

25 years of
education
otherwise

1977

2002



No. 147 - August 2002

**SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE EDUCATION
OTHERWISE NEWSLETTER TO THE FOLLOWING EDITORS:**

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SPECIAL SECTION (OCTOBER)

Jill Fisher will be collating feedback from
The Future of EO sessions at 25th Gathering
(Volunteers/ideas needed for SSs
for future issues)

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Please send contributions via the most appropriate section editor above

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS 1ST SEPTEMBER 2002

Please mark material 'for publication' and include your **name, address, phone number and email** (if you have it) as we may need to contact you to discuss your contribution (though details may be withheld from publication on request).

Please also ensure your EO subscription is up to date.

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(N.B. PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS VIA THE MOST APPROPRIATE SECTION EDITOR, ABOVE)

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Plus SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT:
FACSIMILE OF NEWSLETTER No.1
To celebrate

25 years of Education Otherwise

Co-ordinatorial

From the time I first joined EO (late '80s), I periodically got frustrated that the newsletter appeared somewhere around the middle of the month instead of at the beginning, which meant that some of the material was out of date. Why? I asked myself. There were other people in my area who felt the same, although I don't know how widespread this feeling was as I made no attempt at a full and balanced investigation. In February of '98 I had a go at being one of the rotational editors, but this didn't involve overall responsibility.

Last summer I had my first taste of the real problems involved in co-ordinating this newsletter, and began to realise just how difficult it is to get it out on time. I instigated a tighter publishing schedule, and persuaded the section editors and everyone else involved to stick to more rigid deadlines. It was painful, and it took until February to get it right (the printer had booked a holiday, so there was an external incentive to help us along for that issue). I was extremely pleased with myself, but there was a downside (the full extent of which has taken a while to become evident).

So I thought it might be a good idea to remind myself of the guidelines I operate under. The following extracts are taken from the March 2002 EO Handbook (emphasis added):

"The *primary* purpose of the Education Otherwise newsletter is to *provide support and information for members*. Education Otherwise supports all home educators irrespective of the particular approach they might choose to take in educating their children.

The editors encourage members to ... initiate debate. It is important that contributions are written in the first or third person ("I think this" or "She did that") rather than in the instructional or prescriptive second person ("You should do this" or "You are wrong to think that").

"The editors have a duty to produce a newsletter that is of most interest to readers, and all submissions will be subject to this principle Submissions may be edited for length and available space, where this does not change the message of the contributor... Where a contributor is critical of another member or group, the latter will be consulted and offered a right of reply, to be included alongside the original item. Any contribution considered by the editors to be offensive to other members will be edited or not published."

Perhaps as a result of my own prejudice, I have concentrated on the primary purpose of the newsletter, and keeping the deadlines extremely tight to ensure date-sensitive material gets through in time. I have only followed the full "right of reply" procedure in what seem to be extreme cases (and in consultation with members of EO's Council), relying on members to come forward on their own accord with alternative views. I am also reluctant to request articles at short notice from people already doing a job for EO - we are all volunteers, and there is only so much time and energy available. For the same reason, we do not acknowledge all contributions, but if we are not able to include something in the newsletter we will normally contact the author if possible - that is why we ask for full contact details even if these are not for publication.

Although there may not be a specific invitation, there is ALWAYS a right of reply in subsequent issues: once initiated, debate needs to be continued. Sometimes (due to pressures of time and the amount of material which comes flying into my inbox) I have omitted a contribution by mistake - I apologise, I'm human. Occasionally things get lost in cyberspace - nothing we can do about that.

All members' views are welcome, and we'll continue to do our best to get them to you on time. Unfortunately, that's not compatible with having a fully balanced presentation every issue unless we take much longer to prepare, which means the NL will be late ... what do you think?

Anne - 17.7.2

REVIEWS

The Scream by Joan Aiken

This is a very scary story, which I definitely recommend to children who love horror stories. The story is about two children, Lu-Lyn and David, who have to live with their grandmother because their parents have died in a car crash. The grandmother has mysterious powers which she uses to get rid of rats and mice out of people's houses. Whilst living with their grandmother many strange and ghastly things happen: Lu-Lyn slips over on some grease whilst dancing and dies. Her grave is disturbed one night and although her ashes remain in the coffin, a silver pendant is missing. A boy named Bry, who lives in the same block of flats as the children and their grandmother is kicked in the face during a football match and goes blind; a crane driver putting tiles on the roof of the same block of flats is disturbed by a pigeon flying near his face, the crane goes out of control and it swings round and knocks into a tree, which falls onto the crane. After these dreadful events, David and his grandmother return to the island of Muckle Burra with Lu-Lyn's ashes to set them beside a tree, when a giant freak wave towers over the island and drowns the grandmother; David escapes in the boat unharmed. I really enjoyed this story and recommend this book to children of 11 and over.

James Barker (10)

£9.99 ISBN 0 333 96009 2 MacMillan

Thirteenth Member by Mollie Hunter

What a good plot, I've never seen the Devil portrayed like this before. Adam, a gallows boy, suspects that Gilly (a young kitchen maid) is up to something! He follows her to "the coven" and discovers that she is a witch, and that the Devil is plotting to kill the king! Adam and Master Graham make a brave attempt at saving her, but all goes wrong and it ends in pain, bloodshed and torture!

I quite liked this story; it was very descriptive and the writing was so vivid, I felt that it could have been me being tortured! I would recommend it to boys and girls 10-14.

Megan Whiteman (12)

£4.99 ISBN 0 86315 405 0 Floris Books

Six Lives of Fankle the Cat

by George Mackay Brown

This book is about a girl called Jenny and a cat called Fankle. Jenny finds the cat in the back of a shopkeeper's van as a kitten. When she brings the kitten back home she hides him in the boat shed. Then she finds out that he can talk, or that she is one of the few people who can understand cat language. He tells her stories, including: the King of Pirates, little thief with whiskers that eats fish fins, and poor river girl. My favourite of the stories was poor river

girl, which is about a poor Japanese girl who plucks reeds from the river and weaves them into baskets and cages. She then goes to the Minister of Commerce to be his silk weaver and then marries the Emperor. At the end of the book is a chapter about Jenny when she is a grandmother, but it doesn't tell you this until right at the end of the book, so it is like the author playing a trick. I think this is a good book and I enjoyed reading it.

Molly Whitehall (9)

£4.99 ISBN 0 86315 403 4 Floris Books

What Happened Here? Tudor Farmhouse

by Elizabeth Newbery

We liked this. It gives a picture of what life was like in a Tudor Farmhouse. A lot of the information, photos and drawings originate from the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum in West Sussex (great place to visit - tel. 01243 811363) where 2 real farmhouses have been re-built. It has two pages of time-lines showing some of the important events that took place during Tudor times, but mostly covers all aspects of living for rural folk, with a nice mix of text and pictures. It also details 3 'things to do' - making honeysuckle syrup for coughs, a bake oven and a rushlight. We think it's good value for money.

Other books in the series so far: Anglo Saxon Village, Home in the Blitz, Roman Palace and Viking Street. Sally Jarvis with Hazel (10) and Kim (6)

£4.99 ISBN 0 7136 6280 8 A & C Black

Crazy Games by Danra Glover

This book is about the violence of video games and whether it spills over into real life. It starts in the middle of a video game where Brad (the hero) has to kill cops to keep alive. Using a gadget called a blast pack he could feel real bullets when he was shot. He befriends Colford who has all the latest video game equipment but has a very sad life: being bullied at school and abused by his violent, drunken and largely absentee father. Intertwined with this story are two other stories. Brad has a girlfriend who is opposed to video games and speaks against them on a school debate on whether virtual violence leads to real-life violence. The other story is set a century earlier and involves the school's founder and his tragic loss of his only son in the First World War. Being at the end of his tether and shell-shocked were also issues. The three stories come together at the end in a dramatic climax. Brad becomes trapped in the past but with the support of his girlfriend and the lessons of the past he is able to travel hopefully. It has a strong story line and thoughtfully deals with the issues of video game violence. It is a good read and I felt I could identify with most of the characters.

Matt Longmuir (12)

£9.99 1 84270 066 9 Andersen Press

Smart Pass Audio Learning

A Kestrel for a Knave by Barry Hines

This is learning by CD (3 in this set) or tape, a new system which is a good idea but the talk at the end could be more interesting and suggest things to do. I personally felt it was no different than sitting in a classroom listening to a teacher drone on. The story was brilliant though. It gives you an idea of what life used to be like and is about a boy named Billy Casper and his kestrel named Kes. It makes you appreciate life at the present time and things that we take for granted - even to the point of having carpets on the floor is a dream for Billy. Although Billy does not seem to be loved, his ability to love is outstanding: it shows how much power one person can hold. The detail and effort Barry Hines has put into the story makes everything so real. As you get lost in the world of Billy Casper you will find that the story is about some of the main things in life: freedom, captivity, dreams, ambitions, the strong terrorising the weak. It happens today and the effect the story has makes you want to change what is happening. I would recommend it to many people I know, though I would not suggest it is suitable for young children as it contains strong language and is maybe a little hard to understand.

Stephanie Westbury (13)

Shakespeare: The Works

This guide to Shakespeare consists of 3 CDs (or tapes) that last between 55 minutes to 72 minutes. We had already studied Shakespeare but this was helpful in learning about the Tudors. It all starts off with a woman introducing herself as the Pass Master and takes two young travellers called Alex and Aisha on a voyage to learn about Shakespeare and the time he lived in. On the CDs you hear a lot of excerpts from some of Shakespeare's works. You can either hear the CDs in little segments about the certain things you want to hear or in the one continuous story. All the players are adults, which I thought wasn't very good as it was obvious that Alex and Aisha were supposed to be children. All in all I enjoyed this CD pack about Shakespeare and would recommend it for ages between 9-14.

Smartpass on tapes £16.99 or CDs £19.99

The Midwife's Apprentice by Karen Cushman

This story is set in medieval times and tells of an orphan girl who gets taken on by a Midwife who the author describes as "not old and not young". The Midwife could be described as a witch because she uses all sorts of herbs and potions to help with all the symptoms of pregnancy and birth. The orphan girl is nicknamed 'dung beetle' because the books starts where she is found sleeping in a dung heap in winter as this is the only way the girl knew of keeping warm. The village people all make fun of her until she delivers a baby herself and then

they all seem to accept her. Her other name is Alyce which she accepted one day at a fair when a man ran up to her and shouted the name having mistaken her for someone else. The Midwife only treats those women who can pay her, either in silver or with food. One night a rich woman living at the big house goes into labour as well as a poor woman in the village. The Midwife decides to go to the rich woman, but Beetle goes to help the poor woman and in doing so gets into trouble with the Midwife because it becomes a complicated birth. Beetle decides to run away and ends up working in an Inn. Eventually a man (an author) meets her and convinces her to go back to the Midwife and face her problems, not run away from them, which she does. The book is very enjoyable and gives a good idea of what life must have been like in Medieval days. When I first saw it I thought it would be too old for me, but it is educational and interesting and at £3.99 a good buy for 11+ age group but mainly for girls.

Francesca Houghton (12)

£3.99 ISBN 0 330 34961 9 MacMillan

Quack Quack! by Philippe Dupasquier

This story presents a child's eye view about her family and its developing relationship with new neighbour, Mrs Spikes. Everybody has been getting on very well with each other until Mrs Spikes brings home a duck for her garden pond. The duck quacks all day and every day from morning to dusk...

Read how the family resolves the dispute in this amusing picture book.

Aalyah Naqvi with Hamzah (4)

£4.99 ISBN 1-84270-112-6 Andersen Press

Comic Adventures of Boots

by Satoshi Kitamura

Boots is a very strange cat, probably into lateral thinking and not the cute and cuddly type of cartoon feline. This book has 3 stories, each using lots of different-sized illustrations (which makes them interesting to look at) and loads of speech bubbles - this encouraged Thomas to read some of the simpler bits for himself. Separating the main stories there are one-page cartoons which are funny and sort of sum up the humour - e.g. Boots paints a picture of an open can, shakes the sheet and the result is a can's worth of real cat food in his bowl! For me the humour was a bit drawn out and too off the wall at times (Boots gets a duck to teach him to swim and in return teaches the duck to sleep on a wall ...) but both my children loved these cartoons and Thomas enjoyed reading the occasional snippet of speech. This isn't a book I'd dash out to buy, but I'd certainly like it as a present!

