runs away with Duke and changes her name to Jimmy Scar, because she looks a bit like a boy. She catches a train and ends up in a forest in the middle of nowhere. She meets a woman called Monti, who hates money and lives in the wild with a mule called Cecil B. Monti gets struck by lightning and has to go to hospital. Gemma's dad comes out of jail and it turns out that Monti is Gemma's real grandma. It turns out to be a happy ending and it was a very exciting story all the way through and a really enjoyable read.

Freyja Steenman-Clark (8)

£9.99 ISBN 0-86264-277-9 Andersen Press
www.andersenpress.co.uk

The Ghost Person by Ruth Dowley

This is a book about a girl called Rosamund. She and her family move to an old Tudor mansion. The room that she is given is haunted; Rosamund finds out that a Tudor girl, also called Rosamund, had that room. Rosamund sees the ghost and paints a picture of her with the ghost's help. As Rosamund's stepfather begins to scare her more, she finds out that the first Rosamund had been through the same thing with her own cousin. I recommend this book for older girls, 12+.

Louise Cutler (12)

Linda's mother says "the content of the book covers an aspect of child abuse, which might appear worrying to parents, but Louise assured me that it was handled well, and at no time was it frightening or disturbing. Parents should check for themselves first if they are concerned."

£4.99 ISBN 0 86264 3384 Andersen Press
www.andersenpress.co.uk

The Ghost Behind the Wall by Melvin Burgess

It's about a boy called David who lives in a flat called Mahogany Villas with his dad Terry. One day he finds a vent leading to some pipes. He goes in the pipes and finds a ghost who wants revenge on an old man named Mr Alveston. The main characters are David, Terry, the ghost and Mr Alveston. I liked the descriptive writing, but it is not a very scary story. I think other children aged between 8-11 would like this book.

Freyja Steenman-Clark (8)

£9.99 ISBN 0 86264 492 5 Andersen Press
www.andersenpress.co.uk

Face to Face by Sandra Glover

I didn't particularly like this book. It was slow, repetitive, your average, run of the mill story! It deals with Adelle, a 15 year old, emotionally mixed up girl who starts seeing ghostly faces in her gran's mirror! Could this be Lucy - a maid servant who committed suicide years ago?! Adelle is on a diet, but not losing weight. Everybody is talking about her, even her shoplifting, politician dad! Her new friend from school, Naomi, eventually discovers the truth and saves Adelle from herself! There was no high point in this book and I had to get two thirds of the way through it before it started to hold my attention! I suggest that this story would be suitable for girls between the ages of 10-14 due to the story line - about anorexia

Megan Whiteman (11)

£9.99 ISBN 1 84270 012 X Andersen Press
www.andersenpress.co.uk

Town and countryside/Where people shop/People on the move/People at work

by Barbara Taylor

This set of text books for geography is primarily aimed at schools. There are plenty of references to schools and the first line in 'People at work' is "What sort of work do you do at school?" These books are visually attractive and well set out. The text is fairly simple and informative. There is a good mixture of photographs of people and places, drawings, maps and plans. I read 'Town and Countryside' in several sittings over a week with Natasha and Anthea who enjoyed the book. I found it a very useful book for introducing geographical ideas in a more formal way. We did the activities all together but there are plenty of ideas for more in-depth study. These books would suit a slightly older age group better. I particularly like the fact that there are lots of questions which keep the children involved. Clare Crane with Natasha (6) and Anthea (4)
£4.99 each ISBN A & C Black 01480 212666

Eric and the Green Eyed God

by Barbara Mitchell

I like this book because of what the two boys get up to. They search for the present from Auntie Rose because they think it will cause trouble. But the green eyed god which is what they found was not the right thing. But they dump the green eyed god in the reservoir. I think this is a very funny book.

Jem Freiesleben (6)

£7.99 ISBN 1 84270 006 5 Andersen Press
www.andersenpress.co.uk

Voyage of Jason by Ken Catran

This is a brilliant and exciting read. Jason and the Argonauts are trying to find the golden fleece. When they stop to rest on an island they find the men who lived on the island have been killed. The book is written by the ship's boy, Pylos. It has got lots of blood and fighting because a monster guards the treasure. It is an action packed story that I couldn't put down. It was much better than other Greek tales that I have read - I really felt like I was there, in the story. I would recommend it to other children of 9+.

Iain White (11)

£4.99 ISBN 0 86315 345 3 Floris Books 0131 229 6800

Raspberry House Blues by Linda Holeman

This is a story about a girl, Poppy, who is adopted and wants to find her real mother. She decides to go and stay with her father, because he is living in the place where she was born. She gets caught up in life in the 'Raspberry House' as she calls it because the whole house is painted a crazy deep raspberry colour. Gradually, through the story you begin to understand and like this angry, mixed up teenager called Poppy. You live her moods and feelings and by the end of the story I wanted her to understand herself. This was a fascinating book covering real issues through a fictional story. I think it is more suited to the older reader.

Sue White with Rebecca (8)

£4.99 ISBN 0 86315 339 9 Floris Books 0131 229 6800

1-2-3 Draw Series

I tried *1-2-3 Draw Pets and Farm Animals* and *1-2-3 Draw Dinosaurs*. I really liked these books and they helped me to draw some really good pictures. They are not very complicated and I did a lot of the pictures from both the books. I love dinosaurs and I love pets and farm animals because we have a lot of animals at home. This helped me to draw some really good pictures of them. You learn to draw by copying lots of shapes and these turn into what you are trying to draw - it is very clever and makes drawing fun and easy to do. My mum says the books are very good value too and you can learn to draw by visiting the web site www.drawbooks.com too.

Keith Hall (7)

£5.95 each (lots of different titles in the series) Search Press 01892 510850 www.searchpress.com

Growing Frogs by Vivian French

This book captivates Amber I think because it is written in her language and has been illustrated with such vibrant colours. Written in the first person, the author remembers how she once collected frogspawn with her mum when she was little and she relives the excitement of watching every small change as they develop into frogs. A very colourful book, beautifully

illustrated which explains in detail the development of frogs from mating to leaving the pond and includes guidelines for carrying out this observation yourself. Many froggy facts are found throughout the book and an index cleverly allows the book to be used as a mini encyclopedia. The last page, which covers some rules to ensure frog conservation, could have been a little more obvious but this is just a small criticism - all in all highly recommended.

Caroline Farquher with Amber (4)

£12.99 ISBN 0 7445 6269 4 Walker Books 01256 302692

Maisy's First Flap Book by Lucy Cousins

A cheerful book full of bright, bold colours with 36 flaps. Meet Maisy's friends and then follow them as they do the gardening, paint pictures, dress up and visit the park. Incorporating numbers, shapes, colours and opposites in a very clear and concise way. Enjoyed immensely by Leo over and over again. It was also useful for Amber who is just beginning to recognise words and numbers.

Caroline Farquher with Amber (4) and Leo (1)

£7.99 ISBN 07445 7588 5 Walker Books 01256 302692

Adventures in Ancient Egypt by Linda Bailey

This is one of a series of books (The Good Times Travel Agency). In this 48 page book three children are magically transported to Ancient Egypt and have to stay there until they've read all the information in the travel guide. The main portion of each page is covered by the illustrations, which are lively and amusing. Hazel thought the story was 'silly', however, she liked the information about ancient Egypt and I noticed that several questions which occurred to her as I was reading it were answered on the following page. Kim (5) has not been interested enough to listen to it all so far.

Sally Jarvis with Hazel (9)

£5.99 ISBN 0 7136 5757 X A & C Black

Continents in Close up: An Illustrated Atlas of North America

This is the sort of book beloved by teachers setting homework projects, but perhaps of less interest to the children it is supposed to be good for. On each double spread there is a map of a section of North America, surrounded by smaller pictures with captions giving snippets of information, also the flag, the area, population and capital of each state. I had trouble persuading the girls to even look at this book. In the end we tried browsing through it, picking out pictures we thought interesting. Unfortunately the dry text

often didn't answer the questions raised by the pictures. It was denounced as boring and I lost my audience. America is very remote to us. Perhaps if the book had been about Europe it would have been of more interest. More books in the series cover the other continents.

Vivienne Hughes with Stephanie (8) and Claudia (7)
£10.00 each 01225 335336 Cherrytree Books

Altair Raindrops

This is a colouring book with a difference. A softback book (all recycled) of 144 pages, each page carries a pattern. You have to imagine somewhere in a large pond that hundreds of raindrops all land at the same time and in a perfectly triangular pattern. The ripples spread and every page reveals a different pattern to colour as you wish to create your own unique design. The sheets pull out. Amazingly absorbing for adults and children of all ages!

Kathy Noaz with Jake (7)
£9.99 Wooden Books Ltd 01547 560251
www.wooden-books.com

Citizen Guides - What Happens

There are four in this series: 'What happens' 'in a Town Hall', 'in a Law Court', 'at a General Election' and 'in the Stock Exchange'. At the start of each one there is an introduction to the subject, just to tell you what it is. At the end there is a glossary in case a reader doesn't understand some of the words. The appearance is very good, each page has a main subject with smaller sections throughout. Every book has a particular colour which the pages are. In the background there is small print Latin writing. On each double page there is at least one picture, cartoon, or photograph. Some of the pictures are very useful because they are cartoons of what is on the page so you can see what happens. On many pages there are facts in boxes. Overall we think that it is a fairly good series. In our opinion the best of the three we reviewed is 'What happens in a Law Court'.

Emma (11) and Molly (8) Whitehall
£11.99 each Franklin Watt 0207 739 2929

Getting to Grandad Bears by Hiawyn Oram

Baby Bear and Big Bear are on their way to meet Grandad Bear. They are travelling by train but Baby Bear soon gets bored. She occupies herself with activities such as colouring and even listens to a story that Big Bear reads to her, but the train journey is STILL too slow. Eventually she discovers that, somehow, running up and down the corridor makes the train go much faster and in no time at all she has arrived at her destination. This is a lovely story with colourful pictures. Hamzah very much enjoyed listening to it and took interest in the pictures of the

animals.
Aalyah Naqui with Hamzah (3)
£9.99 ISBN 1 84270 010 3 Andersen Press
www.andersenpress.co.uk

Goodnight Piggy Wiggy

by Christyan & Diane Fox

This is a pull-the page book aimed at young children, though it also appealed to us bigger ones! The story is simple and not original as a subject, as it is about a little pig wondering what he'll be when he grows up. What makes it entertaining is the layout of the book and the surprise behind the flaps. Boldly illustrated, and with objects close to Sophie's heart, this is a winner.