Sue Onions with Tricia (10) and Thomas (6)

£9.99 ISBN 1 84270 033 2 Andersen Press

The Usborne Book of Papercraft with Over 50 Things to Make

This book has it all, from simple newspaper trees to stunning paper birds and papier-mache masterpieces. Some of the ideas in this book we had met before, but there were very many more that we hadn't. The book is divided into five parts :- 'decorative things', 'greeting cards and gift packings', 'masks, hats and beads', 'flying things (including kites)' and a miscellaneous section called 'paper fun'. Everything we tried worked well, with the finished results looking good. The girls particularly liked the templates at the back of the book for making stand-up safari animals. These doubled well as professional-looking, shaped greeting cards. We found the instructions clear and easy to follow, with a you-will-need section at the beginning of each project, enabling materials to be quickly assessed and assembled. The stages and finished projects are well-illustrated in full colour and there is a 'tips and techniques' section at the end of the book. This is a large, easy-to-handle, attractive paperback, suitable for all ages of children (and adults!) - it has something for everyone. Given the sheer volume of ideas here, it has to be one of the best value things-to-make books on the market.

Vivienne Hughes with Stephanie (10), Claudia (9) and Lucy (5)
£7.99 ISBN 9 7807 46048641 Usborne

My First Discovery Series

The Sea ISBN 1 8510 3328 9 £4.99

Another excellent book for the 4-6 year olds - fairly simple but informative. Celeste has picked up a lot from this one already and pretends to read it to Ivo who is 2. We all loved the pictures.

Celeste says "I liked the pictures and looking things up under the flaps. I read it lots of times."

The Crocodile ISBN 1 8510 3317 3 £6.99

Another transparent page book - a good idea which doesn't quite work as it is a bit confusing. Ivo enjoyed it though.

What Do Animals Eat? ISBN 1 8510 3327 0 £3.99

A board book made like a reference book. Tabs work well. I thought this was excellent. Celeste and Ivo used this one a lot. I'd buy it for a 2 or 3 year old.

Kirsten Freisleben with Celeste (4)

Ragged Bears Ltd

The Birdwatchers by Simon James

This humorous book depicts the special relationship between a little girl, Jess, and her grandfather through his passion for birdwatching. While Grandad makes drawings of the birds, he tells Jess birdwatching stories... Simon James's illustrations are fantastic, truly managing to bring a real feel of the outdoors to the reader. Hamzah really enjoyed listening to this story as I did reading it.

Aalyah Naqvi with Hamzah (4)

£10.99 ISBN 0 7445 7592 3 Walker Books Ltd

The Woman Who Won Things

By Allan Ahlberg

I especially like this book except the fact that the radio and the clock says "Good morning Mrs Gaskit" over and over again and the Postman says "Good evening". It is good that you cannot tell that Mrs Plum is really a baddy until the end. I think that it was a little bit silly that Mr Gaskit has three jobs.

Jem Freisleben (7)

£9.99 ISBN 9 7445 8127 3 Walker Books

Ghost Writer by Julia Jarman

I liked this book. It is about a boy called Frankie who is dyslexic (he has trouble with reading and writing). When he first arrives at his new school he can't find the right class. He gets in the wrong class with a scary teacher, Miss Bulpitt in Room 9. Frankie reads it as a 6 and her name as Pitbull, which is what she looked like as well. The classroom has a ghost in it. Frankie finds his own class, but later has to go in with Miss Bulpitt's class and discovers that the ghost in the room is of a boy called Alfred Smalley who was at the school in Victorian times. The school secretary finds some old books which have a record of Alfred, who had trouble with writing and was also left handed, like Frankie.

Alfred had his left arm strapped to his side to make him use his right hand for writing. There was a teacher then, also called Miss Bulpitt, who disappeared after the school was closed down because of scarlet fever.

The ghost of Alfred Smalley helps Frankie to solve the mysterious disappearance of the Victorian Miss Bulpitt by writing on the blackboard. Frankie goes on a computer course to help his writing and reading to get better. It is an exciting story for children who like mystery and ghost stories, with some interesting information about history as well.

Freyja Steenman-Clark (9)

£9.99 ISBN 1 84270 109 6 Andersen Press

Blinky Bill's Cartoon Maker

CD-ROM

We think that this Kids' Zone CD is great. You can make your own cartoons on it, choosing backgrounds, characters, props, music and noises, adding titles, captions, endings and credits. It features a Koala called Blinky Bill and his friends to use as characters doing all sorts of things. We made some really funny cartoons with the music pieces that we liked the best.

It has also got a cartoon fun area and the story of animation with films to play. It is really easy to use for making your own cartoons, which you can save and play back like a movie. We think that children of all ages will like it, including older ones even though it says for ages 3-8, because it is funny and so much fun.

Freyja (9) and Eoghan (5) Steenman-Clark

£12.99 The Learning Company

Double Fudge by Judy Blume

I enjoyed reading this book because of the way that only half of what Fudge says is complete nonsense, which makes it a funny book. What I don't like so much is that it is very American which means I don't know what some of it means.

Kit Freiesleben (9)

£10.99 ISBN 1 4050 07877 MacMillan

Creating Learning Communities – the coalition for self learning; Models, resources and new ways of thinking about teaching and learning

Excellent source of useful, positive examples of what is happening in alternative education worldwide. This book provokes admiration and envy regarding the opportunities available out of Britain. Easy, uplifting reading, a reference book that hopefully will inspire major changes in educational thinking and practical application here. British success stories mentioned are limited to the Open University: still, to my way of thinking, too traditional, autocratic, academic and expensive; and Home Education (short piece by Roland Meighan). I very much like the piece on the great computer myth, and the one on the international University, but I feel that practical skills learning is a somewhat neglected area which needs to be pursued and valued more. This book deserves to be in every library and certainly read by those concerned about the monocultural morass that is the norm in Britain and impossible in most mainstream models of education today. Very glad to have it on my bookshelf.

Keith Haworth

£17.50 (incl. p & p) Educational Heretics Press

To Die For! by Catherine Jinks

I really enjoyed this book. I think it was very clever how it was all set out like E-mails! Mercy Whetton is mad about an actor called Hector McKerrow. She starts up a message board (dedicated to him), on the Internet. People log in, and between them they set out to find his whereabouts. When Hector is pushed too far, he makes a guest appearance, but not in the way Mercy would have liked him to do ... I read this book in a day, and it was a nice, enjoyable, light read. I would recommend it to older girls, as it contains some mild swearing!

Megan Whiteman (12)

£4.99 ISBN 0 330 39918 7 MacMillan

The Bible: A Helping Hand by John Berryman

This is a brilliant book and very educational for anyone who wants to learn more about or get to grips with the Bible. I am a Christian and am hoping to take my GCSE in R.E. within the next few years, so this is going to become a very useful book to refer to time and time again. It covers most areas of the Bible, from the Creation all the way through to what the Bible promises for the future in Revelations.

This book has many question and answer areas and a lot of quotes from the Bible itself. It has charts of the major events in Bible history as well! It also has a very interesting section about early Bibles and how they were translated. It is interesting to learn how many different types of Bibles there are. It is a very good book and I would easily recommend it to people between 13 – 19 as well as adults.

£8.95 ISBN 1 85776 509 5 The Book Guild

Never Steal Wheels from a Dog

by David Henry Wilson

This is absolutely fantastic. I couldn't put it down until I'd finished it. It is really funny. Jeremy James has strange things happening all around him, like his daddy's hair falling off and him going bald. Jeremy thinks he is going bald too so he puts glue on his hair to keep it on, but gets his hand stuck! In another story, Jeremy James thinks the Smyth-Fortescue's are gangsters with dead bodies in the cellar but when he phones the police they find underwear and dummies. The Lion, which is a dog, saves Jeremy James's tricycle from robbers. 10 stories in the book - all are absolutely great! I want to read the whole set of Jeremy James adventures and will be looking for them in the library.

Karis Youngman (8)

£3.99 ISBN 0 330 48488 5 MacMillan

Famous Composers

We reviewed two of these book/CD packs.

One was on Beethoven and the other on Debussy.

'Fantastic! I just love the music on these,' said

Claudia. They tell the story of the musician's

life and music. The words printed in the books

are read on the CDs, where they are interspersed

with excerpts from compositions. This worked

well for the girls - it seems a really good way to

introduce a great composer. The text is simple

but very relevant, and remembers to explain basics

such as the difference between a symphony and a

concerto. The Beethoven CD is approximately 25

minutes long, which felt about right.

The books are well illustrated, with atmospheric

sketches, details from paintings and photos of modern

day musicians. There are ideas for things to try at

home such as comparing how your singing voice

sounds in the garage as opposed to in the sitting

room. I felt the packs helped to give us a very

good feel not only for Beethoven's and Debussy's

music, but also for their life and times. 'They are

brilliant,' said Stephanie. I couldn't fault them either.

The Debussy pack seems to include a bit more text

and a lot more music on the CD, which has a length

of approximately 50 minutes, which the girls found a

bit too long at the first listening. However, I enjoyed

it and the music is quickly growing on them. They

found the story of his childhood fascinating, especially

as he hated school and hardly ever went! This series helps give an understanding of the music by giving the listener a real feel for the times the composer lived in, and for his motivation to compose.

Vivienne Hughes with Stephanie (10) and Claudia (9)
£9.99 each ISBN 1 85103 3106 *Ragged Bears*

Developing Literacy – Poetry

We have quite enjoyed working through 'Year 1' of these books. Some pages were not so inspiring and some rhymes we knew already so we skipped some of it but I found I was able to keep Gwenan and Ceri amused with different activities - not always easy! Ceri said it was fun and enjoyed rhyming words and Gwenan liked the poems and was introduced to the idea that poems don't have to rhyme. Expensive for what they are and I also had to photocopy pages that had to be cut up but Ceri has been spouting little poems he has made up and Gwenan now has her own poetry book for favourites and her own poems. I have been given a welcome reminder of how enjoyable it can be to read poetry aloud.

Susan Bain with Gwenan (7) and Ceri (4)

I reviewed 'Years 5 and 6' and really liked these two poetry books. I have always loved poetry and these two books contain some really good and funny poems. They show you the difference between rhymes, limericks, sonnets etc., how to build up your own poems and even a section on rapping! Lots of people think poetry is boring but these two books show just how great poetry can be. The only thing I found off-putting is the price. I think if they were cheaper more children would buy them and find out about poetry.

Francesca Houghton (12)
£12.99 each A&C Black

Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson

This book is set in 1900 and based around Maia, an orphan travelling to Brazil to live with her late father's cousin, Mr Carter. Her Guardian Mr Murray hires a Governess, who Maia befriends. Mr Carter has a wife and twin girls about Maia's age. Maia imagines them as a lovely family who walk through the jungle. On the boat to Brazil she meets a boy Clovis, who is with a travelling theatre company. He tells how he misses England and wants to go back. When Maia finds out he will be performing in Manuas, near where she will be living, she promises to go and watch him. When she reaches Manuas she finds that people do not like the Carters, especially their servants, who are ignored and paid very little. Maia is amazed to find that the family don't eat Brazilian food and import English food. Mrs Carter spends her time killing insects and as a rule the family do not go outside into the jungle. On the night of Clovis's play she finds that the Carters are going and not taking her so she ventures out alone

to try and find Manuas up the river. She comes across a boy in a canoe who ends up taking her to Manuas. Later, a man who worked for the Carters tells Maia to come with him. She follows him and meets the boy in the canoe again where she has to help him escape.

An exciting book.

Amie Borthen (14)

£4.99 ISBN 0330 39715 X *MacMillan*

Molly Moon's Incredible Book of Hypnotism by Georgia Byng

Molly Moon is an orphan, she's unhappy with everything in her life, even her one friend seems to be going off her. Then she discovers an old book about hypnotism and realises she has a real talent for it! Her subsequent adventures take her to New York and a life of luxury, until she realises that a rich lifestyle is not important. Hazel really enjoyed this book and found it "better written and better overall than Harry Potter, though not as exciting". The storyline is original, with some unexpected twists, different ways of looking at people and some evocative and very amusing descriptions.

Sally Jarvis with Hazel (10) and Kim (6)

£12.99 ISBN 0 333 98489 7 *Macmillan*

Pull the Other One, Book 1 and String Games and Stories, Book 2

These games use just string and are played all over the world by different nationalities. These amazing books include rainbow string. My favourite string game is the 'five pointed star'. I have used the books lots and lots of time and had a lot of fun doing the games. My mum remembers doing the game called 'cat's cradle' when she was a little girl. String games are very old. They were ancient forms of entertainment, for instance 'cat's cradle for two' has evolved over the centuries. The instructions are simple but the results are complicated and look very good. I really like these books.