Anne Pope with Rupert (2)
£8.99 ISBN 1 85430 658 8 Little Tiger Press 020 7385 6333

Mr Potts the Potty Teacher by Colin West

We were worried this book might be about school, but it isn't. It's about Mr Potts, a crazy, mixed-up man with masses of enthusiasm and energy, and only a tenuous grip on reality. Stephanie and Claudia felt him to be more like a small child than a grown-up. This easy-to-identify-with main character has a fast moving, humorous storyline presented in easy-to-read comic book format. The book proved to be unputdownable and we will certainly look out for others in the series.

Vivienne Hughes with Stephanie (9) and Claudia (7)
£3.99 ISBN 0 7136 54686 A & C Black 01480 212666

Doing It Their Way: Home-based Education & Autonomous Learning by Jan Fortune-Wood

This book is a bit more like it for home educators and moves on a bit from the other one ('Without boundaries ...', reviewed by me in a previous newsletter) to set autonomous learning in the context of home education theories more widely. Not surprisingly, though, the author considers and rejects many of the ideas from other theorists more familiar to home educators, most notably John Holt, in favour of Karl Popper, who may be less familiar, in support of the Taking Children Seriously (TCS) approach. The theoretical basis for home education is set out and reviewed, although with an assumption at first that all home educators are practicing autonomous learning, but later acknowledging that some are likely to be approaching it in other ways. The development of the book almost inevitably returns to a continuation of the theme of promoting the TCS approach for non-coercion as the sole basis for true autonomy and perhaps even for home education itself and all learning. However, despite that it is possible to pick out a useful overview in support

of home education generally and of autonomous learning as a potential approach, without accepting the TCS dogma wholesale and uncritically as an ideal for autonomy. In all, there is more here for home educators to consider generally, but not necessarily to accept, with a good appendix outlining the legal guidelines for the wider framework of home education.

Nick Steenman-Clark
ISBN 1-900219-16-6 Educational Heretics Press,
113 Arundel Drive, Bramcote Hills, Nottingham NG9 3FQ

Fractions and Decimals

The publishers claim the book to be ideal for 9-16 s working at levels 2-4 of the National Curriculum. As many EO families do not subscribe to the curriculum, this may be meaningless. However, the content is well presented in a "fun" way and will help students practise maths skills. All the pages can be photocopied, so could be used a number of times. I would say that the content is well beyond most 9 year olds and is more suited to the 12-14 age group. 16 year olds would probably find the presentation somewhat young for them. The book is designed as a practice aid for those who already have an understanding of fractions and decimals, but contains no help for those at a lower level. Don't buy it if you think it will help explain how fractions and decimals work. Do buy it if the basics are understood and you're looking to reinforce the principles.

Arthur Cutler with Jo (9)
£12.50 Brilliant Publications 01525 222844
www.brilliantpublications.co.uk

The Smart Woman's Guide to Staying at Home

by Melissa Hill
I'm sorry, but I couldn't get to grips with this book. I felt that it was smug and patronising. Do we really need books like this to tell us how to run our lives? I'm sure that every parent who has chosen to educate their children at home will have worked out the financial, domestic and social practicalities without needing to be instructed by the likes of Melissa Hill. Her apple pie American charm is much too sweet for me and her financial analytical approach is designed to sort out all of us dull housewives who haven't the nous to do it for ourselves. It seems that there is quite a trend at the moment for ex-professional women to become housewives and they approach it in the same way that they would their work as a career and as a crusade. Also, another vogue which this breed are indulging in is housework, with the same evangelical approach that they have to work. I suppose that this book is mainly aimed at professional women who might have to live on one very reasonable salary if they do decide to stay at home. I just can't imagine anyone needing to read a book about it, never mind

buy one – any really smart women would spend their money much more wisely.

Eileen Steenman-Clark
£9.99 ISBN 0 09 185596 9 Vermilion Press 020 7840 8400
www.randomhouse.co.uk

What Will We Play Today? Movement and Music Games for Children aged 0-5 years

by Veronicah Larkin and Louie Suthers
We found a few songs and games that we didn't know in this book, but most of them were familiar. It is quite well set out in a type of recipe format, which is easy to follow. It has traditional and worldwide games, most of which require more than two children, so that it is more suitable for a playgroup, nursery or childminder than just for everyday use at home. We quite like these type of books and we have a few already that are much better than this one, so we didn't find it very inspiring. To follow the music, it would help to be able to read music, but a lot of the songs are adapted from old favourites like 'Humpty Dumpty', 'Ring a Ring a Roses' and the like. Overall, we thought that the book was pretty average for this kind of resource book.

Eileen Steenman-Clark, with Eoghan (4)
£12.95 Brilliant Publications ISBN 1-897675-73-9
www.brilliantpublications.co.uk

And the Skylark Sings with Me: Adventures in Homeschooling and Community-Based Education

by David H Albert
This book has helped me, if nothing else, define a movement amongst the unschooled as 'autonomous hothousing'. If this is for you, or if you suspect that your days are occupied with this pursuit, then I thoroughly recommend this book. But for me, it made me puke. This book is a catalogue of the author's children's miraculous, fabulous achievements and the lengths he and his wife went to, to provide the conditions for those achievements to be realised. This is a book packed from page to page with prizes, congratulations, members of the community standing by open-mouthed in amazement and, it is implied, envy, as little Matey and Cutie or whatever their names are, extend the boundaries of human possibility with their understanding of DNA, astrology, or opera. It is everything that turns me off home education. Driving these two child prodigies across the state to their various projects takes precedence over anything as simple as polluting the environment, and the idea that such excessively overcooked kids might one day pollute the environment themselves would no doubt be

shocking and hurtful to this guy. He's obviously deeply intelligent and ambitious and full of ideas and so are his children - but aren't we more than the sum of our family parts? For I was also drawn to this book because of its subtitle. Perhaps I have a different understanding of community, but for me this book was no more than a triumph of the individual learning experience over all others, and although the children did a lot of work and learning amongst their community it was very much with a sense of being exalted by their community and held up as, if not freaks, then certainly Very Special Children. If you are in the process of creating Very Special Children, you could write to me care of the book-review co-ordinator, and I would be delighted to send you my copy for free. You can keep it. But you may as well just turn to Mary Shelley, and locate a copy of Frankenstein's Monster.

Callie Whirl

New Society Publishers. ISBN 0-86571-401-0
(American import). I paid £12.95.

TITLES RECOMMENDED BY EOers

Roman Myths by Geraldine McCaughrean (read by Andrew Sachs)

I love this tape so much that I have played it over and over again. I listen to tapes a lot when mummy cannot read to me. This one is all about the gods that people in the olden days used to think really existed. The stories are very interesting and there is one about a man who cuts down a tree and he is punished by the gods who make him want to eat all the time and when he runs out of food he eats himself! But it is not frightening or gory. I am very interested in the gods and what people used to believe in and these stories include gods that I have already heard about but all the stories were new to me.

Keith Hall (7)

£7.99 ISBN 0 7540 7133 2 (2 tapes, 1 hr 49 mins) Cavalcade Story Cassettes by Chivers Press www.cavalcadecassettes.co.uk

Centuries of Stories chosen by Wendy Cooling

In this book there is a story (20 stories, 20 centuries, 20 writers) for everyone and every type of mood. Some are funny, some are sad, some are exciting and some are just brilliant. I got this book for Christmas and at the beginning of April my mum read me the first chapter from the first century called *In Ancient Time*. We started reading and I kept thinking "Wow, this book is brilliant"! The first story tells about a man meeting Joseph of Arimathea and Jesus Christ just before he is going to be crucified. The story moved me probably because it was about Jesus and probably because I am a Christian. Some examples:-

4th Century - The Valley of the Crocus's is about a boy called Caroc and a dog called Braveheart. It is very

moving and tells of struggles of family life against the Saxons.

19th Century - North - this was boring to begin with but gets really exciting when they are running through the woods and they jump down a waterfall. North is the only way to escape. This story made me want to cry at the end.

9th Century - Brother Aelred's Feet - they stink but they help the monks get rid of the Danes and the pigs like his feet! One of my favourite stories.

17th Century - London Rises from the Ashes - this is funny because of accents of Londoners and Titus Drumm gets Christopher Wren mixed up.

Another of my favourites is *20th Century - Swimming in Time*.

This is a must read for anyone over 9.

Simon Hoggarth (12)

£14.99 ISBN 0 00 185715 0 Harper Collins
www.fireandwater.com

Paint a Poem by Moira Andrew

This book is a comprehensive collection of ideas for writing poetry with children from 5 to 11 years. I found it to be very informative and ideal for those who perhaps have limited knowledge as to how to go about getting their children to write poetry, or perhaps feel daunted at the task. Ideas are very simply presented in small sections eg the sea, shells, shape, rainbows - to mention but a few - with suggestions for each theme. The book also provides excellent ideas regarding the presentation and display of poems, with plenty of colourful examples of children's work. Although the book is aimed at school children and teachers, it is also perfect for home education. I think it is excellent value for money. Aalyah Naqvi
£12.95 ISBN 0 947 882 448 Belair Publications

Please note that most prices quoted are the publishers' recommended prices. Many titles will be found at cheaper prices from discount book shops and mail order book clubs.

SEND IN YOUR REVIEWS

to Sally Hall, Nant-y-Garreg Farm, Saron,
Llandysul SA44 5EJ, e-mail sally@aecb.net or
tel 01559 370908

HOME EDUCATION IN THE NEWS

HOME NEWS

In recent months *The Times*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Observer* and *Best* magazine are among those leading publications who have featured positive stories about home-educating families or have offered contact details for *Education Otherwise* and other home-educating organizations in response to readers' worries about their children's unhappiness at school. It is good to see home education presented as a viable, legal and beneficial alternative to school.

Worried your children aren't spending enough time at their workbooks? A report by the National Foundation for Educational Research has recently stated that schoolchildren who spend long hours at their homework are as likely to underachieve as those who do too little. In fact, homework only does any good at GCSE and A-level, and even then not more than two hours a day, while at primary school and the early years of secondary homework can actually result in poorer grades. So the message must be that it's ok to play. The report is available, priced £10, from the Publications Unit, NFER, tel: 01753 747281.

HOME EDUCATION ABROAD

Home education in Italy

In the February issue of the *EO* newsletter Anna Constantin wrote from Rome about her son's unhappy experiences at school and her difficulties

in persuading the authorities to recognize his subsequent education at home as valid. The fact that home education is legal in Italy, and that the family was complying with a school director's request for her son to sit an annual examination, did not prevent an anonymous detractor from reporting her, and she was forced to employ a lawyer to defend their choice of lifestyle:

In Italy homeschooling was always allowed. The last law about it is Decreto Legislativo 297 of 16 April 1994. It says: "Children's parents or legal guardians who want privately or directly provide tuition must demonstrate to have technical or economical capacity and inform every year the competent authority" (Art. 111 - 2). Art. 148 regulate the end school director objective reasons, not personal motivations. I had a written permit from the director. I never received any control, neither help, though I asked for help for the program. I only had to take my child to school for two days end-year-exams.

As I went to the Ministry of Education, an expert told me that she never saw a denounce for homeschooling before. She was also amazed that the Children's Court would accept an anonymous denounce. I think I will enter the Guinness records for a denounce for homeschooling in Italy. She said that it is strange that such a few parents choose homeschooling in Italy.

I went to the judge yesterday with two lawyers and my husband. It wasn't a trial as we

HOME EDUCATION IN THE NEWS

expected : it was "just" a dialogue in his room. I had a mountain of documents, even a medical report saying that my child was hit on his head at school. The lawyer spoke about me and my child, and explained why I chose homeschooling. I spoke more about socializing: all the activities we did to stay in contact with the others: friends, sport, scout, other homeschooling families, theatre, travels, Steiner school's parties and activities and so on. I had also to tell about the relationship between my husband and my child. The judge was very well impressed and he wants to put in the archives the denounce. He has to ask the Public Prosecutor, but for sure I will have no more problems.

In her website 'International Home Education' (<http://www.worldzone.net/lifestyles/homeducation/index2.html>) Amanda Petrie writes that, in principle at least, Italy has always permitted home education.

In Italy, Art. 34 states that there should be 'giusto motivo' for home education. Art. 30 of the Enciclopedia del Diritto, also requires an equivalent education to that in school, 'una istruzione familiare parallela e distinta da quella scolastica'. By tradition, an Italian father has responsibility from God to see that his children are educated. The existence of home education is mentioned in the OECD report on education in Italy (1969).

Another experience of home education in

Italy was reported in a recent issue of the American magazine **Growing Without Schooling**. Elisabeth Lee Vassa describes how her choice to educate her children at home is mostly viewed by their fellow Italians as eccentric and incomprehensible but harmless.

Homeschooling is completely uncommon in Italy - only some well-informed people, usually working in schools, have heard about it as an 'American fashion'. Apart from the families listed in the GWS Directory, I guess we are the only family of more or less native Italians. (I am Spanish by passport and our children have both Spanish and Italian nationality.) There is an old and very useful law about home education for families who could afford governesses and tutors, which was not uncommon until about 40 years ago. The law requires a couple of tests by a public school before a child is 16.

I learned about this law from the leader of a movement against compulsory vaccination. His punishment for refusing to have his child vaccinated was that he was forbidden to send him to school. (the punishment was meant to protect the other children.) The child got lessons at home from unemployed teachers. After a year or so he went back to school, and when tested he was found to be more proficient than average.

The general attitude toward homeschooling here is that it means a burdensome business for the parents, who

HOME EDUCATION IN THE NEWS

moreover should be somehow qualified as teachers. Homeschooling seems to be understood as a sacrifice of freedom. Some open-minded people seem to be curious about homeschooling, and that can be a relief after finding skepticism or clear opposition to our choice.

One thing that helped is status. I can remind people that my husband's relatives from a family of the old gentry didn't go to school because there was a tutor at home. I am also indebted to a mother I met in Spain (through the GWS Directory) who suggested that one reason to homeschool is to preserve my children's Spanish. How would they read a Spanish newspaper or vote in Spanish elections one day if they went to full-time Italian-speaking school? It sounds very convincing as motivation for my "big sacrifice" of sharing my children's lives.

An American homeschooling father once told me how static Europe felt in comparison to America where families can easily move thousands of kilometers to and fro without leaving their country. Well, I am a really odd foreigner here, being German-born Eurasian and still officially a resident in Spain. The natives expect to make allowances for my natural and foreseeable eccentricities. Homeschooling is just one more thing in a row with homebirth, non-vaccination, and alternative food and medicine. One good side of Italian idiosyncrasy is a deeply rooted individualism, a love for originality. Homeschooling is sort of food for thought, a novelty to drop in conversation

among acquaintances. We heard many comments and questions by the time our first son was 6, when all his peers started school, but two years later, with our second son, we only heard a couple of questions - the thing had lost its newness.

In Italy children are a source of pride for their parents, and it can give offence if you don't notice a family's children. We are very proud of our children, and their joy and health are evident. They get a lot of notice, partly because their conversation is what I guess typical of homeschooled children. Having been what I would call wildly unschooled (they do take some lessons - as long as the subject is interesting and the teacher open-minded and loving, they *do* love lessons), they have pursued convertible interests like history, anthropology, and literature. People generally admire the interest our children show for learning and I can easily state that if I sent them to school they would be prevented from learning all that "grown-up" stuff.

(Growing Without Schooling, March/April 2001, 149, Vol 23, No 6. Published by Holt Associates, 2380 Mass. Ave, Suite 104, Cambridge MA 02140)

*With thanks to Priscilla for the clippings:
Ann Kennedy Smith*

The GCSE/IGCSE Nightmare

In response to Geraldine Hazel's letter in the June issue, I'd like to share our family's experience of taking IGCSEs.

When looking for an exam centre we phoned the board at Cambridge who gave us a list of schools in this county who sit IGCSEs. There were four (interestingly, all were independent schools), and we made contact with the nearest to home which was only about five miles away to ask if they accept external candidates. We found them very accommodating and the children found the experience very stress-free because they were in a small room with just a few other candidates in a very relaxed atmosphere.

We had decided to take Co-ordinated Sciences, which is a double award, since it is considered a sufficient foundation for taking A level in physics, chemistry and biology. In the event, we found that there was a huge amount of information to learn and, near the end, wondered whether doing three separate subjects might have entailed only a small amount of extra work and result in three awards. Perhaps other families who are planning this route might explore how much extra is involved.

The books which we used (all listed on the recommended list published by the board) were "Balanced Science" (2 vols., Cambridge University Press), which was very user-friendly and comprehensive.

In maths, for a couple to years we used Bostock et al's "GCSE Higher Mathematics" (Stanley Thornes pub.) We found this very helpful with good explanations for the parents who had forgotten/had never done parts of the syllabus. A few months before the exam (when we needed to step on the gas) we came across a copy of "IGCSE Mathematics" by Ric Pimentel and Terry Wall (John Murray pub.), in which each chapter was devoted to a particular part of the syllabus. This was immensely useful (a) because it covers matters such as inverse functions and matrices which aren't on GCSE syllabuses and (b) because the problems are set out very much in the idiom of those on the exam papers.

Although we did most of the teaching ourselves (between us we have A levels in maths and sciences), in the last few weeks before the exams we did make use of a science teacher who does private coaching, and he was particularly useful for going over the children's attempts at past papers.

Having now put this experience behind us, I'd say to other parents that IGCSEs need not be a nightmare as long as you start the syllabus in good time (we kept stopping off to take organ and piano exams and therefore had to gallop near the end). Preparing for these exams is certainly a project in which the whole family can get immersed!

Monica O'Connor, 27 Leicester Road, Blaby, Leicester LE8 4GR

How Home Education Works

One family's story

Six months ago, my husband and I decided that we would home educate our son. We had no choice - he had become school-phobic through no fault of his own. We had watched him go through months of agony and been through the same ourselves. We had watched our son go through the sort of stress which, had he been an adult, would most likely have ensured him months off work and counselling. And yet, we were still advised to force him back into a situation that affected him so badly. It had got to the stage where he was threatening to harm himself. He was a nervous wreck, and close to a breakdown.

The reason, as is often the case, was a bullying problem that had not been dealt with effectively. Our boy had lost faith in the teachers to sort things out. Frankly, so had we. Surely every child has the right to feel safe at school?

Other schools were not really an option at this stage, although we tried. However, by this time our son had lost faith in the whole education system.

To be honest, the thought of home education terrified us initially. We could not afford to employ home tutors, and we were not teachers. There were some excellent correspondence courses available but they were far too expensive for us to even consider. However, we soon discovered there was a wealth of information at our fingertips. We joined an excellent group "Education Otherwise", which consists of other home educating families, and began attending local meetings. EO also has a network of people who can be contacted for advice. The Home Education Advisory Service is also very good. Many museums allow us free entry on production of our EO card.

For the first 'term' we realised that our son needed a period of recovery. He had lost his sense of humour, his self-esteem and was sleeping badly, suffering from frequent nightmares. For those few months we allowed him to choose to learn about things he was most interested in. He did this with an enthusiasm that astounded us.

Now several months later, we understand what home education is all about. The child is educated rather than schooled. There is a big difference.

Our son learns from many different sources - CD roms, the internet, library books, history, geography, science, biology, English, Maths, I.T. and DIY programmes on digital satellite television programmes and also from the BBC Learning Zone and 4Learning. He read two newspapers daily and is keen to discuss various topics such as politics and education among others. His computer skills have rocketed. He has started up his own website building business, and has written to professional people for advice, of his own accord. We are trying to find a mentor in this field to guide and encourage him further. His latest project is a website for home educated kids, where they can all communicate with each other. Socially he still has friends that he sees in the area where we live, and he has also made other friends through Education Otherwise.

Our child is not doing GCSE courses at this stage but can go on to college and take these when he is older - if he chooses. I imagine academics reading this will throw their hands up in horror, but our child is motivated, he is learning, and most of all he is happy.

He is following a path of his own choosing, with supervision and tuition from us, his parents. Imagine if we had gone to a school and learnt only the subjects that we truly enjoyed and were interested in along with the basics of English and Maths? Imagine if such a school had catered only to our individual needs, rather than forcing us to learn languages which we loathed, and wouldn't even need later on in life, for example? How many of us, then, would be in careers we love rather than jobs we hate because we had been able to pursue subjects which we had a thirst for learning about? Not possible I know in the education system as it is, but in Home Education - yes!