Keith Hall (8)

£9.99 each *Hawthorn Press*

The Sand Horse by Ann Turnbull

A romantic tale of an artist who sculpts from sand on the beach. One morning he decides to sculpt a horse. He starts on an empty beach, collects money from the tourists who admire his work throughout the day and then when the sun is going down and the horse is finished, he heads home. The sand horse opens his eye and is alive. He longs to be out in the bay with the white horses and as the tide rises, the magic begins Superb illustrations and a poetic text, this is a true classic and I highly recommend it. Suitable for all ages.

Caroline Farquhar with Amber (4) and Leo (3)

£4.99 ISBN 1 84270 099 5 *Andersen Press*

C.A.T. = Teach Your Child to Read with Phonics by *Mona McNea*

A structured phonics programme with a series of steps, 1 to 100. These are very detailed, showing how to explain and introduce letters and words to your child, in what order to teach them letters and sounds, and easy ways of explaining certain rules of English.

For breaking down the language this is most excellent. It is clear and concise and extremely helpful for clarifying all those things you already know but would never remember. I do not like the rigidity of the lessons and would never be able to follow them with Amber. We need several different approaches to chop and change between, and concentration tends to last about ten minutes - tops. So the early stages are difficult to use as they do have to be followed in the correct order, and it is suggested that half an hour is spent on them each day. I do however envisage the later steps to be a lot more useful for us.

Without using this book in the method the author suggests, it is difficult for me to assess properly. However for someone who is looking for a structural way to teach their children this is worth a bash.

Caroline Farquhar with Amber (4)
£3.99 ISBN Elliot Right Way Books

Witch Wendy - Cats and Hats

by *Alex Gutteridge*

When I saw another 'witch' book I wasn't expecting much success with this little story but Kim likes it and Hazel was quite entertained, although it's probably intended to suit 4 - 7 year olds. It has simple, pleasing illustrations on each page. Witch Wendy, if not completely hopeless at witchcraft, is not like the other witches and is having trouble with her floppy hat, amongst other things. With help from her cat, Snowflake, everything turns out ok and there's a fair sprinkling of humour along the way.

Sally Jarvis with Hazel (10) and Kim (6)
£3.99 ISBN 0 330 39850 4 MacMillan

Learning to Read Music by *Peter Nickol*

Learning to read music can be a bit daunting. This compact but useful book proved very useful as a quick reference for the most basic levels of music reading and writing, which is exactly what I needed. Young children may find its lack of illustration a bit unimaginative but it is not really aimed at any particular age group. As a comparison I was given some old examination-style books and whilst these did cover the subject in great depth they were not as easy to dip into. This book is good for reinforcing what has been learnt and excellent to keep alongside your favourite music pieces for quick reference when needed.

Keith Hall
£9.99 ISBN 1 85703 390 6 How to Books

Young Scientist

This is a magazine aimed at the 7 - 11 year olds. It presents science in an exciting and novel way using lots of simple experiments. A favourite with us was investigating the properties of cornflour. Using it regularly in cooking, I always knew it was peculiar stuff but if you mix just over 3 parts cornflour and just under 2 parts water you will get a substance that will look like a liquid (flowing around) but you can actually pick it up and roll it into a fairly solid ball. When you stop rolling it will drip through your fingers again! If you punch at it, it will feel hard. It is apparently an example of a 'non-Newtonian fluid' as it does not behave as most fluids do. When it is left to its own devices, the cornflour particles float around in suspension in the water. When force is applied the water molecules are forced into cornflour particles, so the mixture behaves more like a solid.

£19.99 per annum (6 issues) IOP Publishing Ltd.

Note

Prices quoted are the publishers' recommended retail prices (rrp). Shop around for lower prices - try discount book shops, mail order discount book clubs and the internet. Contact details from publishers are set out below but many titles can be ordered from your local book shop.

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Send in your reviews to Sally Hall,
Nant-y-garreg, Saron, Llandysul SA44 5EJ
or email sally@aeab.net

In reply to Jane Foster's letter 'Home v school'

I am a single parent home-educating 4 children. It is easy to imagine that home-educators are all middle-class people in stable marriages. However it is dangerous to fall into the trap of stereotyping; just as single mothers can be classed as living on run-down council estates and responsible for all the delinquent teenagers in the country.

One of the main challenges of home-education is getting along with your children. No one is entirely how you would like them to be. My eldest has always done what she wants, and anything I tried to impose or even suggest was, on principle, the opposite of what she wanted. However, left to her own devices she is perfectly sensible, and, at 17, is much more capable than I am.

As a single parent living in a remote area, away from family, home-educating has meant being with my children constantly. Getting along with people can be very difficult, and it's a valuable lesson learning to get on with people you are basically incompatible with.

In my experience, people don't need boundaries, routine and discipline. Children learn maturity and self-discipline from their parents. The only worthwhile discipline is self-discipline. If children see the need to learn something, you will have a hard time preventing them from learning. Children will learn things best in their own way, as when they learn to talk.

I don't accept that children can be incompatible with home-education. Home-education is a flexible way of doing things, so you can find a mutually appropriate way of doing things. My standpoint is that although I had terrible experiences of school, it is my children's right to choose their own form of education. My 2 eldest decided never to go to school. My 2 youngest have both had time in school and have opted for home-education at the moment.

As a single parent you have to make yourself into a role model for your children and try to live with integrity. No one can do that for you.

The great strength of home-education is that it is the most efficient way to educate people. Schools spend a lot of time avoiding education, but children will mostly learn what they need to learn in spite of the system. The greatest gift of home-education is learning to trust and respect your children for who they are and watching them fulfil their very great potential. It will always be frustrating and difficult to see people making mistakes, but that is how we learn. A lot of children thrive on conflict and chaos and if they are in a stable relationship they can learn a lot from that, especially about the power of language.

Hopefully your son will continue to be happy and get on with his fellow pupils. I am glad that you still consider home-education an option for him at senior school.

Fiona Chaff, Knowes, Ollaberry, Shetland ZE2 9RU E-mail: hogwarts@chaffhome.freemove.co.uk

Another Reply

I found Jane Foster's article, 'Home versus School' (June 2002) very thought provoking. In particular, her comments about accounts of home education focusing on the rosy image of family life. As a family we do have the odd perfect days, which are rare enough to be memorable, but most of the time we just rub along together, as I imagine most families do. Jane's passing comment has however made me re-evaluate the shadow-side of family life. She is probably right that as home-educators we do not publicly acknowledge the rich learning potential it offers. I feel that it is particularly through the niggles, disagreements and rows that emotional literacy and citizenship is 'learnt' as well as encouraging our personal development. After all, to quote Captain Kirk, 'Our pain makes us who we are'. I cannot imagine that this moment by moment, experiential way of learning can be as easily achieved at school. It does, surely, evolve through a close, trusting relationship in which we can feel safe enough to be vulnerable.

Before I fall into the trap of sounding smug I would like add that this is an aspect of our lives that we really struggle with and don't manage as well as we would like.

Jo Collier, 3 Low Cottages, Dovenest Lane, Endmoor, Kendal, Cumbria LA80HB Tel 015395 67005

And Another ...

I read the Special Section (NL146) with some interest, especially one piece from Jane Foster. She mentions that home education is often given a rosy image and a lot of home-educated children come from middle class two parent families. I found myself agreeing with this view. Like Jane, I too am a single parent having two children, 13 and 15 years, and home educating. I also work part-time. This often brings difficulties.

I also find we have few role models in the area; EO certainly doesn't seem to have much of an active single parent body. I wonder, are there any other single parents who think this way or have difficulties juggling work and home education?

Barbara Severn, 179 Deptford Crescent, Bulwell, Nottingham NG6 9DP

Redressing the Balance

Having just read Jane Foster's depressing account of the problems she has faced as a single parent, I feel I must redress the balance.

I suppose I started home education when my family could have been described as 'middle class two parent', but when my husband and I separated I continued home education. Not surprisingly a lot of people expected me to put my children in school because they assumed that (a) I would find it too hard to cope on my own and (b) I would surely need to go out to work. The very last thing I would have done at such a traumatic time is plonk my children in a system quite alien to them!

At this point, they were aged 13, 11, 7, 5 and 2. We lived in poverty for at least 3 years, but I considered my role was to be with them and that they would still benefit regardless. Now more financially comfortable, we look back on those years with amazement and, it has to be said, some fondness for how awful it was. From a 2-car family to none; from using child-benefit to put towards holidays to queuing outside the Post Office on Mondays so I could then go and buy food for breakfast. (No matter how hard I tried I could never make our money stretch past Sunday!) Walking the 2-3 miles into town because I couldn't afford the bus fare. Scavenging around the garden (the younger children loved this!) for bits of wood we could keep the fire going with. It was grim. However, if it happens again, we now have the coping mechanisms!

My children are now aged between 22 and 11, the eldest two both got into University and I've just been informed by one of them that when I go to collect her, I should expect 'random friends dropping by as they all want to see the mad healthy woman who taught her kids at home and who has kids that don't fight'. The experiences we went through have probably made my children more caring about each other. There is a huge amount of love between them all. (Sorry Jane, but my family are 'rosy', it's not an image!)

Furthermore, I entered a full time degree course for a BA in History, whilst my youngest 3 children were aged 7, 10 and 12. The 16 year old was at college and the 18 year old at University. It was not a problem. The younger ones either came with me and sat and did lessons in the student refectory, or occasionally were looked after at home by someone. I have to say that being a single parent has not hindered me in any way other than financially, and I certainly would not have wanted to join any 'single parent' group, as I believe that it is important for people of all backgrounds to be involved with each other. We are all individuals after all.

The important thing to remember is that everyone should have a choice. There are NO circumstances that would make me send my children to school, but for those who feel they can't make it work at home, it is a solution. Not at all a good one to my mind, but then we all have different ideas of the type of adult we would like our children to blossom into. For the record I haven't sailed through this effortlessly; I have spent many hours worrying about various things...and my early approaches to home education are quite different to nowadays. However, I simply believe that it is the best way to allow our children to grow at their own pace and develop unfettered minds. This is what our world needs: People who can think for themselves and who don't follow the herd.

Pros and Cons ...

Thank goodness for the voice of Jane Foster. After 3 years of non-contact with the magazine, it was refreshing to hear a viewpoint similar to mine. Until now I had felt totally unable to contribute, as my opinions seemed so out of step with the majority. So often I read letters from over-sensitive, school-phobic parents who lived totally through the lives of their over-indulged children. It was not a world I wanted any part of. Their lifestyle was portrayed as ideal and no doubt put off others living more ordinary lives, like me, from attempting to home educate at all, believing they were inadequate, and didn't fit into the typical mould of an EO parent. My view is perhaps critical of some aspects of home education, but in my experience is a more realistic approach to a situation which is not just black and white, as many seem to perceive it.

Home education is not perfect. For some it can be just a little better than the alternative. Children can suffer at school but they can also suffer in some home education situations too. To suggest schools have a monopoly on child suffering is naive and unbalanced. Yes, some parents can feel bitter over their child's experiences at school (and some carry this with them when the child has long forgotten) but don't forget, there are drawbacks with the alternative. Home education can be intense, thankless, emotionally draining, and yes, some parents and children may not get on. If the situation continues then the child may suffer (and the parent too), and like school, there may be no escape for them. Just as there are stories of success from teaching at home, there can equally be stories where a certain approach has failed to meet the child's needs.

In some situations, parents are so fearful of school due to their own experiences, they will not allow their own child to go at all. This can be fuelled by constant doing-down of school by some EO members and these two factors are not always a healthy basis for deciding to home-educate. It is wrong to place our own unresolved childhood needs and insecurities on our children. They are not us and do not carry our baggage. It is important to have your own motives for choosing to home-educate, aside from personal childhood memories of school, as you may have to answer for your decisions in later years. It is worth remembering here that not all children are as privileged as ours. For many disadvantaged children school offers stability and a chance to make something of their lives, and for them it is a better environment than home. It is arrogant to suggest school is a terrible place when most are doing the best they can under difficult circumstances.

Home-educated children do not always have it all. Yes, it can be liberating but too much freedom and time to themselves is not always a good thing. Autonomous education sounds wonderful but is it not really just an abdication of educational responsibility by parents believing that a totally opposite approach to school is the best one? Children do compare themselves with the others they encounter here in the real world – it is natural to. They do like to be at the same level as their school-going friends, to be able to read and write when they can and not to feel different or disadvantaged any more than they do already.

There are so many areas of education available to children if they are given access to them – sport, languages, music ... Don't we as parents have a responsibility to make home a better option for development than school without going too far in one direction? Some important lessons at important stages cannot be learned by chance, and the opportunity is then lost. Some structure can also be comforting to children, especially when taken out of a school environment.

Surely the true way to give our children the best chance is to straddle the divide, taking the best from school and home so they have the opportunity, should they need it, to do well in both environments? Don't close all the doors, and don't criticise schools to such an extent that your own child is fearful to try it, even when home is not working out, and they are at an age to be able to choose for themselves. If we do cut ourselves off and don't constantly re-assess our situation, then we are imprisoning our children in one world through our own prejudices and beliefs. There comes a time when it isn't our choice, it is theirs.

It is possible to give a child too much of a good thing so they fail to appreciate their situation at home. Sometimes there is just no substitute for personal experience, good and bad, we all need it to some degree to develop as whole people who can form opinions and understand others. Home is just part of the picture and is not always enough. Children need to see for themselves what their peers are experiencing

and what other educational opportunities there are. Only then can they freely make their own decisions about what is right for them.

It is difficult raising children without the influences of a variety of other children on a regular basis and in different situations. One of the advantages of school is that peers and other adults tend not to let children get away with what society sees as unsociable or unacceptable behaviour. They learn to tailor their needs and wants to others who are not so over-tolerant as their family tend to be, sooner rather than later. Parents solely responsible for the upbringing of a child can have a difficult job assuming all the roles necessary to create a fully rounded character.

Because children at home are still rare, they can tend to feel there is something wrong with them and be over-sensitive with unrealistic expectations of life, or they can be selfish and feel they are superior to others due to their privileged situation. The attitude of such children is not always acceptable to others outside the family unit and does not give a favourable impression of home-educated children. It is difficult getting the balance right, raising a child in so many ways separately from others, and yet wanting them not to feel excluded.

The attitude I have met on occasions though, peculiar to home-educated children, where children's needs and wants take precedence over those of their parents, who sacrifice even their integrity, I find both disturbing and painful to witness. The child, not the parent, is in control and they can seem to behave as they wish, showing an absence of good manners towards others and a lack of respect for their elders. In all other societies children are taught by those with more experience. They learn to become part of that society - to have a place. Parents may not need to belong, but our children may like the chance to. We can't all create our own world for our own selfish needs but must work within the boundaries. We must equip our home-educated children to deal with society as it is, not further disable them and set them apart by an attitude out of step with the majority.

EO as an organisation needs to shake off the smug 'we are better than you' mentality. Children need their school-going friends and EO families need to find their place in a school-orientated society. There is no need to run down schools in order to justify a decision to home-educate; just what are you frightened of? After all 'it's your choice' and you are only answerable to yourself. Let's be reasonable and intelligent, and present an organisation run by well-balanced, thoughtful people trying to do the very best for their children. It is time to be more mainstream and for EO parents to keep their minds and their options open. Just as it is wrong to force school on a child, it is equally wrong to force an unsatisfactory home-schooling situation upon them. If home-education and Education Otherwise as an organisation, is to be taken seriously in the future, then this essential issue and our responsibility to our children needs to be addressed with true balance and objectivity, so our children can freely enjoy the advantages a home-education lifestyle can offer.

Helen Burton, 23 Lawrence Drive, Brinsley, Notts. NG16 5AU

Finally... (left out last time by mistake, for which I apologise - Anne Rix)

What does home education mean to us?

To us it means many things: -

- Being in control of how our children are educated.
- Flexibility. We can change our style of studying or our topics as soon as we think we have done as much as we are interested in or feel is useful.
- Being busy.
- Worrying about whether we are doing the right thing.
- Sparing our children from the pressures of SATs and the restrictions of the National Curriculum, as we unfortunately cannot do for other people's children, (two-teacher family: gaah!).
- Fun watching the chins of teaching colleagues hit the floor when we answer the question 'How are the girls getting on at school?'
- Wondering how the heck to keep my three year old from climbing all over us when I do want to sit down and do some work with my 10 and 9 year old (thank goodness for Teletubbies, Tweenies and other BBC2 weekday term time treats).

- We don't have to go and sit in front of a stranger and listen to them telling us how our children are progressing: we know first hand.
- Feeling disapproved of by some relatives, friends and neighbours.
- Watching the relationships strengthen and deepen between our children, in a way that school simply would not have given time to do.

How have our lives changed?

As none of our children have ever been to school it didn't seem to make much of a change to our lives. It was rather a natural progression (Sorry! A bit of a home ed. cliché I know.) It seems to be those who choose to send their children to school who experience a change. I did worry rather a lot at the pre-school stage with my older girls about handing over my children to a stranger to be looked after at such a young age. It is quite refreshing now not to have to worry about that with my youngest. (Now I can worry about how I will feel if she says she does want to go to school!)

How have our beliefs evolved?

Taking this to mean our home education beliefs, I began by reading a lot of the educational philosophy books recommended to me by EO articles or friends. In particular I was a big fan of John Holt and a believer in an autonomous approach. Occasionally I would have crises of confidence, as I would feel that reading in particular wasn't developing as I had hoped it would. It is easy to leave reading to come naturally if naturally happens around age 4 or 5 or even 6. But when my, then, 6 year old began to notice that her younger friends could read and she could not, it became obvious from the things she said that she was considering herself to be unintelligent. She was expressing her wish to read and was obviously having no luck 'cracking the code' by herself, despite enjoying books from a very early age, so I gave in to the less than autonomous part of me and began to buy a reading scheme. We used this in our own informal way, for about a year, and supplemented it with various bits of phonic work, then the girls chose their own books to read. Now at 10 ½ and 9 both older girls read well and for their own pleasure. Wonderful!

As I began to lose a bit of faith in the autonomous approach I began gradually to introduce a more school type approach. In small ways such as using a school English scheme which we might spend 15 mins or so on each day. Then I would find myself obsessing about the age range of the books:-

'Oh disaster, we're behind the schools - if only we make sure we don't miss a day's work until July then we'll be ahead of the schools and then I'll feel happy!'

Only one problem: the work is dry, dull, boring and curbs creativity and imagination. I don't believe that SATs are beneficial to children so why am I using textbooks that teach to the tests? Humm! Better rethink this. Unfortunately (being only a poor pathetic teacher) I didn't learn my lesson there and decided that school maths books would be a great idea. Uh, uh. Not on your life! Just as dull, dry, boring and illogical in their progression for my children's needs. The textbooks still sit on the shelf but only to remind me how awful they are and to prevent me wasting money buying new ones.

Now we are back to designing things ourselves. Harder work, and sometimes I'm tempted to think that following a scheme would make me feel more secure. But it's not worth the toll on my children's enthusiasm. It's difficult to plan far ahead, but that's not necessary. We do a small amount of work, chosen and guided by me, each day leaving plenty of time to:- play, write stories, read, watch TV, talk, cook, make things, paint, draw, play cards, visit friends, swim, play badminton....(I said we were busy!)

I know inside myself that we have got the balance right. That we cover more work in our short sessions than can be done in a classroom. That everything they choose to do by themselves is valuable. That when Katherine is busy writing chapter 26 of her book it really is not necessary to make sure that she has planned it out with a spider diagram first. Or to tell her she needs to use more adjectives to describe her characters and ensure she uses imperative verbs. Just because that's what the text books do. I'll have to satisfy those impulses to be more organised by noting down my own plans instead of trying to follow someone else's.

In the future we hope that our children will have a clear idea of how they would be happy to earn a living and that they will be equipped to get any qualifications they need to achieve their goals, and be confident, caring, happy human beings. (I suspect that this is pretty similar to all of you out there. We just vary in our methods of reaching this goal.)

To employ or not to employ?

(Response to Garry Humphreys' piece in the June NL)

I agree with Garry that it would be a good idea to employ a fundraiser who was self financing. I am sure there is money out there that we could tap into, but we need someone with the time and energy to do the leg work. I have heard tell that there are agencies or professional individuals who might be willing to take this work on our behalf on just such a basis, but an individual within EO would be acceptable to me as well.

If we are looking for a professional image would we be better to take on a professional agency rather than have an EO member learning on his/her feet? Of course the EO member would have more commitment to the cause but the professional would have more knowledge about the best way to approach Trusts.

As far as our current use of agencies is concerned, I think Garry's points are valid except that I believe we have more control using an agency than we do with employing an individual. An EO member would also have competing needs and if they fell sick it would be up to us to find a replacement and continue to pay sick pay. I also believe that if an agency or an individual is doing an inadequate job it would be easier for EO to change to a different agency than it would be to change to a different EO member. Employment law would mean official warnings etc. and then provable negligence before dismissal.

I like Garry's idea of the person employed becoming knowledgeable and valuable and would envisage this rather like the Clerk to the Court having information at her/his finger tips for the judge. It would be important that they did not become a Council member and only provided information, not decision making.

Thank you Garry for throwing this open and I hope you get lots of opinions.

Priscilla Park Weir, 212 Gordon Ave. Camberley, Surrey GU15 2NT

From the treasurer

Many thanks to those of you who responded to my newsletter article regarding employees and administration. I hope many of you will try to join in the discussions on this and other areas during our 25th anniversary celebrations.

There tends to be an assumption in EO that the silent majority are happy if 99% of the membership say nothing. If those who have responded are anything to go by, there is unease with paid agencies doing EO work, but this won't change if 99% say nothing! If you do feel strongly on this issue, write to the newsletter and be heard!

One suggestion made to me which seems a good way forward financially, is the formation of a fund raising group. I know many of you fund raise at a local level to great effect, and it would be nice to think some of those skills and ideas could be put to use for EO nationally. If you would like to become involved in such a group, or just have ideas that the group could use, please e-mail me at; garryhumphreys@lineone.net

Garry Humphreys, Treasurer.

Home Educators and Truancy Sweeps

You may well be aware that, since 1998, Government funds have been made available for use by local authorities in order to reduce truancy from schools. Compulsory school aged children are being stopped in truancy sweeps all over the country and, unfortunately, these may include home educated youngsters.

Truancy sweeps are conducted by teams of Education Welfare Officers (EWOs), or Inclusion Officers, accompanied by police officers. Lone children and children with adults who are out and about during school hours are being stopped and questioned as to why the children are not in school.

Certain procedures should be followed during these operations following guidelines that accompany The Crime and Disorder Act 1998. If a child is a registered pupil at a school the truancy team have the power to remove the child and either return them to school or to designated premises; this should not be a police station. No further action should be taken where children indicate that they are home-educated – unless the constable has reason to doubt that this is the case. However, no reasonable person would have cause to disbelieve that a child is home educated if presented either with a card or written statement by a parent.

The Crime and Disorder Act Guidance Document: power for the police to remove truants states the following:

4.20 In planning for, and operating, a truancy initiative using the new power it is important to remember that not all children aged 5 - 16 are registered at school. Children educated outside the school system altogether (see paragraph 4.1*), for example, by home tuition, might be out and about during the daytime for wholly legitimate reasons, for example visiting a library.

4.21 Local procedures should take account of possible contact with such home-educated children and it should be emphasised that they are not the target group for the new power. The power can only be exercised in relation to registered pupils of compulsory school age absent from school without authority; it does not apply to children who are lawfully educated at home. No further action should be taken where children indicate they are home educated unless the constable has reason to doubt that this is the case.

* paragraph 4.1 paraphrases section 7 of the Education Act 1996 which states that:

“The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him to receive efficient full-time education suitable (a) to his age ability and aptitude, and (b) to any special educational needs he may have either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.”

If you are stopped by a truancy patrol it is enough to state that you are a home educator (or that you are home educated) and then go on your way. You are not required to give details of your name and address, although you may do so if you wish. It is important to note that you are not committing an offence by not giving personal details. However, some police officers may feel that you are putting up a barrier by refusing to give details. But we feel that it is important that parents, and older children, should feel assertive enough not to be pressured into answering inappropriate or aggressive questions.

Some EWOs and police officers, however, appear to be unaware of the guidelines and may well press you for details of name and address so that they can be checked against their list of home educators. This can put you in a difficult position if you do not wish to give such details, but under the provision of the Crime and Disorder Act there is no requirement for you to give your name and address. The Act relates only to those children who are registered in school and not to home educated children as can clearly be seen from the guidance extracts given above.

Each family should consider what they might do if challenged by a truancy patrol. It may never happen to you, but be aware that if you are challenged, some officers may be unaware of home education. How would you or your child handle such a situation?