Since I wrote this piece which was printed as a letter in our local newspaper, our son, Rob Malley, has had the website he created for kids of EO accepted by the council of EO. He has also done a week's work experience at a company which creates and makes computer games. I am sending this in case it may help and encourage other people who are worried about home educating.

Jane Desmond, 14 Bowhill Way, Strood Green, Betchworth, Surrey. Tel. 01737 844204 email: jedpo@yahoo.co.uk

The Living Village

I wrote last year about an exciting new project in Bishops Castle, South Shropshire where we are developing a neighbourhood of 40 sustainable houses with a Learning Studio for home educated kids to come together for projects.

Great progress has been made on the site with infrastructure building starting in the autumn and houses in the new year.

With experience our thinking on the Learning Studio has advanced. We now place more emphasis on practical workshops with academic subjects the responsibility of parents at home. Hut building, gardening and music workshops have proved a great success.

Roland and Janet Meigham visited recently, and the Learning Studio intends to collaborate with The Centre for Personalised Education in developing successful home education and learning studio project strategies.

Plots, house frames and completed houses can now be reserved. For more information see our new website: <www.livingvillage.com> or write to me.

*Carole Salmon, 5 and 7 Castle Green, Bishops Castle, Shropshire SY9 5BY
Tel. 01938 561258*

Responsibility for Bullying

We are a home educating family living in Great Yarmouth. We removed our 13 year old daughter, Bonnie, from high school in November 2000, due to the school and education authority being unwilling to address the issues of bullying within their education system. We had lots of communication with the headteacher but this failed to filter down to teachers.

Both the headteacher and education welfare officer stated that the issue of bullying was in fact our responsibility. The head stated that he had discussed the issue with both my daughter and the other parties involved but was unable to be everywhere at all times! The EWO stated that it was not his responsibility to liaise with parents of said bullies as he was "untrained to do so". He claimed his role was to refer Bonnie to Ed-Psychology and set up liaison meetings if required for my daughter and the bullies. My daughter was, at this time, receiving threats whilst out of school; all we were requesting was support from the local authority and that was his reply. All stated that my daughter was on her own to and from school. After we removed our daughter their attitude remained uncaring, with no support whatsoever, not even a visit from the head. We were enraged, and informed all of them of our total distrust of their professed empathy towards young bullied people and their so-called anti-bullying policies.

We have muddled through seven months of home tuition, but since employing a tutor for Maths and English once a week, and joining EO, we feel more confident of the years ahead. Our daughter is making great progress with her tutor and his confidence in her academic abilities has been a great support. His revelation that he is home tutoring several families within the area who also appear to face the same issues as ours also shows that we are not unique.

We would welcome contact with other families, to correspond and offer each other support and meet up for educational and social events.

Richard, Karen and Bonnie Kozlowski, 17 Wellesley Road, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, NR30 2AR Tel. 01493 857941 email: richard.kozlowski@btinternet.com

Older Kids (OK) Week!

A week of fun for home-educated young people aged 12 and up in Llangollen Youth Hostel Coach House, Wales - 3rd to 7th September 2001. Two ideas came together. The first from my daughter, who enjoyed HESFES so much she asked if we could have something like that more often but just for kids. The second idea was from Grace Llewellyn's "Not Back to School Camp" in America. I wanted something like that in this country. So by combining the two ideas I came up with this week. I think this will be the first venture of this sort in Britain so come along and make it an annual event!

The primary purpose of the week is to make new friends, renew and deepen old friendships, and to explore your own possibilities in a friendly, safe environment and thereby build your own self-confidence a little more.

The week is open to any home-educated young person over the age of 12. There will be a maximum of 45 young people. We will have workshops in the morning, outdoor pursuits in the afternoon, a meeting in the evening, and dances, talent shows and night walks later in the evening. The morning workshops/sports activities are run by the young people! Everyone who comes will be strongly encouraged to run a workshop/sports activity. The workshop can be done alone or with friend/s. You do not have to be an expert in your field to lead it! Even if you are a beginner you can lead a good workshop. They will last about an hour.

Cost - £65 per person. For more information – email: Leslie@safran26.freeserve.co.uk <www.otherwiseclub.org> Leslie Safran, 1 Croxley Road, London W9 Tel. 0208 969 0893

TOP Health & Education Together - The Other Path

"What is happening now and our vision for a 'place'"

Children are different nowadays. Many children find Literacy or Numeracy very difficult, despite being very bright. Their brains work in different ways (some are 'Indigo' children*). The TOP Literacy programme was devised to enable all children to reach their potential in literacy, even those who had struggled in school or who had Dyslexic-type problems.

I have also worked on children's health for many years - allergies, etc. causing health, learning or behaviour problems. From this work, some parents and I now have a vision of a place where healthy living and learning can take place for everyone - children and adults together, as is right for each individual. We know what works best for many children and we now have groups of children coming to share activities such as Cuffley Outdoor Centre, exploring Brook Farm Open Space, drumming/percussion (individual and group sessions) and effective literacy/numeracy support. The children are blossoming. There are also times for parents to learn how to have happier times with their children, and maybe work towards overcoming health problems. We have sessions for parents/adults themselves - play reading, Reiki, relaxation, talks etc.

We would welcome contact from anyone in our area to see what else can be shared and where the children can lead us in the future. We would only want to set up in a place where children can spend a lot of time in nature, as around Bentley Heath. Any ideas?

Felicity Evans, Bentley Heath, Barnet. Tel. 020 8441 8309

** Indigo Children: *very intelligent * present with one of the four main attributes (artistic, humanist, conceptual, interdimensional) *very aware - quickly sum up situations, people's feelings, what people are thinking * may act out stresses or respond to the fatigue of those around them * may present as ADHD * strong willed * have a strong sense of purpose * want those around them to be empowered * are born knowing their life path and purpose * seem to be born as an adult in a child's body, therefore frustrated * mature, wise souls * may be born "remembering" a skill that they start re-using very young * may remember past lives clearly * want to heal people, animals, situations around them * desire people around them to be spontaneous, truthful, aware of their feelings, unconditionally loving.
("Indigo Children" by Lee Carroll and Jan Tober)*

The Norham Foundation Consultation Day

The Norham Foundation, subtitled 'Working for Personal and Social Responsibility', is a registered charity which brings together people from different religions, belief systems and professional backgrounds in order to encourage debate and action within the area of Values Education. Isobel and I recently attended one of the Foundation's annual consultation days; this one concerned 'Parents and Social Development of Children'. Participants included representatives from charities such as the NSPCC, Home-Start, Education Otherwise; local education authority officers; teachers and head-teachers, one of whom was from the Association of Head Teachers; and people with expertise in Probation and Social Services.

The first speaker talked about the family as the context of social growth. We considered what influences are present within the family that may affect a child's social development, including aspects of the nature/nurture debate; the position within the family; a child's experiences from pre-birth through to the start of formal education; plus the contribution of individual personalities and family dynamics.

The speaker moved on to considering how children develop their unique coping mechanisms, lines of communication, decision making procedures, problem solving strategies and the way certain behaviours will be reinforced through positive and negative reinforcement, as well as the need for, and effect of, role modelling.

The discussion afterwards was a useful start to the day's emphasis on the place of the family in society today, and how by helping parents we help children - which in turn helps society. This acknowledgement of the extremely important role of parents was a useful premise on which to base the later debate about parental responsibility, how we might best enable parents to fulfil their duties, and what external factors come into play that can interfere with the parents' role. Our input from Education Otherwise slotted in with all this beautifully! And I think we can claim to have helped to put a completely fresh perspective forward.

The next speaker was a senior Clinical Psychologist who works for a health authority with families where the children are displaying 'conduct problems'. The speaker talked about research which he suggested highlighted the home background and approach that was more likely to lead to well-adjusted children, such as: warmth, the frequent use of reasoning, balanced with consistent behaviour 'control' (but not of a harsh, negative or punitive nature); and a more limited use of critical commands aimed at continually directing children's activities. The individual nature of the child can be added to this tapestry of parental influences on the young person's feelings, attitude and behaviour, as can the vast range of external influences.

I don't think any of us can claim we know all about this complex area where there are many different understandings about cause and effect, even whether a certain behaviour is indeed a 'problem' at all. Even so, this field could be said to generate a great deal of strongly held opposing views, particularly for home educators, with regard to school phobia, truancy, disaffection and learning difficulties/differences. I was impressed though that the speaker talked about taking a collaborative approach when working with families, and also that he felt it particularly important to avoid a

blame culture. We all agreed that so often significant factors lay outside the control of the family; a perfect example being that as half the prison population are dyslexic, then it would appear that an inappropriate approach to education can be an extremely significant factor for some people especially, and no amount of good parenting could make up for such negative influences.

This was a good place to share the view about the need for families, and all those working with them, to have much better access to information concerning all the opportunities that exist to take different, and perhaps more appropriate, approaches. Some time was then spent discussing what these might be. I hope that discussions of these kinds will help to counter a common misconception that if a child is not fitting in to the system, then it automatically follows that they must have a problem and they need to learn to adapt.

The last speaker, the Chief executive of Home-Start, provided an interesting overview of some of the current research, which reinforces the belief that parents should be at home with very young children. This was balanced by an understanding of practical considerations as well as highlighting research which shows how important the *quality* of parenting is (not just their presence), plus, how long-lasting and significant are the experiences of the pre-3 year olds. Some contrasting arguments were presented about the need for parents to have access to support, versus the opinions of others who believe that parents may be being undermined by the volume, contradictory nature and authoritarian way in which 'help' is often available.

Home-Start offers support to parents of young children. There may be a need because of loneliness, post-natal depression, ill-health, poverty, domestic violence, or disability, especially problematical issues where there is little access to an extended family or community network. Of particular interest though is that the charity is an example of a voluntary organisation which considers that *how* support is offered is just as important as the fact that help is there. They believe, as we do in EO, that families should be free to opt in or out of support, that parents should set the agenda, that any support is looked on as being an empowering experience where parents' skills and abilities are being built on, and that confidentiality is respected. Conversely, unwelcome or inappropriate interference with families can be just as damaging as having no input at all - even where there is an issue to address.

This was a good area of discussion to end on as we talked about supporting and trusting parents, and trying to provide what they felt they needed (if anything). This argument extended to the mutually agreed proposal that statutory bodies support and trust the voluntary sector who have much greater freedom to work *with* families in an informal, non-threatening way which can be highly effective.

I hope we brought some fresh ideas to the other people attending the consultation day, I certainly learned a great deal. One of the last comments came from an Education Welfare Officer - when asked why we thought Education Otherwise was growing at such a rate, he chipped in that, in part, it may be because more of his colleagues now felt able to direct families to us :-).

Keep up the good work everyone!

Gwen Baldock. gwen.baldock@cwcom.net

From the Archives

The ghost of Augusts past

I thought it would be relatively easy to find out what any given child was willing to do and arrange for him to do it. Not so. Schooling seems to convince some children that nothing is really interesting in itself. The important aspect of schoolwork is getting it down, getting it marked, filling the book, not making mistakes. If there is no-one enforcing school-type work it rarely gets done. Finishing is not important, nor is filling the book. Remove the school environment and so it seems, you strip away most of the reasons for studying in the way we make children study in school.

(Chris Shute, writing in August 1991)

Nirvana.... being the state of having one's child reach the age of sixteen and thereby being free of all worries, hassles, feelings of doom, big brother, the state, LEAs and other minor deities. Rachel was 16 at the end of April. Apart from a brief spell of 5 months when she was 13, she has been entirely educated at home, in the field, forest, garage and workshop.... What is Rachel now? She is an independent, stubborn person of character and free will. She works extremely hard at things she wants to do and completely ignores anything she doesn't.

(Jenny White, August 1987)

I have never been to school but I wouldn't have liked to wait until I was five to make some friends.

(George Polkowski, August 1990)

What links EO members together is not any shared vision of what education should consist of, but a conviction that education is so important that parents have the right to take direct responsibility for it and that they should be supported in attempting to exercise that right. EO is therefore primarily a communication network, a network through which ideas and feelings are shared, and the main task of the organisation is to maintain and strengthen that network. The skeleton of this network is the newsletter, the contact list and our publications. If the organisation does little more than keep these going, it will be doing a good deal.

(Bruce Cox "How EO works (or How to Work for EO)" August 1985)

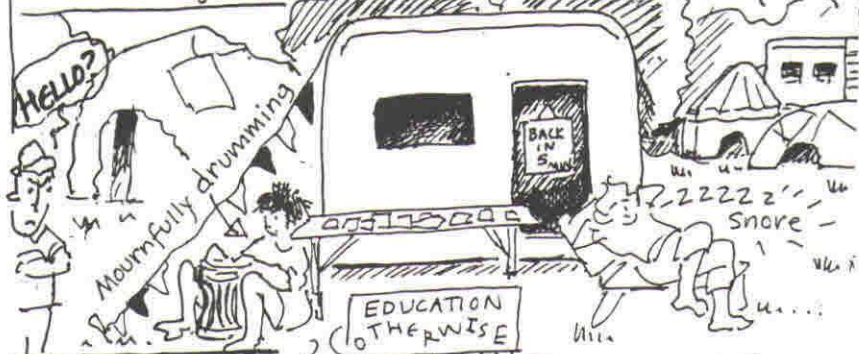
When are you going to do something for the rest of humanity, i.e. those who for one reason or another are unable or unwilling to escape the system by deschooling, instead of just sounding smug and self-satisfied in your monthly newsletter?

(Letter from Colin Millen, August 1986)

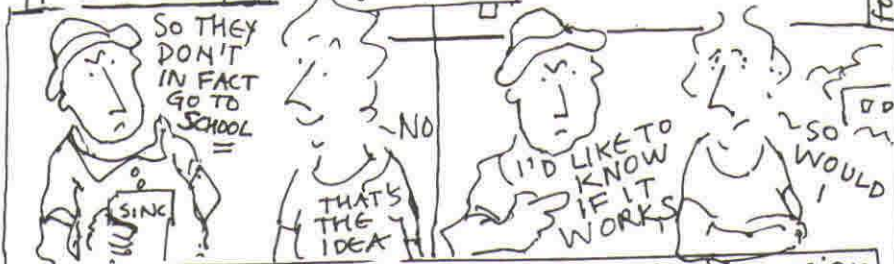
EDUCATING ARCHIE

by SEC

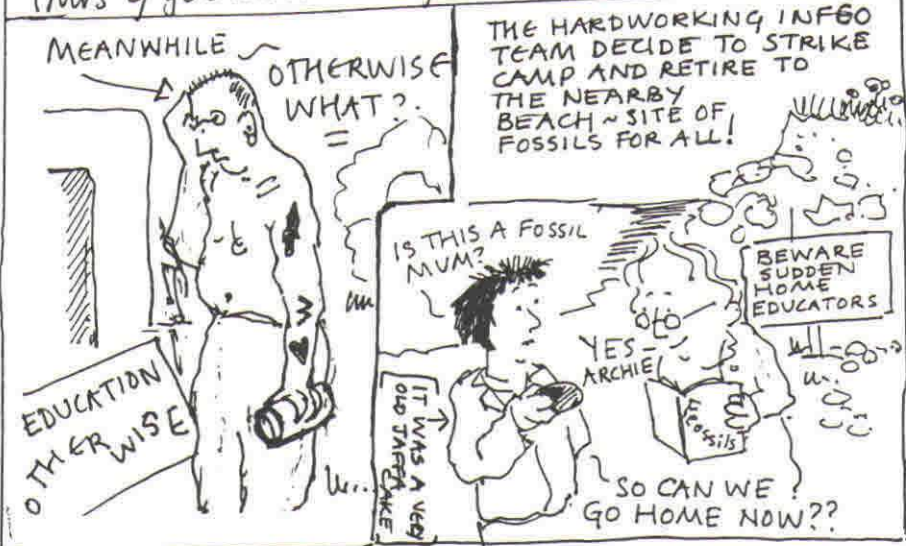
Mrs G and Archie are ONCE MORE joining the EO INFO stall at a summer festival...



for Habiba & for Ryan & LESLIE



Mrs G gets involved in yet another EO discussion.



Letters Page

Please include full name and address when writing to newsletter editors. Name and address can be withheld on request. Due to limited space, some editing may occur.

The Good Life

We should like to find our dream life. Can you help? We need a rented property - rural Southwest or Wales - that will allow space for chickens and goats as well as our two children (5 and 12) and associated pets (including pony). We are in the process of taking our children out of school - much to my parents' disapproval!! Our ultimate aim is to be as self-sufficient as we can within a community of like-minded people. Many thanks if anyone can help us with ideas or advice.

*Sarah Macdonald, 8 Myrtle Grove,
Bideford, Devon
email: jb_smac@hotmail.com*

How Inclusive Are We?

I am writing to tell others about our recent experiences as a family at HESFES 2001. As new converts to home-based education we were looking forward to a week of meeting like-minded people, learning a lot and our 12 year old was very excited about meeting new children. Unfortunately, due to the lack of organisation of the event and the cliquiness of the rest of the people there, we wished we hadn't bothered and certainly won't again.

My advice is: don't go unless you are going in a big group so you already form a self-sufficient support system.

*Julie Frew, 7 Wood Farm Road,
Headington, Oxford OX3 8PP*

Support Wanted in Liverpool

I have recently withdrawn my 12 year old son from school because of bullying and all the other things about school that EO people understand. I'm feeling a bit isolated. My friends, though supportive, have mixed feelings about my decision and, up to now, none of them have decided to do the same thing with their children. Also, I don't have a large family in Liverpool (just my Mum, who is 100% behind me), and my son and I live alone.

I'd like to hear from anyone who is home-educating and would like a penpal/phone pal to meet up with. I'd especially like to become friends with EO single mums and I'd be delighted to hear from anyone who lives nearby.

*Hazel Croft, 49 Macdonald Street,
Wavertree, Liverpool 15*

GCSE Coursework

I have been teaching my daughter at home for the last nine years, very happily for both of us, I hope! Now the ghastly spectre of GCSEs has arisen and my life doesn't seem quite so jolly any more. The coursework for chemistry, biology and human physiology and health is my particular bugbear. Please can anyone help with advice on what are considered suitable topics for coursework experiments and where to obtain the necessary chemicals from. I would be eternally grateful for any help offered.

*Sharon and Alexandra Blackman, 70
Glynde Crescent, Felpham, nr
Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO22 8HT
Tel. 01243 822753 email:
yvonne.blackman@btinternet.com*

More Letters

Lincoln Home-Ed Group

I am considering starting up a home education group in Lincoln for socialising and support. I have quite a few ideas and maybe a permanent base by the end of the year. If anyone is able to offer any assistance to help me set up the group or if you are just interested in coming along, please contact:

*Kathleen Smith Tel. 01522 869239
email: kathleen.smith1@btinternet.com*

Through the Chalkdust ...

This is to let members know that my entire story about teaching in Tower Hamlets is on my new website - < www.ahal26.ukgateway.net > It would be entertaining reading for home educating parents and their older children, and for those looking for encouragement to withdraw their children from school. People investigating schools make the mistake of asking the adults in the school what they do, instead of looking at what individual children experience. My story has plenty of detail, of the sort that is normally missed.

*Peggy Thomas, Tel. 01225 760880
10 Sanders Rd, Trowbridge, Wilts BA14 8NN*

Editor's Notices

Volunteers, please - to edit the **Children's Pages** and **Special Sections**. Even if you have previously put your name forward, please do so again as I cannot be sure I have everyone's details.

Thanks to Dan for cover design, Penny and Gwen for support, all the Editorial Team for not minding my nagging, and everyone who contributed - keep it up please!
Anne (NL co-ordinator)

EDUCATION OTHERWISE BUSINESS

GWERSYLL DEWI SANT STDAVIDS CAMP
Pencarnan Farm St Davids Pembrokeshire

6TH TO 16TH SEPTEMBER 2001

Note Change of Dates

BOOKING INFORMATION

Commercial camp site owned by ex-EO members, on coast in Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. Easy access to beach, good facilities, local natural and historic sites. Local EO group may facilitate activities (some at extra charge) e.g. canoeing, singing (bring instruments, etc.), badger watching - secure food boxes necessary! (can be borrowed). Communal frame tents for tea/get-togethers. Bonfire party on beach Wed 12th. BBQ only on site. Quiet roads for cycling. Oakwood Leisure Park close. Come prepared for weather!! Dates flexible but please do not arrive before 6th as clash with school holidays. Welcome to stay after 16th at discounted rates.