It is important to be assertive and appear confident, even if such situations produce feelings of anxiety or fear. As parents it is our responsibility to educate our children in terms of meeting difficult situations positively and confidently and without aggression. Our children should not fear authority – we may need their help in different contexts (for example, if we are the victims of street crime). It is the responsibility of all of us to equip ourselves, and our children, to answer difficult questions, sometimes in difficult situations, without fear, and with respect for people in authority who may not have our awareness. Similarly, we should expect an equality of respect and consideration; we should not tolerate officiousness, aggression or rudeness.

If you feel that you have been treated inappropriately by a truancy sweep team, complaints can be made to the local police community liaison officer. If you do not wish to do this yourself you could perhaps ask the local contact to make a complaint on behalf of EO families in your area.

As a positive response to these concerns and developments EO has produced a home education card, a copy of which has been circulated to all members with this newsletter. We recognise that not everyone may wish to use such a card – some people may in principle be against such cards. However, it may be a positive way of dealing with what, for some families, has been a distressing situation.

Spaces have been left on the card to insert your child's name and your signature should you wish to do so.

For more copies of the card please send a stamped addressed envelope (please include your county in the address) plus 1 x 2nd class stamp per card required to:
EO HE Cards, 5 Ridge way, Aldridge, Walsall WS9 0HL

Please note that the EO Home Education Cards are available for EO members only.

Please also note that a card adapted to have reference to Scots Law has been sent to members living in Scotland. It has the same detail of the Crime and Disorder Act Guidance document on the back as this was thought to be useful no matter where you happened to be if stopped.

Jill Fisher

%%%

The following was found in a college display - no source was given. Anne Rix

Judgement

In order to judge anything rightly, you would have to be fully aware of an inconceivably wide range of things; past, present and to come. You would have to recognise in advance all the effects of that judgement on everyone and everything in any way involved. You would have to be certain there was no distortion in your perception, so that your judgement would be wholly fair to everyone on whom it rested, both now and in the future. Who is in a position to do this? Who, except in grandiose fantasies, would claim to be able to do this?

Remember how many times you thought you knew all the 'facts' you needed for judgement, and how wrong you were. Would you know how many times you merely thought you were right, without ever realising you were wrong?

Wisdom is not judgement: it is the relinquishment of judgement.

LETTERS PAGES

GCSEs by correspondence

Our eldest daughter has just reached the grand old age of 14 and with this comes the thoughts of GCSEs. I spent most of last week in contact with the correspondence colleges and distance learning schools that were listed in the back of 'School is not compulsory' and also searching the Internet. My wife and I had the 'Open Learning Centre International at Carmarthen' at the back of our mind and, true, they offered the GCSEs our daughter wanted to study. Sadly they had increased the prices considerably this year and I was struggling to find another choice. Then, one evening, when I was watching Channel 5 (it does have its uses!), an advert for ICS came up - they offered distance learning for GCSEs and more. The cost is £229 per GCSE and if you haggle you can get a reduction of 20%. I expect many EO members are aware of this, but may I suggest that ICS is added to the EO list so it is easier for those searching for GCSE options to contact them. Also you get a £30 reduction on your fees for every person you introduce, so if you are thinking of using ICS (0800 015 3254) please contact me so we can benefit from the reduction.

If anybody is aware of a better way of doing GCSEs by correspondence I would be most interested, also does anyone know of any schools in Hampshire that will allow external candidates to sit GCSEs?

David Reading, 71 Station Road, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 8DP E-mail: reading_family8@breathe.com

Note: It was some years ago, but I found local colleges more use than schools when arranging for external GCSE candidates - A Rix (NL co-ord)

Open Learning discount

Thought you might be interested to know that I recently applied for my twelve year old to start an art course through the London Art College, and in doing so sent a letter regarding home educated children and your website. They were very keen to enrol her irrespective of her age and offered us a 20% discount on course price

(in lieu of a voucher that is normally offered for purchase of art equipment from a certain retailer that was only worth £15 - we actually saved over £50 on the course price.)

They asked that we mention their Company to your organisation and obviously we are pleased to do so. The Principals are Anne and Peter Fisher and the contact details are as follows: London Art College, Tutors centre, PO Box 1934, Bristol BS99 2TJ

Tel: 0117 9466 484; Fax: 0117 9741 268
E-mail: admin@londonartcollege.co.uk

My daughter will start her course in September, and she is extremely excited to receive the additional support of one of their qualified tutors.

So once again, it looks as if the concept of home learning is beginning to reach new ears.

Thought other families might like to learn of the art courses they offer.

Trina Taylor, e-mail: annfield1@lineone.net

Help with IT offered

My name is Jeni Knight and my family were members of your organisation a few years ago. I home educated my eldest son (now 18) for four years and found your magazine most helpful and sustaining during this time.

However, time marches on and I am now an IT Trainer for a local college. I would be willing to answer any queries relating to computer learning via e-mail. I teach Microsoft Word, Powerpoint, Publisher, Excel, Access, Internet and Email. If required, learning materials tailored to your needs can be provided by arrangement.

Contact me at Jeniknight707@hotmail.com

Contacts wanted

Is there anyone within 20 miles of Salisbury who would like to make friends with me and my boys, aged 8 and 9? We have plenty of school-using friends but a dearth of home-edders with whom we can meet, share, learn and have fun.

I'm into Green issues, the arts and animals; my boys like the outdoors - den building, cycling,

skateboarding and also Lego and music, and would particularly like to meet boys of a similar age If you think we'd get on please write or ring me.

Polly Milner, 10 Wordsworth Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 3BH Tel. 01722 325692

And.....

We started home educating our two children in April and wondered if there are any other home-educating families in North Somerset who would like to meet up for a chat. We have a son called Jack who will be 6 in August who was at school for 18 months and Lucy who is just 3. Although we are still finding our feet, we already feel much happier and more relaxed. We live in Portishead and would love to hear from you.

Please ring 01275 842300 or E-mail: sarah.souter@btopenworld.com

Corresponding and holiday home swaps

E O family living in Great Yarmouth - Richard, Karen, and Bonnie, would be interested in corresponding with any other EO families in Britain. We have been home educating for nearly 2 years now. We have 2 daughters at home aged 14 yrs and 20 yrs; we also foster teenagers.

We also would be interested to hear from any other families that may be interested in holiday home swaps. We live 2 mins from conservation beach with miles of wonderful walks, as well as all traditional seaside attractions and theme parks and nature reserves. Our area is rich in history and heritage with easy access to Norfolk's 'must see' heritage such as The Broads waterways, windmills, and easy travelling distance from Norwich, Cromer, Sheringham etc.

We have a large Victorian terrace family home with 7 bedrooms - enough to bring Granny and Uncle Ted.

*Richard Kozlowski, 17 Wellesley Rd, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR30 2AR
E-mail: Richard.kozlowski@btinternet.com*

Exchange wanted

We are two French home-schoolers, Colin (8) and Martin (6). We live with our parents in a superb place 4400 ft high in the French southern Alps (overlooking the lake of Serre Poncon, the biggest artificial lake in Europe) - halfway between the towns of Gap and Briancon and close to a ski resort called Les Orres.

We and our parents have a great passion for music, and we play with them in a group of folk/traditional music, mainly for dancing. Our Mum plays the fiddle and so does Colin. Dad plays the accordion and Martin plays flute and percussion. We both play the piano too. We often go to festivals and concerts with a great variety of music (classical, jazz, traditional ..) but we also love visiting historic places as well as churches and cathedrals - although we are absolute atheists!

There is a great culture of non-violence in our home and we hardly ever watch television apart from selected documentary, scientific, historic or linguistic programmes, videos and CD Roms.

We are also very ecologically minded and eat organic food as much as possible, with a big vegetable garden, home bread-making etc. with a little meat on the menu of home bred hens and rabbits. Our house has solar hot water and heating, not surprising in an area with over 300 days of sun a year, with a very dry and sound climate where asthmatic people live without treatment.

We are seeking a family in England for the same sort of exchange as the one we already have with a Swiss-Italian family with a lifestyle close to ours. After we learned to know each other (they came to stay with us, and vice-versa - we have great accommodation facilities), we (Colin and Martin) go to Switzerland on our own and even go to school with Miriam (9) and Enea (7). When they come to stay, they are home schoolers with us.

Dad speaks fluent English so don't be scared of ringing us at 0033492432580 or send us a fax at 0033492431609 or write to us. We will be delighted to hear from you.

The Heller family, Route des Gaillards, F05200, St Sauveur, Hautes-Alpes, FRANCE

MORE LETTERS

Change of address/Welcme

My son (age 9) and I have been camping for much of last year, and volunteering on Organic Farms as often as possible, we also cycled to France briefly.

I have managed to miss 2 years of being in the Contact List but hope our current address will suit us long-term.

Ryan, known as 'Bow', is interested in Radio 1, making, skating etc. and I am a lone parent. Buses are quite good here. We are now based back in Bridport, Dorset and welcome possible visits from other home educators. Thanks for a good festival, everyone who was there.

*Petra and Ryan (Bow) Hughes,
Flat One, 10 West Allington, Bridport, Dorset
E-mail: petrabow@hotmail.com*

Eden Vale project (Cornwall)

We offer discounts for home educators. Parents and children will be charged £2 per head (all inclusive).

Please contact us on 01726 811913 with a first choice date of when you would like to visit, so I can arrange with ticketing the reduced rate.

Robin Fuller, Education Department

Good Causes

My daughter (now nearly 21 and flown the nest, but mainly home-educated) has found a site she feels may interest some EO members:

(<http://www.theanimalrescuesite.com/home>)

Funding to purchase a bowl of food, paid for by site sponsors, is generated when you click on the "Feed an Animal in Need" button on the homepage of The Animal Rescue Site.

It also works with Rainforests, Famine and other philanthropic campaigns. Have a look?

Anne Rix (NL Co-ord)

Local Contact News

Just a note to introduce myself as the new local contact for **Grampian Region**. I am a single parent with children ages 17, 12, 9 and 6. My two eldest girls have never been to school. Tamsin has studied courses in professional make-overs and in counselling, and has studied an Open University course on computers and the internet. Mhairi is obsessed with animals. My nine year old had been to school for two years, and I withdrew her in January. My six year old had a year's schooling and had problems with bullying; he came out in November. I now find myself on the school board at my local school, with no children at the school. It has been quite an eye-opener to get involved with the establishment. There is a lot happening in education just now. I had a visit from the Primary Adviser recently and he asked me to contribute to formulating a policy for home education (no policy after I've been home educating here for 12 years!) I have applied to join the council's education forum, as a vacancy has arisen recently. Should hear about that in October. I would welcome any help of advice on formulating policy for home education.

*Fiona Chaff 01806 544233
Knowes, Gluss, Ollaberry, Shetland ZE2 9RU.
hogwarts@chaffhome.freemove.co.uk*

North Devon Contact (unofficial!)

Volunteers needed to staff stall/activity at 'Playday in the Park' in Bideford (and perhaps also Barnstaple) later in the month. We hope to combine with Mulberry Bush (with their yurt) and Forest School (for both, contact Amanda on 01237 422403) as 'Alternatives in Education' and make a living willow den and other craft activities using natural materials - as well as raising awareness of EO and celebrating our Silver Jubilee.

The fortnightly Tuesday 'picnic in the orchard' gatherings, started this Spring, continue to grow - no organisation, just turn up with your lunch and enjoy the company, fields, woods and streams. Plenty of resources for den-making, trees to climb, space to kick a ball around (but mind the sheep!).

Oh - and it looks as though we need a volunteer to co-ordinate/produce a Devon local events list - can anyone help please?

Anne Rix 01237 45 15 35

South Devon local contact update

After about eight years as Education Otherwise local contact for South Devon, Sammy and Nick Vidal-Hall are standing down; and hoping that another family (or families) will take on this job within EO.

If you are interested to find out more about what this job entails please phone Sammy or Nick on 01548 830716 or contact Janet Wilkinson (the local contact co-ordinator)

Sammy and Nick will continue as the nationwide Education Otherwise contact for Autonomous Education Support and Advice (including legal advice for the autonomous approach).

Teenage meetings in South Devon

There is now a regular weekly meeting for teenagers and pre-teens in Totnes, South Devon. This meeting has been going for about two months now and is becoming well established. It takes place at a very well equipped youth club on Thursdays from 2.30 – 6 p.m. and costs £3 per young person. The current age range is nearly 12 to nearly 16 (although older teenagers are welcome), and there are roughly about 13 young people coming along on a regular basis, one or two from quite far afield. All teenagers and pre-teens are welcome at this meeting, even if you live outside Devon, even if you are just visiting, as long as you are out of school.