Camping costs: Special EO overnight rates:
adults (16+) £2.50, children (6-16) £1.25, dogs 50p (keep on lead in camp), electricity hook-up £1, day visitor parking £3 per car. Touring caravans welcome, same rates as tents. Please register that you are EO at reception on arrival. A few static caravans to hire @ discount rate of £220 + £30 refundable damage deposit - please write directly to Pencarnan. Booking fee/Camp fund £1 per person (6 years and over).

To Book:

1. Send cheque for booking fee payable to G.D.S.
2. Please state expected arrival dates.
3. Please state if you will be camping or have booked static caravan, and if electricity hook-up required.
4. Enclose SAE for receipt and map/directions.
5. Enclose £3 deposit if you want to borrow badger-proof food box.
6. Please advise expected time of arrival if you require to be picked up from public transport.

POSTAL BOOKINGS TO BE RECEIVED BEFORE 1ST SEPTEMBER

Bookings/Enquiries to: Yvette Hartley, 17 Maes Ingli, Newport, Pembrokeshire, SA42 0TE, Tel: (local rate) 0845 458 9251 Email yeh@onetel.net.uk

To reserve static caravans: WRITE to Sian & Alan Richardson, Pencarnan Farm, St Davids, SA62 6PY. Tel/fax 01437 720324. Pencarnan@aol.com

Local info: <http://www.pembrokeshirecoast.org>
Tourist Info Centre, St Davids ... 01437 720392
Bus timetable, Route 411 ... 01437 720392
Bus " all routes, Local Auth. . 764551 ex5227

EDUCATION OTHERWISE BUSINESS

Education Otherwise Adverts

Steve: A Story of Home Education

Available from the author. £4.50 (+£1 p&p)
Details from Mrs Margaret Stevens
01844 343 928. To order send cheque
payable to Education Otherwise to: **High
Beech, Lower Rd, Looseley Row, Princes
Risborough, Bucks HP27 0NU**

Educating Children at home by Alan

Thomas (Cassell 1998) This book covers
research into 100 home educating families in a
delightfully readable format. There are
accounts of different methods and lots of
quotes from families. Special price to
members £9.50 from: **85 Coleridge Rd,
London N8 5EG** (cheques payable to Alan
Thomas)

Resources Booklet

50 page booklet giving information on
different curriculum materials aimed at 5-11
year olds available to home educators who are
interested in a more structured approach. Send
£1 coin with your address to:

**H. Turnbull, Hadlow House, 2, Hadlow Rd,
Sidcup, Kent DA14 4AF**

Or get a free RTF copy by e-mail
henrietta.turnbull@ntlworld.com

Resources for older children

Information on curriculum materials for later
years. For a copy please send 50p to cover
printing and postage with your address to:

**G. Dove, 392 Lodge Ave, Dagenham RM9
4QU**

Free e-mail copy from:

gillchris@willrich.fsnet.co.uk

EO T-shirts

Good quality white cotton t-shirts printed with
EO logo (red triangle kicked open by running
children)

£5 adult (M, L, XL)

£3.50 (3/4, 5/6, 7/8, 9/11, 12/13)

p&p up to 6 shirts £2, 7+ £4

**Pat Connor, 2 Whitegates Lane, Reading,
Berks RG6 1ED**

EO Car Stickers

Help spread the word. Please send 50p and a
reasonable large SAE to: **Ali Willer, 28
Cozens Hardy Rd, Sprowston, Norwich
NR7 8QF**

PRE-16s and COLLEGE COURSES

The first stage in our pre-16 college course
information gathering exercise, which will
arm us in our work in trying to obtain more
flexible and appropriate treatment for this
group of home educators, will be reported
on in full as the supplement to the next EO
newsletter. If you would like a copy of the
first report before then, then please send an
sae to me at the address below.

A huge thank you to all who responded to
the request for feedback! And apologies
for not responding personally to all those
that did.

CHILD BENEFIT

Following a **relatively** straightforward
period where contact with EO had helped
to persuade the Child Benefit Agency of
the rights of home educators in this matter,
members seem to be having more
problems again. This might be, in part,
due to the growing realisation that we are
becoming quite a popular - even
mainstream - option, and it's causing some
anxieties. Could you email or write to me
with any offers of help, special expertise or
personal experience in obtaining (or not)
this benefit. Let's see what we can do!

For either of the above, please contact:
Gwen Baldock, 6 Villa Grove, York YO31
7TB - Email: gwen.baldock@cwcom.net

A FINAL THOUGHT ...

**The DfEE has now become the DfES,
The Department of Education & Skills**

EO Case Studies

During the early ground breaking days of EO I was inspired by examples of clear injustice against families by local government to keep a record of such cases. I remember the case of three EO boys of the Lewis family who were put into interim care by social services for 10 weeks, one of the many cases never to be forgotten. I was able to feed this material into university social worker training courses where I hoped it would affect the awareness of future professionals.

We have come a long way since then but I still go into a state of shock when listening to some parents and learning of their experiences. I would, once again, like to document cases with your permission and in complete anonymity but this time to:

- a. inspire members by showing the enormity of the support that goes on within EO;
- b. feed information into the national and local government machines and possibly other organisations including the medical profession;
- c. be a part of our 25th celebration year;
- d. above all, validate the enormity of the pain that families can carry.

I would welcome any suggestions and input from members but above all, any case histories that members would like to put my way to start this rolling.

Iris Harrison (see below for contact details)

Developing Resource Centres for Home Educators

At the council meeting in May a group was set up to investigate the development of local resource centres for home educators. This group felt, on discussion, that it was not only important to have local "centres" but also to put in place a national programme to support local initiatives. This programme would include the development and maintenance of a website to facilitate access to information both nationally and locally, and assisting local groups to access and develop resources and activities for home educators in their communities.

This is such a huge task that we feel it would not be possible to do it within the existing resources of Education Otherwise. To put in place an effective development programme we think it is essential to seek outside funding to employ development officers.

This represents a new departure for Education Otherwise and we are anxious that everyone has the opportunity to put forward their views. Please do share your opinions and thoughts about this with us. You can phone, e-mail, or write to Iris Harrison with your feedback. This issue will also be discussed at the next council meeting on October 7th near Telford.

e-mail: irisharrison6@aol.com phone: 01584 781 341
The Burntlands, Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire. WR15 8SH
*Iris Harrison, Gwen Baldock, Lucy Charlton, Jill Fisher, Kevin Holloway,
Martina Macklin, Ross Mountney*

Regional Diary

Events organizers please remember when giving full details of events that the newsletter can be read by people who are not members of EO.

New members attending their first meeting should phone to check it has not been cancelled.

*All regular meetings listed below will now be included automatically in every issue. Please notify any changes or meetings no longer taking place to: **Martine Archer, 43 Cecil St, Harrogate HG1 4NP 01423 858916***

(Due to loss of computer file I have had to retype the whole thing, please inform me if I have made any mistakes so they do not remain on the new file. Check phone numbers with previous issue.)

BATH

H.E.L.P. group meets regularly for outings and activities.

Contact: *Louise Jensen 01225 840735*

BERKSHIRE

Mondays – Swimming at Rivermead, Reading 1.30. £1.85

Tuesdays – swimming at Winsor Leisure Centre noon onwards. £2.80

Wednesdays – ice-skating at John Nike Leisure Centre, Bracknell 2-4pm £1.50, show EO card at reception.

Contact: *Pat Connor 0118 9662123*

Heros Club, Holyport, Maidenhead. Mondays 10-3 Regular sports, dancing, pottery crafts and cooking. £25 month or £10 family/day

Contact: *Dawn 01628 783107*

Also for local newsletter

www.zednetdemo.co.uk/2eddin

BIRMINGHAM

Last Wednesday of the month, Central Library 10.30-1.30 Free monthly newsletter (send SAE)

Contact: *Jackie or Alan Harley 0121 243 8242*
22 Danzey Grove, Kings Heath, B'ham B14 6JY

BRISTOL

Tuesdays, trampolining with coach am followed by workshops at Totterdown YMCA

Friday ice-skating am

Contact: *Kathy Nott 0117 966 8265*

Thursdays meeting at St Pauls Adventure Playground 1-3pm

(all above term time only)

Contact: *Carla 9354389*

BUCKS

Newsletter for **Bucks/Northants**

Contact: *Dawn 01908 569380*

Dawnwaddington@hotmail.com

South Bucks: fortnightly meetings for craft, activities, play, speakers, drama, trips etc.

Contact: *Jackie 01753 886924*

Dorothy 01494 782864

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Cambridge – regular meetings and outings.

Contact: *Penny 01223 526441*

Alconbury - monthly activities run by Christian group. All welcome

Contact: *Audrey Hill 01480 219881*

Peterborough – weekly visits and outings

Contact: *Janet 01733 554436*

CHESHIRE

Contact *Gill Wilson 0161 443 8723* for **North**

Cheshire/Stockport

Meeting 1st Wednesday of the month for crafts games and activities

Contact: *Carrie 01270 875 633*

Sue 01270 883 978 (for **S. Cheshire**)

CLEVELAND AND DURHAM

Contact: *Pauline Butterworth 01642 899247*

CORNWALL

Twice weekly events all round the county.

CHEERS newsletter

Contact: *Anna Wheeler, Cambrose Farm,*

Redruth, TR16 4HT 01209 890378

anna@wheeler19.fsnet.co.uk

CUMBRIA

Informal gatherings for socializing, support and activities.

Kendal – alternate Wednesdays Castle St Youth Centre 12.30-3.30

Penrith – alternate Tuesdays Castledown Community Centre 1.30-3.30

Contact: *Sarah Cook 01768 896019*

DERBYSHIRE

Chesterfield – new group meets every Wednesday morning.

Contact: Karen 01246 865532

Kaz 01246 205463

Yvonne 01246 555645

DEVON

Contact: Sammy and Nick 01548 830716

South Devon – meetings every Wednesday

Contact: Jessica 01548 561276

Penny 01626 360640

Bridget 01803 862158

Exeter – fortnightly meetings 2-4pm re-start Wed. 5th Sept, Belmont Park Community Hut.

Contact Annie 01392 434167

Becca 01404 549479

Crediton – New venue & time - fortnightly meetings 12-3.30 at Q.E. Community Centre starting Wednesday 12th September

Contact: Emma 01837 82365

Brixham – regular meetings

Contact: Sally 01803 856 862

DEVON EAST/DORSET WEST

Fortnightly meetings at Monkton Wyld Court.

Activities and grounds to play in.

Events list

Contact: Habiba 01297 561070

Lisa 01297 445865

DORSET

Regular meetings, keep in touch

Contact: Christine 01258 880355

Rosemary 01747 853 593

Bournemouth/Pool/Christchurch

Contact: Wendy 01202 438254

ESSEX

Colchester – fortnightly meetings, Wednesdays £2.50 per family

Contact: Sue 01206 520284

35 Lethe Grove, Clochester, Essex CO2 8RG

Monthly in **Chelmsford**; weekly in **Southend**.

Essex Epicycle newsletter gives full details.

Contact: Corinne 07802 630693

epicycle@wavy.org

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

1st Tuesday of the month at **Twyning**

Every Thursday swimming and trampolining.

Other outings every month.

Contact: Rob and Fiona 01684 290087

HAMPSHIRE

Portsmouth EO. Warm and welcoming group with kids 5-15 meet Fridays for art, craft, music, chat and outings.

Contact: Julie 023 92 640242

ACTIVEO meet 3 times a week within 25 miles of **Peterborough**. All welcome.

Contact: 01428 712394

Christian group – Fareham, Gosport area

Contact: Gayle 023 92553842

gaylie@btinternet.com

HANTS/WEST SUSSEX

Activities and support, **Solent area EO** at St.

Faith's Church Hall, the Pallant, Havant, alternate Mondays 1-5pm

Contact: Bernadette 01243 264837

Julie 023 92 640242

Val 01243 641221

HEREFORDSHIRE

1st Monday of month meetings, various venues.

Contact: Kath and Malcolm 01432 830883

homed@appcs.co.uk

HERTFORDSHIRE

Drumming, all ages, Tuesdays.

Numeracy, literacy and parenting health

sessions. Literacy home study programme 3-10 years. **Bentley Heath, Barnet**.

Cuffley Outdoor Centre, group every Friday afternoon

Contact: Priscilla 01438 840674

olsandpjs@aol.com

ISLE OF WIGHT

Fridays – picnic, BBQs swimming, photography. All ages welcome.

Contact: Jude 01983 531680

Jackie 01983 530378

Isle of Wight Learning Zone workshops, social events and newsletter.

Contact: Shara 01983 822965

Alison 01983 810862

KENT

Regular meetings and activities

Canterbury

Contact: Irene 01227 709570

Medway towns

Contact: Bridget 01634 234938

Tunbridge Wells

Contact: Kim 01892 863941

For events listings send SAE : Amanda Mackenzie, 16 Brambletree Cotts, Borstal, Rochester ME1 3TN

Bromley

Contact: Claire 0181 460 7347

Claire@wadefamily99.freereserve.co.uk

LANCASHIRE

Regular meetings

Contact: Angelica 01254 603 497

Outings and get-togethers

Contact: Brenda or Diana 01254 389673

Fortnightly play sessions at Botany Bay, Chorley, Junction 8, M61

Contact: Jacqueline 01204 361072

LEICESTERSHIRE

Frequent meetings for play, craft, walks, hanging out, singing, swimming, science, skating and much more.

Contact: Lise 0116 242 5802

LINCOLNSHIRE

Every Monday 1pm onwards church hall in Cleethorpes

Contact: Caroline 01472 690738

Boston area group. Regular meetings/outings.

Contact: Gill 01205 871399

Ross 01205 870679

LONDON

Tuesdays – **Clissold Park.** All welcome.

Contact: Charlotte 0207 254 0419

Wednesdays – **Honor Oak playground.**

Contact: Steve 8680 2933

Thursdays – **Lee 11-1**

Contact: Clare 8333 9455

Thursdays fortnightly rollerblading **Kidbroke**

Contact: Fiona 8852 9756

Fridays fortnightly at **Sydenham 11.30-2.30**

Contact: Chrystia and Keith 8776 8597

Fridays alternate fortnight **Forest Hill Nature Reserve 11.30**

Contact: Dave 8692 4080

Bromley

Contact: Claire 8460 7347

NW London Otherwise Club

Contact: Leslie 0181 969 0893

Harrow every other Friday, plus swimming Thursdays and other stuff.

Contact: Sue 0771 802 2677

Vivienne TIMSHARKEY@aol.com

W. London HE group – every Tuesday in Ealing/Richmond for fun and activities.

Contact: Naomi and Stephen 0208 567 7589

Lewisham EO group Thursdays weekly.

Contact: Clare 8333 9455

MANCHESTER

Monthly formal art lessons at Stockport Art Gallery £1.50

Monthly meeting at Stockport library

E-mail young writers group – Ed Wilson wilson-net@lineone.net

MADCOW newssheet, send SAEs : Gill Wilson, 20 Brook Rd, Heaton chapel, Stockport SK4 5BZ

Computing Skills 1st and 2nd Saturdays at Moore family's home, limited places

Contact: Karen 01204 573136

Manley Park Group- outdoor meetings for the summer

Contact: Julie 0161 860 7589

NORFOLK

NEON gives details of all events £1.50 plus 4 large SAEs

Contact: Steve Williams, North Cottage, Crostwick, Norwich NR12 7BD

Workshops/social meetings 1st & 3rd Thursday

Contact: Sue 01603 738494

NORFOLK/SUFFOLK BORDER

Diss area

Contact: Judith 01379 890622

Lowestoft area

Contact: Lin 01502 741097

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Tuesdays and Fridays weekly activities.

Contact: Mr and Mrs F. Benham, 4 Pilgrim Way, Wellingborough, NN8 2A (send sae)

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Weekly meetings - for full list

Contact: Wendy 0115 9114312

Louise 01773 780634

East Midlands Christian Home Educators 1st

Tuesday of the month 10-2 Stapleford Baptist church, Stapleford

Contact: Jo 0115 8770281

Julia 0115 8494083

OXFORDSHIRE

Classes in science, psychology and creative writing. Monthly Parents meeting, monthly Drop-In, also regular museum trips and outings
Contact: Wendy 01865 513912

SCOTLAND

Fife - outings and get-togethers
Contact: Karen 01334 655361

Irvine - weekly drama Fridays for 5-9 and 9+
Contact: Rhona 01294 273644

Monthly activities **Eglinton Country Park**,
Wednesday afternoons under 10s
Contact: Shirley 01563 540063

Other visits coming up
Contact: Vivien 01563 537428

Highlands meetings
Contact: Rebecca 01667 404676

SHROPSHIRE

Activities and outings
Contact: Val 01952 502225

STAFFORDSHIRE/SOUTH CHESHIRE/ NORTH SALOP

Fortnightly meetings
Contact: Patricia 01785 851150
Stafford every 2nd and 4th Wednesday in village
hall for games craft etc. 12-3.30
Contact: Nicola 01785 612410

Alsager - 1st Wednesday of the month at YPCC
for craft, music, games, chat.
Contact: Caroline 01270 875 633
Sue 01270 883978 Suedavies@tesco.net

SUFFOLK

Regular meetings every 3rd Friday 10.30-2.30
£2.50 for family, shared lunch.
Contact: Sarah 01379 783678

SURREY

Friday - ice-skating at Guildford Spectrum
1.30-4 £2.35 (+75p for group lesson)
Tuesday/Thursday - weekly meetings in and
around **Guildford**
*Contact: Lynne Sowden, 25 Tychbourne Drive,
Guildford GU4 7DH (£1.50 for events listing)*
1st and 3rd Thursdays - board games for all
ages in **Dorking**
Contact: Lindsay 01306 501229

SUSSEX

Monthly newsletter £8pa or £4 six months,
cheques payable to 'ESEO' to **Sarah Raine, 6
The Diggers, Golf Drive, Brighton BN1 7BL**

*Contact: Bo 01580 201681 (East Sussex)
Isobel 01403 261178 (West Sussex)*

Friday EO club at Lindfield

Contact: Liz 01444 414058
Home Educators Hastings Area, 1st Monday
and 3rd Thursday plus other trips and outings
Contact: Ali 01424 814175

Eastbourne Home Educators Club,
alternate Fridays 9.30-11.30 Shinewater
Community Centre, 75p per child.
Contact: Angelique 01323 509702

TYNESIDE

Monthly meetings, visits etc.
Contact: Linda 0191 4567007
Regular outings and monthly get-togethers
Contact: Lillian 01912809150

WALES

Cardigan area social meetings and outings on
Mondays

Contact: Yvette 0845 458 2951
Swansea monthly meetings in Llanelli area
Contact: Sue 01269 861902

NE Wales/Borders - weekly gym/trampoline
in Wrexham (thurs) various meetings in
Oswestry, W. Cheshire/ NE Wales. Also sports
and ice -skating at Deeside Leisure Centre.
Contact: Genny 01978 757489
49 Westminster rd, Moss Valley, Wrexham
LL11 6DH £2 for a years' listing.
eo@7times7.freereserve.co.uk

South Wales - regular group activities and
newsletter £3 pa. Weekly ice-skating.
Contact: Dawn 01495 303468
Beverley 02920797628
Cathy 02920 460203

Gwynedd - Mondays swimming at Bangor
Contact: Louisa 01248 361254
Friday swimming at Porth Madog Weekly
meetings at Tremadog Thursdays.
Contact Jo 01766 512330

Pembrokeshire EO swim and sauna: every last
Saturday of the month 12, Haverfordwest pool.
Family ticket (2+2) £4.95
Oakwood Leisure Park Tuesday 11th September
10.30 in the car park.
Contact: Yvette 0845 458 9251

Conwy Home Educators
Contact: Angela 01492 580056

WARWICKSHIRE

Coventry and Warwick usually meet 2 Thursdays a month. Activities at Binley woods and other outings.

Contact: Sue 024 7654 3801

suecardus@aol.com

WEST MIDLANDS

Fortnightly meetings at Coseley. Monthly science club, resource centre and time for socializing. All welcome.