However, as this is a meeting where the young people are left without their parents, we do ask that you try to come to one of our regular family meetings on Wednesdays so that we get a chance to meet you – and for you to make contact with us – before coming along to the youth club.

Parents please contact Nick Vidal-Hall on 01548 830716

And from some members...

Hi everybody. Just a bit of info about the youth club meeting. This is a meeting not to miss. This is a cool venue with plenty of activities: loud music, hanging out area, quiet space, drinks and snacks, TV, video, Playstation, place to dance, room to chat, 2 pool tables, table tennis, table football, courtyard outside with basketball etc.

This is not a naff place. It is bright, warm and exciting. Please come and be part of this. This meeting is for teenagers and pre-teens. This is a venue for young people to be dropped off. There are always two adults on the premises in case there are any problems.

Hope to see you there, Arran and Willow

Young people please phone Arran and Willow Vidal-Hall on 01548 830716

We really do need a Devon local newsletter - to let families from all over the county know what's on where. If I wasn't already doing the national NL I'd do it - Job for an enthusiastic teenager? Ring me to talk about it ... *Anne Rix 01237 45 15 35*

~~~~~

### & Now, just for fun ...

THIK

I'm lerning how to tuch tipe, the only  
Problem is,  
Me spelling scills hav never bean to hot.  
I thinc it's becos I'm aging, and  
Me scin is sort of rinking,  
And me brayn sells seam to all hav  
Gon to pot.  
I no ware all the lettas ar,  
Wot fingas I shood ewse,  
And I'm aimyng to do siksti werds  
A minit.  
But me tewter's not imprest,  
She ses I'l never pass me test,  
And all the werk I've dun, I may  
As well just bin it!  
I praktis evry day, and their's wun  
Thing I'd like to say,  
Cood yoo let me no if yoo kan reed  
My riting?  
If yoo kan, that's reely kool,  
For the local primry skool  
Has oferd me a job as inglish teecher.  
How exsiting !!

*Jan Randall, Rochester*

## From the Archives

### What do children need? Musings from Augusts gone by

"It is imperative that we imprison our children in a greenhouse that lets them observe the outside world but separates them from its cold blasts, that admits the beneficial rays of the sun and intensifies them, but keeps out air pollution. Your prison must be transparent. Your children must be aware of what goes on in the outside world. That transparency allows for the passage of a kind of inoculation against the diseases of the polluted surroundings."

*(Sheikh Nazim Al-Qubrusi Al-Haggani, Sufi Master quoted in 1988)*

"Great emphasis is placed on the strong effect of early sense impressions from which the child cannot protect himself until he has developed the power of thinking and judgement. These will, in the end, affect his whole bodily, mental and spiritual development, and damage in this area will result in an incapacity to experience life fully. Joan Salter gives the analogy of a Madonna's cloak for the type of love and spiritual enfolding of the child that should take place during the first three years."

*(Review of "The Incarnating Child" by Joan Salter, 1988)*

"What children need is parents who have a coherent religion or philosophy which explains some of the problems of life. They can use this as a jumping off point, a firm foundation to build on, question or rebel against. They cannot be satisfied with bare materialism."

*(Francis Howard 1987)*

Education is bad if children come out of it - as many do at present - convinced that they know nothing worth knowing because they did not do well at school, and unable to learn anything much for the rest of their lives.

*(Christopher Shute, 1992)*

"What children want and need from us is thoughtful attention. They want us to notice them and pay some kind of attention to what they do, to take them seriously, to trust and respect them as human beings. They want courtesy and politeness."

*(John Holt, quoted by Roland Meighan writing in 1998)*

"To where, to what must we educate? ... There is not and never has been a norm and a fixed maxim of education. What is called so was always only the norm of a culture, of a society, a church, an epoch to which education too was submissive ... Real education is made possible by the realisation that youthful spontaneity must not be suppressed but must be allowed to give what it can."

*(Martin Buber, Viennese philosopher,  
quoted by Penny Roberts in 1990)*

# EDUCATING ARCHIE

No rest for the EO hotline  
15 years ago, even in summer

How did Mrs G cope? And readers - this was before the days of the push button phone - No wonder our duo had to get a way...

AUG 88

No I'm sorry we don't do PAINTING HOLIDAYS in the LOIRE



by Mrs G



it's an idea though

they head for the beach

I wonder if he is an EO person?

there's something about him...

HAT (for keeping it under your

fearless jazz broad shoulders

DIARY

YAWNING CHILD



then there was the time that Mrs G found herself literally under canvas... how Archie chuckled.

OK Mum?

WELL ARCHIE I'M FUMBLING IN THE DARK TRYING NOT TO PANIC & JUST TRUSTING THAT IT'LL ALL WORK OUT SOMEHOW - BUT I'M USED TO THAT



AFTER ALL, I'VE BEEN AN EO PARENT FOR YEARS



see Mrs G camp in REAL LIFE (no photos please) at the EO 25th Year Gathering 29 Aug - 1 Sept Beauvoir LEWS

## ADVERTISEMENTS

**www.Einsteinonline.co.uk**  
- for children aged 4 to 11.

You can tailor Einsteinonline to suit all your needs by:  
Setting the levels of difficulty in each of the core subjects  
Altering those levels as your child's needs change.  
Removing unwanted subjects, including Target Setting!  
14 day free trial  
**Special discounted rate available to E.O. members of £7.50 per month per family!**

### 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 A5 SAE plus £1  
**PO Box 20284 London NW1 3WY**  
**Tel/fax 0208 969 0893**  
Also available: Truancy Information Cards and the Elective Home Education Legal Guidelines.  
[www.choiceineducation.org.uk](http://www.choiceineducation.org.uk)

### THINGS TO DO!

INCLUDING: CRAFTS, MATHS, LANGUAGE, SCIENCE, GEOGRAPHY AND PUZZLES  
New!! Inspired games, workbooks and kits from Learning Resources.  
Irresistible 1900 s style Classic Steel pedal cars, and fire engine with ladders and hose (ages 3-5)  
**Request a catalogue now:**  
**01420 82545**  
**Ashtree Marketing, PO Box 153, Alton, GU34 1AW**

**Leeds' Beechtree Steiner Initiative** are running a Kindergarten in September for 2 1/2 - 5 year olds. Join us in creating an unhurried yet stimulating environment, with songs, stories, imaginative play and seasonal craft activities.  
**We also run a Parent & Toddler group.**  
**Please contact Francesca Meynell on 0113 219 5425.**

**NEW FOREST JUNIOR STRINGS** is an award winning independent children's orchestra founded in 1998, with appearances on Meridian TV and BBC South.

We would like to hear from more parents of home-educated children with a view to starting a dedicated ensemble. beginners welcome. 5 & 6 yr-olds.  
Call for an informal discussion.  
Roger Walling 01425 274298

### The Privett Centre

17 miles east of Winchester, glorious rural location, low cost good quality short-stay self-catering accommodation, hostel style. Sleeps 18, mainly small bedrooms, all facilities. Converted Victorian village school and schoolhouse, ideal rural base for countryside education. We can also help access local environmental education resources. Available all year, weekdays and weekends, discounted cost to EO members £50 per night for groups of 10, £75 per night for larger parties. For details please contact:  
Sara McPartland [rmcpartland2@lineone.net](mailto:rmcpartland2@lineone.net)

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

## ADVERTISEMENTS

### Little Arthur Independent School

Home-educator packs in KS 3 Maths, English and Science (NC based). International GCSE packs in Maths, English, Accounting, History, Natural Economy (Ecology), Core Physics and core Biology. From £60  
We are a registered IGCSE exam centre. Send A5 SAE for details:

Little Arthur Independent School,  
St Martin's, Isles of Scilly,  
Cornwall TR25 0QL

### 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  
Order a copy at your library or bookshop.  
[www.free-range-education.co.uk](http://www.free-range-education.co.uk)

### French to GCSE Equipe 1-4

(OUP's latest French course) 4 books 19 tapes. Brilliant material - really up to date. My son loved it!  
£150.00 (cost over £300) As new  
Christine 01253 592291  
[famlea@orange.net](mailto:famlea@orange.net)

### Highland Crofters Cottage

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From just £150 pw.  
£10 donation to EO for each let.  
Please call: Laurie: 01895 677576  
[bunny\\_stlyon@hotmail.com](mailto:bunny_stlyon@hotmail.com)

### LOWER SHAW FARM

Weekend courses, gatherings and holidays - for adults and children - Friendly atmosphere, wholesome food, organic gardens and animals.  
Family events, circus skills, stone carving, basket making, music & singing, drumming, yoga, astronomy, celebrations  
Write or phone: Lower Shaw Farm, Shaw, Nr Swindon, Wilts, SN5 5JP  
01793 771080  
[andrea@lsfarm.globalnet.co.uk](mailto:andrea@lsfarm.globalnet.co.uk)

DYSLEXIA TUTOR offers one-to-one tuition by distance learning for age 3 to adult. Lessons are specially written and e-mailed or posted weekly, with careful monitoring of progress and individual feedback. Overcome even severe barriers to reading, writing, spelling and numeracy with phonetic, fun, multi-sensory methods. English Literature lessons also available. 01536 510379.  
[www.dyslexialessons.com](http://www.dyslexialessons.com)

KENT ADULT EDUCATION are offering a family learning programme  
A wide variety of FREE half day courses for children - computing, art and crafts, maths, signing and self defence.  
Various dates between October and December.  
Contact the Bayle Community Centre in Folkstone or the Ray Allen Centre in Stanhope for more details

### 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.

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

## **Regional Diary**

Events organisers 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 mltim@macunlimited.net**

### **BATH**

H.E.L.P. group meets regularly for outings and activities. Contact: Louise Jensen 01225 840735

### **BERKSHIRE**

Woolinks Leisure Centre Burghfield Mondays 1pm. Tuesdays swimming at Windsor 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](http://www.zednetdemo.co.uk/2eddin) Newbury group on Fridays for younger children.

Contact: Gillian 01491 671328

Lambourn. Weekly meeting on a farm for crafts, cooking and nature walks, group based on respect for each other and our world and an unhurried childhood.

Contact: Tracey or Roge 01793 610448  
[roge.tracey@virgin.net](mailto:roge.tracey@virgin.net)

Reading: Mondays, 10am - 12noon swimming at Central Pool, lots of teenagers

Contact: Lynn 0118 972 1420

Fridays, 11am - 3pm-ish near Pangbourne for chat and play. Separate space for teenagers; adventure playground for younger ones, animals.

Contact: Lynda 0118 961 4466

or Abigail 01628 483895

E-mailing list for home educators in Berkshire and surrounding areas for events/activities  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BerkshireHomeEducators>

### **BRISTOL**

Tuesdays, trampolining with coach am followed by workshops at Totterdown YMCA. Friday am ice-skating.

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](mailto: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

[penny.k@ntlworld.com](mailto:penny.k@ntlworld.com)

Monthly at Alconbury, activities run by Christian group. All welcome

Contact: Audrey Hill 01480 219881

Peterborough: weekly meetings on Wednesdays for art, craft, science, swimming, sports, play and visits.

Contact: Sarah 01733 265043

[SJLambert@aol.com](mailto:SJLambert@aol.com)

Cambridge/Norfolk border: fortnightly meeting at Guyhim.

Contact: Pat 01354 656582 or Ruth 01945 861464

### **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](mailto:anna@wheeler19.fsnet.co.uk)

### **CUMBRIA**

Informal gatherings for socialising, 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 group meets every Wed. morning.

Contact: Karen 01246 865532

Kaz 01246 205463 Yvonne 01246 555645

South Derby/N.W. Leics/E. Staffs :

regular meetings, socialising and days out.

Contact: Julie 01283 760800

### **DEVON**

Contact: Becca 01404 549479 (East/Mid Devon)

Anne 01237 451535 (North Devon)

Gordon & Hannah 01803 762788 (South Devon)

East and Mid Devon: Wednesday meetings:

11am - 1pm Exeter - activity sessions, e.g. science, craft, gardening, movement