Contact Penny 01922 745465

pennyclarke@homeschool.freeseerve.co.uk

Joy 0121 585 6450

JoyBeasley@b-bunch.freeseerve.co.uk

HELM newsletter for full details of regular meetings and events throughout the region, £7.20 per year

Regular meeting Halesowen library, 2nd

Thursday, meet in the coffee lounge 11-3

Contact: Joy 0121 585 6450

WILTS/DORSET/HAMPS

North Wilts new groups meeting every two weeks for activities, support and socializing.

Contact: Helen 01249 822958

Jemima 01380 727407

Heather 01249 822630

Outings and visits every Tuesday pm.

Lower Street Hall, off Netherhampton Rd,

Salisbury 2-5, every 1st Tuesday.

Contact: Vicky 01722 324863

Sam 01794 342041

WORCESTERSHIRE

Regular activity meetings and outings in the north Worcestershire area.

Contact: Gail 01562 822034

gail@tqmi.co.uk

YORKSHIRE NORTH

Regular meetings and visits. Send two 2nd class stamps for quarterly news-sheet.

Contact: Sarah 01904 750324

sarah@wollny.org.uk

YORKSHIRE EAST

Regular meetings and visits. Send two 2nd class stamps for quarterly news-sheet

Contact: Alison 01405 769902

YORKSHIRE SOUTH

Tuesdays 12-3 term time at Highfield Adventure Playground. Free entry, small contribution for craft materials.

Off London Rd/Abbeyle Rd

Contact: Annette 0114 2583502

Fiona 0114 22751142

Thursday – weekly informal social meetings.

All welcome

Contact: Angie 0114 2817466

Swimming fortnightly 2nd Tuesday at Hillborough Leisure Centre 12 and 4th

Wednesday at Barnsley Metrodome 12.30

Contact: Ian 0114 2817466

YORKSHIRE WEST

Outings and activities

Contact: Eva 01535 274520

Last Thursday of the month 11-1.30 at Civic Centre Huddersfield.

Contact: Tracey 01484 317176

2nd Friday of the month 1-4 at Moortown

Baptist church £2.50 per family

Contact: Eva 01535 274520

Susan 0113 268 1137

Swimming (term time) Tuesdays Bradford

Contact: Eva 01535 274520

Huddersfield sports Centre

Contact: Tracey 01484 317176

Skating Fridays (except the week of the Leeds Meeting)

Contact: Francis 01274 884750

Please send corrections and additions to the Regional Diary by post only: Martine Archer, 43 Cecil St, Harrogate HG1 4NP

ADVERTISEMENTS

Play it by Ear – Josephine Mountwinter

Developed by a Home Educator this method uses familiar tunes to establish key-awareness and beat-consciousness. Students can then play tunes in many keys, add chords and then deal with musical notation. Internet access, 3 page preview is at 1stBooks Library, type in the title and author's name and follow prompts. Then pay \$3.95 to download it to your computer. **If you don't have access ring Jessica 01548 561276 for a printed edition.**

Christian Home Education Conference

Elmwood church, Eccles Old Rd, Salford, Manchester.

Saturday 15th September 9.15am – 5.15pm

Contact: Rick and Andrea Williams
38, Bland Road, Prestwich Manchester
M25 9WG Tel: 0161 798 8189

rawilliams@telinco.co.uk

Willow House Education

At Willow House we offer children (5 to 11) an alternative to school. Here they have the opportunity to learn in a small flexible environment. They work in small groups (max. 8) and receive a good deal of one-to-one tuition. Their individual needs and personalities will be respected. Contact: Rozie 020 8643 7277 rvm@zoom.co.uk

**Willow House, 19 Downs side, Sutton
SM2 7EH**

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Alternatives in Education Fair 2001

Saturday 29th September 2001, 10.30-5pm

Information on small/alternative schools, home education, Steiner/Waldorf, early years education, Montessori and much more.

Stalls, Seminars, café, displays, books crèche. £3 voluntary contribution.

**Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London
(nearest tube: Holborn)**

Organised by Human Scale Education

01275 332516 www.hse.org.uk

Jan Lee Neal (BA Hons Cert Ed)

20 years experience in home Tuition (including my own three children). Although I specialize in Latin, French and English to 'A' level I can offer General Science and Maths to GCSE.

Academic and professional references.
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**Contact me on 01663 750939 or
janlee_neal@hotmail.com**

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**Experienced French and German tutor of
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Very reasonable rates.

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01404 549 479**

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ADVERTISEMENTS

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Revision books, past papers etc.

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e-mail famlea@orange.net

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Ormskirk Study Centre, 1, Bramhall Rd, Skelmersdale, Lancs WN8 8RW

01695 733687

hornestephen@hotmail.com

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Science Course for 8-11 year olds

"The Young Scientist Investigates" by Oxford University Press.

20 subject project books, 2 course books, teachers manual, book of practical work with 150 experiments, which require simple apparatus and equipment.

£20 plus p&p

01579 345139

Teacher offers tuition in French/ Dyslexia/ English – all levels. Also group tuition.

Felicity Burnet 01730 810286

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Choice in Education

The independent monthly publication for home educators.

A year's subscription costs £10. Please make cheque payable to 'Choice in education'.

For a sample copy send an A5 SAE plus £1

PO Box 20284 London NW1 3WY

Tel/fax 0171 813 5907

Also available: Truancy Information Cards and the Elective Home Education Legal Guidelines.

www.choiceineducation.co.uk

Free Range Education

A book for parents: for those contemplating home education, for those families just starting out and those just plain interested in this fast growing form of education. Full of ideas, experiences and practical suggestions.

Editor Terri Dowty, foreword by Dr Alan Thomas

Published by Hawthorn Press

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www.free-range-education.co.uk

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Prices from £200 per week

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losaltos@ctv.es

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ADVERTISEMENTS

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Lower Shaw Farm, Shaw, Nr Swindon, Wilts SN5 5PJ

Tel/fax 01793 771080

enquiries@lsfarm.globalnet.co.uk

To place an advert... Advertising in the newsletter is free, but if you are running a business or hoping to make a profit from your advert please send an appropriate donation. Cheques should be made payable to "Education Otherwise". Please remember that EO is run entirely by volunteers and has no income except members' subscriptions. Adverts should be limited to 1/8 page or 50 words and sent (with any donation) to the advertising editor.

Back Page Part Two

Get involved and join a small group:

Finance: Garry Humphreys, Lynda Hitchman, Celia McDonagh, Ann Samuel Till, Ken Grindlay

Enquiries: Gary Podmore, Pam Bellinger, Janet Wilkinson, Edwina Theunissen

Publications: Penny Clarke, Jill Fisher, Gary Podmore, Lucy Charlton, Chris Harper, Ali Willer

Media: Liz Alderdice, Beverley Young, Eva O'Rourke, Fiona Brookes, Celia McDonagh, Janet Wilkinson, Belinda Harris-Reid

Business Practice Group: Jill Fisher, Priscilla Park-Weir, Pam Bellinger, Martine Archer

DfEE Team: Anne Wade, Jill Fisher, Gwen Baldock, Ann Samuel Till

Membership support: Isobel Bogucki,

LEAP (LEA Positive Contact)

Isobel Bogucki, Jude Ashley-Walker, Jill Fisher, Beverley Young, Anne Wade

Communications: Janet Wilkinson, Jill Fisher, Priscilla Park-Weir, Richard Eaton, Penny Clarke

Scottish Group: Ann Samuel Till, Liz Alderdice, Lucy McAuley, Anne Wade, Jill Fisher, Gwen Baldock

Information for other organizations:

Penny Clarke, Jill Fisher, Martina Macklin

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).

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.

Scotland: Liz Alderdice 01464 841489

ejid@alders99.freeserve.co.uk

North West: Beverley Young 01772 734314

Beverley.young@btinternet.com

North East: Eva O'Rourke 01535 274520

evaandmary@aol.com

Midlands: Fiona Brookes 01684 290087

brookes@openhorizons.screaming.net

Wales: Celia McDonagh 029 20454227

East Anglia: Janet Wilkinson 01733554436

South West: Belinda Harris-Reid 01364 643343

bline@compuserve.com

South East: Vacant

London(1): Vacant

London(2): vacant

Ireland: vacant (Volunteers needed)

Complaints (acting)

Celia McDonagh, 15, Kirkby Court, Craiglee, Dr, Atlantic Warf, Cardiff CF10 4BS 029 20454227

Beverley Young 01772 734314

beverley.young@btinternet.com

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Council Members

If you have a problem contact your nearest council member.

Geraldine Adams (N. London) 0207 2634922
Pam Bellinger (Leicester) 0116 282 7929
Isobel Bogucki (W. Sussex) 01403 261178
Penny Clarke (W. Midlands) 01922 745465
Lynda Hitchman (Berks) 0118 961 4466
Jill Fisher (Leics) 0116 2128120
Garry Humphreys (Lincs) 01205 871399
Gary Podmore (Yorks) 0114 2585702
Eleanor Stapleton (N. London) 0208 8841368
Jenny Stevens (W. Sussex) 01243 783469
Anne Wade (Middx) 0208 9047155
Dawn Waddington (Bucks) 01908 569380
Janet Wilkinson (Cambs) 01733 554436
Beverley Young (Lancs) 01772 734314
Ann Samuel Till (Scotland) 0131 5566271

Membership

Membership and newsletter subscription enquiries, membership cards and address changes.

Lynda Hitchman, 31, Audley St., Reading, Berks RG30 1BP Tel: 0118 9614466
database@education-otherwise.org

Stationery

Leaflets, posters, membership forms, car stickers:

Ali Willer, 28, cozens Hardy Rd., Sprowston, Norwich NR7 8QF (donations towards postage welcome, reuse labels 2.50 per 100, free for EO business use)

Publications

Books, information leaflets and back issues of newsletters. For a full list send SAE to:

Hazel Hutton, 39 Millfield Gardens, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4PD
Tel: 017687 72546 hhutton422@aol.com
(please ring to check availability of items before ordering)

Contact with LEA

If you need help in dealing with your LEA ring your Local contact or any council member.

Small Jobs

Martina Macklin, 16 Victoria St, Wall Heath, Kingswinford, West midlands DY6 0JJ
Tel: 01384 833 883

Useful contacts

Single Parents Family Contact: Sarah Martin, Lammas, 34 Cowslip Drive, Little Thetford, Ely, Cambs CB6 3JD 01353 648716

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

School Phobia: Geraldine Adams
Tel: 0207 263 4922

Autonomous Education Support and advice: Sammy and Nick Vidal-Hall
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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 the 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.

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