2pm - 4pm Exeter - social gathering with optional activities (fortnightly from 6th March)

Contact Annie 01392 434167

10am - 12noon Alphington - pottery (bring old apron/shirt) Contact: Becca 01404 549479

1pm - 3.30pm Crediton - social gathering (fortnightly from 13th March) Contact: Emma 01837 82365

Pottery session, to be arranged.

Contact: Neil 01392 255912

Brixham regular meetings

Contact: Sally 01803 856 862

**North Devon** group now meets twice monthly, Tuesdays, 11-3ish, to picnic on smallholding (fields, wood, streams) near Bideford. Ring to confirm dates. Contact: Anne 01237 451535 [anne@annerix.demon.co.uk](mailto:anne@annerix.demon.co.uk)

**South Devon** meetings every Wednesday  
Contact: Hannah/Gordon 01803 762788  
[lindnich@eurobell.co.uk](mailto:lindnich@eurobell.co.uk)

Penny 01626 360640 or Bridget 01803 862158  
National Trust, Devon - Card held by Nick Vidal-Hall (01548 830716) gives free membership/entry to NT sites to all Devon EO members for pre-booked 'educational' visits.

South Devon: teenagers and pre-teens meeting every Thursday at a youth club in Totnes 2.30 - 6pm. Adults contact Nick / Young people contact Arran and Willow 01548 830716

#### **DEVON EAST/DORSET WEST**

Lyme Regis, Axminster, Bridport, Chard  
Contact: Henry & Suzanne 01297 444207  
Ann 01297 561070

Habiba 0845 4582984 (local rate)

#### **DORSET**

Regular meetings, keep in touch

Contact: Christine 01258 880355

Rosemary 01747 853 593

Bournemouth area: Meeting every Monday for crafts, games, play etc. Friendly, welcoming group.

Contact: June 01202 827945,

[bugchick@btinternet.com](mailto:bugchick@btinternet.com)

#### **ESSEX**

Colchester fortnightly meetings, Wednesdays £2.50 per family. Contact: Sue 01206 520284

35 Lethe Grove, Clochester, Essex CO2 8RG

Monthly in Chelmsford and weekly in Southend.

Essex Epicycle newsletter gives full details.

Contact: Corinne 07802 630693 [epicycle@wavy.org](mailto:epicycle@wavy.org)

New group East London/Essex area

Contact: Gill 020 8597 8537

Swimming at Goresbrook Leisure Pool, Ripple Rd,

Dagenham, every Tuesday 1pm onwards

Contact: Cindy 020 8553 0964

#### **GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

1st Tuesday of the month at Twynning

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 Petersfield. All welcome. Contact: 01428 712394

Fareham/Gosport area, friendly welcoming group.

Contact: Gayle 01329 823112

[gaylie@btinternet.com](mailto:gaylie@btinternet.com)

Basingstoke/Winchester area: group with mainly under 8s meet alternate Wednesdays St. Luke's hall

Overton, with trips and activities between.

Contact: Michelle or Mark 07966 159017

[Michelle.virgo@il2.com](mailto:Michelle.virgo@il2.com)

Friendly group for under 10s, weekly meetings/outings/activities Farnham/Aldershot area.  
Contact: Emma 01252 350034

[emmajeavons@supanet.com](mailto:emmajeavons@supanet.com)

#### **HEREFORDSHIRE**

1st Monday of month for meetings, various venues.

Contact: Kath and Malcolm 01432 830883

[homed@appcs.co.uk](mailto:homed@appcs.co.uk)

#### **HERTFORDSHIRE**

TOP Health and Education Together. Drumming + all ages groups/individuals every Tuesday.

Numeracy, literacy and parenting health sessions.

Literacy home study program 3-10 years. All at Bentley Heath Barnet. Also Cuffley Outdoor Centre

Group every Friday afternoon

Contact: Priscilla 01438 840674

[olsandpjs@aol.com](mailto:olsandpjs@aol.com)

Casual Swimming Friday morning, term time only at North Herts Leisure Centre, Letchworth. Meet in the pool 9.00am - 9.15am cost 60p per person on production of EO/HEAS card.

Contact: Priscilla Simmons (as above)

or Karen Bartlett 01462 743034

Sandridge village hall, Sandridge, St Albans 2nd

and 4th Thursdays, term time. 1-3pm

Contact: Carolyn 01727 851073

Melissa 01462 438577

#### **ISLE OF WIGHT**

I. W. E. O. group: craft sessions, visits, swimming,

theatre, picnics, bar-b-qs, mutual support,

especially older EO kids but new members and visitors always welcomed.

Contact: Jude 01983 531680

Isle of Wight Learning Zone workshops, social

events and newsletter.

Contact: Shara 01983 562313

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

French for beginners through songs and games.

Yoga for children.

Contact: Katherine 01892 863958

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](mailto:Claire@wadefamily99.freereserve.co.uk)

SE Kent: new group at the Ravensbourne

Community Centre, Ravensbourne Est.

Brangbourne Rd, Bromley. Every Tuesday 10-12

for support and outings.

Contact: Lorraine 0208 461 0885 (9-10am only

please)

## 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

Weekly meeting in Cleethorpes

Contact: Caroline 01472 690738

Monthly meetings in Lincoln, plus various other events and gatherings.

Contact: Eileen Tel 01522 803590

Ruth Tel 01522 804583

Kathleen Tel 01522 869239

Boston area group. Regular meetings/outings.

Contact: Gill 01205 871399

Ross 01205 870679

Monthly meetings in Lincoln, last Tuesday of the month, also educational visits etc.

Contact: Eileen 01522 803590 Ruth 01522 804583 or Kathleen 01522 869239

## LONDON

Walthamstow Fridays 2-3.30pm

Contact: Kate 020 8520 2676

Tuesdays Clissold Park. All welcome.

Contact: Charlotte 0207 254 0419

Wednesdays Honor Oak playground.

Contact: Steve 8680 2933

Thursdays Lee 11-1

Contact: Clare 020 8480 0740

Thursdays once monthly during term time rollerblading Kidbrooke

Contact: Fiona 020 8852 9756

bettleslake@clara.net

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 0208 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 for social and educational activities and visits.

Contact: Claire Evans 0208 943 4491

timesteps@altavista.co.uk

Lewisham EO group Thursdays weekly.

Contact: Clare 8333 9455

New group at Plumstead Common Adventure Playground SE18 alternate Fridays from 1st

February. Meeting at 12pm.

Contact: Bev 0208 312 2160, Kim 0208 317 7262

East London/Essex: every Wednesday 2.30-4.30

The Exchange Mall, Ilford.

Contact: Maria 0208 270 5293

jameson@maria.as

## 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 newsheet, send SAEs: Gill Wilson, 20

Brook Rd, Heaton Chapel, Stockport SK4 5BZ

Computing Skills 1st and 2nd Saturdays at Moores family home, limited places

Contact: Karen 01204 573136

## 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 and 3rd Thursday

Contact: Sue 01603 738494

## NORFOLK/SUFFOLK BORDER

Diss area

Contact: Judith 01379 890622

Lowestoft area

Contact: Lin 01502 741097

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

New activities/meetings being organised in addition to others already running.

Contact: Jane Newson 01536 418885

## 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 creative writing. Monthly Parents meeting, monthly Drop-In, also regular museum trips and outings. Local newsletter.

Contact: Wendy 01865 514973

## SCOTLAND

Fife: outings and get-togethers

Contact: Karen 01334 655361

k.spy@btinternet.com

Fife: Friday fortnightly meetings, activities and social get-togethers. All welcome.

Contact: Nicola Stubbs 01334 478530

nicola.stubbs@btinternet.com

Irvine: weekly drama Fridays for 5-9 and 9+

Contact: Rhona 01294 273644

Monthly activities Eglinton Country Park,

Wednesday afternoons under10s

Contact: Shirley 01563 540063

Other visits coming up

Contact: Vivien 01563 537428

### Highlands meetings

Contact: Rebecca 01667 462772

The Highland Home Educators Group  
all home educators, prospective home educators  
and their families (all ages - babies to grandparents)  
welcome - Tea / coffee, information, support, chat  
and play. Meetings every 2nd and 4th  
Friday each month, 12-2pm, Inverness  
Contact: Alison 01463 232571

### SHROPSHIRE

Activities and outings

Contact: Val 01952 502225

South Shrops. regular meetings every Tuesday,  
outings and workshops.

Contact: Carolyn 01588 680503

### SOMERSET

Frome and beyond (FAB) home educators support  
group. Social gatherings, outings and newsletter.

Contact: Sally 01749 841554

Helen 01373 465260

Wiveliscombe - new meeting on the 1st Tuesday of  
the month (term time) at Scout Hut 10.30-13.30

Contact: Maggie 01984 624 651

### STAFFORDSHIRE/SOUTH CHESHIRE/NORTH SALOP

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

Guildford area: Theatre bookings

Contact: Tisha 01483 898575

Skating during term time Friday 1-4

Contact: Jane 01420 88188

Under 10s

Contact: Nicky 01483 232080

Nicki's Woods fortnightly

Contact: Nicki 01306 884741

Dorking/Reigate area.

Contact: Helen Burnett 01737 243606

Friendly group for under 10s, weekly meetings/  
outings/activities. Farnham/Aldershot area.

Contact: Emma 01252 350034

emrajeavons@supanet.com

### SUSSEX

Monthly newsletter £8pa or £4 six months, cheques  
to ESEO to Ian Lawes, 35 Waldegrave Rd, Brighton  
BN1 6GR

Contact: Bo 01580 201681 (East Sussex)

Isobel 01403 261178 (West Sussex)

Friday EO club at Lindfield

Contact: Liz 01444 414058

Home Educators Hastings Area, regular arts, craft,  
gym, outings and meetings.

Contact: Ali 01424 814175

Eastbourne Home Educators Club, alternate Fridays  
9.30-11.30

Shinewater Community Centre 75p per child.

Contact: Angelique 01323 509702

Worthing : Thursday morning group 10-12.30. Many  
different activities and outings last Thursday of each  
month.

Contact: Sam Kruger 01903 233799

### 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 9251

Swansea monthly meetings in Llanelli area

Contact: Sue 01269 861902

South Wales: group have moved to the Quaker

Meeting House, Swansea (usually Thursday  
afternoons) for crafts, games, friendship,  
support and visiting 'workshops'. Also regular  
outings, educational visits, organic farming and  
nature walks.

Contact: Geraldine 01792 405894

Juliet 01639 760987 Frankie fran.kie@ntlworld.com

NE Wales/Borders weekly gym/trampolining 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.freesevice.co.uk

South Wales regular group activities and newsletter  
£3 pa. Weekly ice-skating.

Contact: Dawn 01452 540019

dawnandmike@cableinet.co.uk

Beverley 02920797628

Bev1.French@btinternet.com

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: Haverfordwest  
pool, Dew St. 3pm at

main reception, now fortnightly. Call to check dates.  
Contact: Yvette 0845 458 9251

### WARWICKSHIRE

The group usually meets 2 Thursdays a month; at  
Wolston nr Coventry and for an outing in the  
Coventry/Warwicks area .

Contact: Helen Hall 01926 771958

## WEST MIDLANDS

Meetings, trips out, activities etc are held throughout each month at a variety of locations all over the West Midlands. The newsletter HELM lists many of them. HELM is available free by email or by post for a small charge and covers HE related articles and events throughout the West Midlands and surrounding areas.

Contact: Joy Beasley 0121 585 6450  
JoyBeasley@b-bunch.freemove.co.uk  
Penny Clarke 01922 745465  
pennyclarke@blueyonder.co.uk

## WILTSHIRE

Outings and visits every 1st Tuesday pm lower Street Hall, off Netherhampton Rd, Salisbury 2-5pm.  
Contact: Vicky 1722 324863 or Sam 01794 342041  
Calne: informal activities and get-togethers  
Contact: Heather 01249 822 630  
Last Thursday of the Month The Scout Hut, Southbroom Rd Devizes, 11.30-14.30, games, activities, support and socializing.

Outings most Thursdays  
Contact: Janet 01249 818672  
email: janet.eldekvis@btopenworld.com  
Jemima: 01380 727470 Helen: 01249 822958  
www.geocities.com/wiltshirehomeed/index.htm

## WORCESTERSHIRE

Regular activity meetings and outings in the N. Worcs area.

Contact: Gail 01562 822034 gail@tqmi.co.uk  
Worcester area  
Contact: Rachel Pearson 01527 596198  
email keeperscottage@totalise.co.uk

## YORKSHIRE NORTH

Regular meetings and visits. Send two 2nd class stamps for quarterly newsheet.

Contact: Sarah 01904 750324  
sarah@wollny.org.uk

## YORKSHIRE EAST

Regular meetings and visits. Send two 2nd class stamps for a quarterly newsheet  
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/Abbeydale rd  
Contact: Annette 0114 2583502  
Fiona 0114 22751142  
Thursday weekly informal social meetings.

All welcome

Contact: Angie 0114 2817466

Regular meetings for arts/crafts, visits, swims, hanging out and more.

Contact: Jo 01709 820866

Denise 01226 733478 Gary 0114 2585702.

Swimming fortnightly 2nd Tuesday at Hillsborough 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 West Park Centre, Spen Lane, Classroom 9.

Contact: Susan 0113 2688304

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

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## LOCAL CONTACT UPDATE

### New acting local contact

Lancashire - Louise Hardy  
London East - Jackie Goldsworthy  
Merseyside - Hazel Croft  
Manchester South - Tracy Mullen  
Northamptonshire - Jane Newson  
Northumberland - Maxine Roake

### Areas needing a local contact

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| Bedfordshire | Devon South |
| Isle of Man  | Powys       |
| Strathclyde  | Surrey      |
| Tayside      | Sussex East |

### If you want to volunteer

or are interested to know more about the job of being a Local Contact please get in touch with Janet Wilkinson, 31 Framlingham Road, Peterborough PE2 8UG  
01733 554436 thewilkinsons@ntlworld.com



## SILVER JUBILEE UPDATE



### *EO is 25 - Tell the world!*

*Let's use the opportunity of EO's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary to do a big publicity campaign about Home Education. In the June NL, Lucy Charlton wrote:*

Over the *Summer school holidays* and into the *Autumn term* many families are thinking about education and school. Some of them have doubts, others have difficulties in school or at home, a few face desperate situations with bullying or school phobia. Many of them still don't know there is a choice: that **they could home educate**.

We know that it is an **option for everyone**. EO has been supporting HEers for 25 years. We know it works. We can give parents **correct information** about HE and the law, we can give them **confidence** to take charge of their learning and we can offer **support** as they work out what is right for their particular family.

#### **You can make a difference.**

There are lots of ways of getting the information out there:

- **put leaflets and posters anywhere parents go**...community centres, health centres, libraries, dentists waiting rooms, supermarkets and shops, swimming pools and sports centres.....
- **set up a display about HE** (and your local group)...in libraries, health/ neighbourhood centres... at local/community events, festivals.....
- **arrange to talk to a local parents group about EO**...toddlers groups, NCT, breastfeeding groups, disability and allergy support groups, church groups, women's groups.....
- **contact your local media**.... Community newsheet, local paper, radio, TV....
- **anything else** you can think of....

If you would like to do some local (or national) publicity I have sets of A3 information posters, A4 EO posters and various leaflets for you to use. Send me an e-mail [lucy.charlton@care4free.net](mailto:lucy.charlton@care4free.net) or phone me 0845 458 9510 (local rate).

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*Update 1st July: I have received requests for materials from 13 people who are planning events - thank you! We hope to reach many families who may be looking for alternatives to school, at around the start of the Autumn term, and to get some really good media publicity from this. It would be wonderful if every local EO could have a go at planning SOMETHING in August/September (and/or around half term at the end of October) - but please give me some notice of the posters etc. you need, to help the logistics of getting them out.*

*Lucy Charlton*

## Education Otherwise Adverts

### 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](mailto:henrietta.turnbull@ntlworld.com)

### Resources for Older Children

Information on curriculum materials for later years. For a copy please send 60p to cover printing and postage with your address to: G. Dove, 302, High Road, Chadwell heath, Romford, Essex RM6 6AJ  
Free e-mail copy from:  
[gillchris@willrich.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:gillchris@willrich.fsnet.co.uk)

### EO T-shirts:

Good quality cotton printed with logo in choice of two designs:

1. white shirt with E.O. logo (red triangle kicked open by running children)
2. navy shirt with white slogan: "home education - a real option"

£5 adult (M, L, XL)

£3.50 child (3/4, 5/6, 7/8, 9/11, 12/13)

Add p&p up to 6 shirts £2, 7+ £4

Cheques payable to E.O.Trading Ltd.

PatConnor, 2 Whitegates Lane, Reading, Berks., RG6 1ED "

### EO Car Stickers

Help spread the word.

Please send a reasonably large SAE to:

Ali Willer, 28 Cozens Hardy Rd, Sprowston, Norwich NR7

## Education Otherwise Business

### GCSEs

Please would you contact me if you have any information about which GCSE exam boards' syllabi are best for home-ed families so I can add it to the "later years curriculum information" where it will be available to all.  
Gill Dove: [gillchris@willrich.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:gillchris@willrich.fsnet.co.uk)  
302 High Road, Chadwell Heath, Romford RM6 6AJ Tel: 020 8597 8537

### Are You Willing to Offer Help with GCSEs?

I am compiling a list of people who might be willing to help with some tutoring in GCSE subjects - perhaps by email or possibly by post. Alternatively I could arrange for people to "trade" specialist areas. I would be willing to help with Maths and have had an offer of help with Psychology, what area could you help with? Please contact Gill Dove (as above & left)

### Junk Mail Volunteer

We are looking for someone willing to sort through the junk mail that comes to the PO Box and decide whether to throw away or find the right person to send it to. Sometimes it is office furniture, sometimes a directory wanting their EO entry updated! I will fully support who-ever takes this on until they have confidence about what to do. Please contact Priscilla Park Weir (Surrey) 01276 22735  
[priscilla@pvpw.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:priscilla@pvpw.fsnet.co.uk)

### Detective Work

Do you know someone who uses EO reuse labels who has a daughter called Kerry who had/had a boyfriend/husband called Levent? The mother is possibly Pagan and the daughter's boyfriend probably Muslim. The mother sent her daughter a wall hanging over a year ago and it was returned to the PO Box because the EO reuse label was the only address. I have the wall hanging - please apply! Priscilla Park Weir (Surrey)

## EO's Silver Jubilee Celebration

Less than a month to the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary gathering at Beaumanor Hall in Leicestershire. The accommodation is filling up fast, but there is unlimited space for day visitors, so plan to come!

If you haven't returned your booking forms yet please send them to Janet Wilkinson at 31, Framlingham Road, Peterborough, PE2 8UG (thewilkinsons@ntlworld.com) *as soon as possible*. It is essential to book as the gates are kept locked and you will not be able to get onto the site without prior booking.

If you have sent a booking form you should have received details of the gathering. If not, check with Janet. The provisional programme for gathering is:

### Thursday August 29<sup>th</sup>

Welcome Session

### Friday August 30<sup>th</sup>

- Education Otherwise Council Meeting – open to all EO members
- Outdoor Pursuits, craft activities, science challenges and games for children, young people and adults
- Warhammer gaming and beginners' sessions
- Bonfire and music

### Saturday August 31<sup>st</sup> and Sunday September 1<sup>st</sup> - Daytime

- Craft activities, science challenges, drama, music, circus skills and games for children, young people and adults
- Warhammer gaming and beginners' sessions

### Saturday August 31<sup>st</sup> – Evening

- Performance by Drama workshop
- Celiedh with Greenshoots Celiedh Band

### Saturday August 31<sup>st</sup> - Conference Sessions

- 10-00 Dick Kitto and the Origins of EO - Sarah Guthrie, and meet some of the founders of EO
- 11-30 John Holt - Roland Meighan
- 11-30 Screening of the First EO TV programme - Jackie Fearnley.
- 1-00 Lunch
- 2-00 Panel of Home Educated Young People
- 3-30 The Harrison Case - Iris and Geoff Harrison
- 4-30 Starting a Home Education Group - Leslie Saffran
- 4-30 Working with LEAs - .....

### Sunday September 1<sup>st</sup> – Conference Sessions

- 10-00 Discussion on the future direction of EO
- 1-00 Lunch
- 2-00 Home Education Research - Roland Meighan, Leslie Saffran, Alan Thomas, others tbc
- 4-30 Conference ends Jill Fisher

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### BBC Copyright Restrictions - is EO an "Educational Establishment"?

Joanna Dunn of Nottingham has highlighted the following problem:

BBC Education Publishing, from whom she has purchased audio tapes of school broadcasts and video tapes in the past, have returned her recent order saying 'Unfortunately, due to copyright restrictions, we are only able to supply School Radio Tapes to Educational Establishments in the UK.'

When she telephoned the BBC (0870 8308000) to query this, they were apologetic, but also very 'cagey', saying that the goal posts had been moved. They suggested she ask a local school for permission to use their name and address to place the order, while giving her home address for delivery and paying by cheque or credit card herself. Joanna fears that other Home Educators who order from the 2002/3 BBC catalogue will meet the same response. Not wishing to go through a semi-deceitful rigmarole to obtain educational materials for her children, she has asked whether EO as an organisation could take this up with the BBC and see if there is a way that their legal copyright obligation can be met while allowing home educators to purchase material - perhaps by quoting EO as an 'educational establishment'.

Pam Bellinger has spoken to Joanna, who has now written further to the BBC requesting clarification. This is published in the NL in order to alert other members to the problem and to invite suggestions for a solution. Please contact Pam Bellinger with any comments.



## Who does What in EO

### Council Members

*If you have a problem contact your nearest council member:*

**Geraldine Adams** (N. London) 0207 2634922  
**Martine Archer** (N. Yorks) 01423 858916  
**Pam Bellinger** (Leicester) 0116 282 7929  
**Isobel Bogucki** (W. Sussex) 01403 261178  
**Penny Clarke** (W. Midlands) 01922 745465  
**Jill Fisher** (Leics) 0116 2128120  
**Lynda Hitchman** (Berks) 0118 961 4466  
**Jacqui Houlding** (Cheshire) 01925 654856  
**Garry Humphreys** (Lincs) 01205 871399  
**Celia McDonagh** (Wales) 0776 321 3851  
**Gary Podmore** (Yorks) 0114 2585702  
**Julie Ridley** (Manchester) 0161 860 7589  
**Ann Samuel Till** (Scotland) 0131 5566271  
**Jenny Stevens** (W. Sussex) 01243 783469  
**Dawn Waddington** (Bucks) 01908 569380  
**Anne Wade** (Middx) 0208 9047155  
**Ali Willer** (East Anglia) 01603 401020

### Membership

*Membership and newsletter subscription enquiries, membership cards and address changes:*

**Administrator**, Education Otherwise, 5 Goodyers, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 2SH

[<mailto:database@education-otherwise.org>](mailto:database@education-otherwise.org)

*For other queries or missing newsletters contact*

**Lynda Hitchman** [database@education-otherwise.org](mailto:database@education-otherwise.org)  
or Phone 0118 961 4466

### 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: **Bridget Elgie**, 14 Elizabeth Crescent, Bay Vista, Whitehaven, Cumbria CA28 6JQ 0845 4582075 [bidelge@aol.com](mailto:bidelge@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 Mackdin**, 16 Victoria St, Wall Heath, Kingswinford, West Midlands DY6 0JJ  
Tel: 01384 833 883

### Useful contacts

**Single Parent 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 01923 464773

**School Phobia: Geraldine Adams** 0207 263 4922

**Autonomous Education Support and advice: Sammy and Nick Vidal-Hall**, Home Croft, Brownston St, Modbury, Devon PL21 0QR 01548 830716

**GCSE Contact: (Vacant) - Volunteers please!**

**College Contact: Kathy Chilton** 01969 623707

**Teenage Support: Geraldine Adams** 0207 263 4922

**EO Stalls: Lucy Charlton**, 2 Wistow Rd, Newton Harcourt, Leics LE8 0FT 0116 2592118

**Research Contact (acting) Pam Vickers**  
25 Boxley Rd, Walderslade, Chatham, Kent  
Home: 01634 671507 Work: 01227 712206

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0116 282 7929

**Treasurer: Garry Humphreys** Three Stacks, Wicken lane, Old Leake, Boston, Lincs PE22 9QE 01205 871 399

**Newsletter Coordinator: Anne Rix**, The Orchard, Hembury, Frithelstock, Torrington, Devon, EX38 8JT 01237 451535 [anne@annerix.demon.co.uk](mailto:anne@annerix.demon.co.uk)

**Local Contact Coordinator: Janet Wilkinson**, 31 Framlingham Road, Peterborough PE2 8UG 01733 554436 [thewilkinsons@ntlworld.com](mailto:thewilkinsons@ntlworld.com)

**Enquiries Secretaries Coordinator: Iris Harrison** 01584 781341

**Chair: Jill Fisher**, 54 Ratcliffe Rd, Leicester LE2 3TD 0116 212 8120

# 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.

For further information send an A5 s.a.e. to:  
P.O. BOX 7420  
LONDON N9 9SG

HELPLINE 0870 7300074

<<http://www.education-otherwise.org>>

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