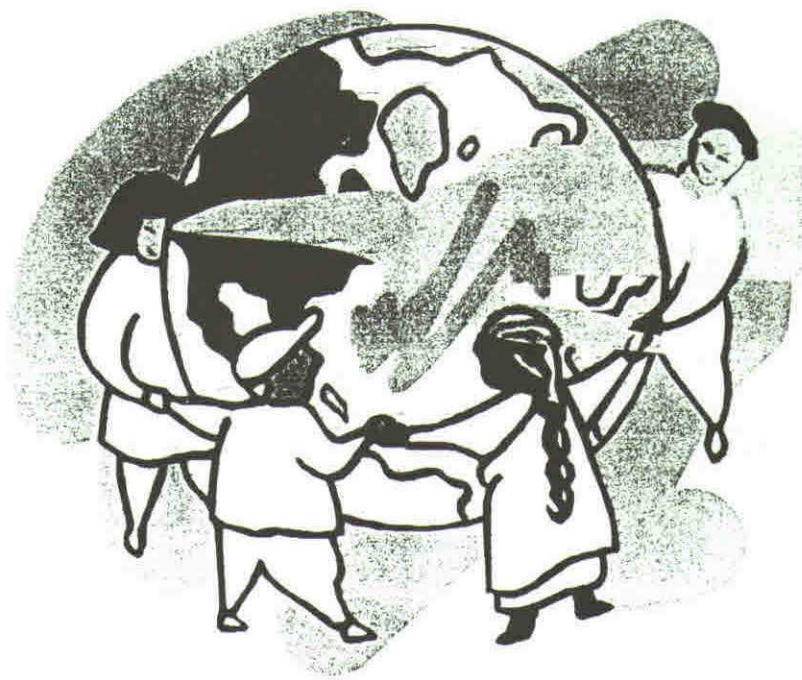


# education otherwise



No. 158 - June 2004

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**HOME EDUCATION in the NEWS**

Vacant - volunteers please !!!

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**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2004**

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

**Please send contributions via the most appropriate section editor above**

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*(See inside back cover)*

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## Co-ordinatorial

Remember Amanda Petrie's article on Globalisation of Home Ed which was published in issue 151 of the NL in April 2003\*

Here are some extracts:

*"(in France) ... draconian law was passed ... in December 1999. A relaxed, fertile approach to home education is no longer permitted ... Registration is compulsory and inspectors, educational sociologists, and psychologists have a right of entry to the home. ..."*

*"... in Ireland ... The new law, requiring compulsory registration and visits from the social services, came into force at the end of last year. The content and assessment of home education will be determined by regulations. ... It has become more difficult to home educate in Luxembourg and the Netherlands."*

\* If Archie doesn't make it to the printer on time, there's a longer extract on page 33 of this newsletter.

*"Whether it is a good thing or not, home education has suddenly become globalised - like many other things. Home educators often do not have time to notice, they are heavily involved in the time it takes to facilitate their children's education ... There is rarely the chance to look at home education in the wider world perspective..."*

## WELL, HERE'S YOUR CHANCE !!!

### Euro elections are coming up on June 10<sup>th</sup>

As Amanda shows, in some continental countries school really is compulsory. We will probably not be able to avoid further influence from Brussels, MEPs probably have more power than national MPs, in EO we're always responding to some govt. initiative or other and our issues are highly political (not Party political, but political in the wide sense of to do with the operation of society) - so what I would like to do is to urge members to find out what the education policies/attitudes of their local MEP or candidates - from ALL the political parties - are, and to get out there and vote on 10th June for the one who seems most likely to be sympathetic to HE. Make an *informed* choice - to vote or not; and if to vote, for whom or what.

It would be very rare for the rest of Europe to conform to our way of thinking!!! It's usually the other way around, but as European Elections are run on the basis of Proportional Representation, we actually have a greater opportunity to influence European policy towards home education than in national elections.

## MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

*Anne Rix 13.5.4*



## Children Bill - March 2004

Education Otherwise is very concerned about the information-sharing provisions in Part 2 of the Children Bill <<http://www.arch-ed.org/%7Ech%20bill%20table%20wp.pdf>>. EO encourages home educators to contact their MPs and urge them to oppose that part of the bill.

To contact your MP, you can send an email via [www.faxyourmp.com](http://www.faxyourmp.com)  
The site will also tell you who your MP is.

EO would also like to encourage people to support the ARCH Children Bill campaign. For information, downloadable leaflets and a sample letter go to <[www.arch-ed.org](http://www.arch-ed.org)>

If you would like some ideas about what to say to your MP here is another sample letter which you could alter or use as it is:

Dear Sir

I am very concerned about some of the provisions in Part 2 of the Children Bill 2004, currently before Parliament.

The Children Bill proposes to give the Secretary of State the power to establish databases of children containing whatever information he deems appropriate in order to improve the well-being of children or to safeguard and promote their welfare.

The bill would give the Secretary of State the power to specify what went into the databases, who would have to provide information, and who would have access to information. Furthermore, he would be given powers to compel disclosure of information even where it contravened common law, thereby abolishing client and patient confidentiality. This information would be collected and retained for every child regardless of whether there was any concern about the child.

The databases could also contain information about parents and information would be collected and held without the knowledge or permission of either parents or children.

The bill seeks to lower the threshold for sharing information between professionals so that information on children and their parents could be shared when someone decided that there was a "cause for concern" rather than a "suspicion of significant harm" as at present. This might lead to a large number of alerts being generated, which could distract professionals from those children who were at serious risk.

The hope is that children at risk will be identified more easily by establishing such databases and allowing the sharing of information more freely between professionals. Because of the difficulties of maintaining large databases and the potential for swamping social services with alerts on children who are not at risk, however, it seems to me that it represents a huge invasion of the privacy of families for questionable gain.

I am also very concerned about the security of these databases given the wide range of people who could be given access to them, about the quality of the information held in the databases, as parents will not be able to verify the information being held on themselves and their children, and about the cost of maintaining such databases.

I think the money that would be spent on these databases would be better spent directly on improving services and support for families. Therefore, I would urge you to oppose the information sharing provisions in Part 2 of the Children Bill.

Yours faithfully

all the best,

*Jill Fisher* (for the EO DfES team)

<http://www.education-otherwise.org/Legal/ChildrenBill.htm>

<http://www.arch-ed.org/%7Ech%20bill%20table%20wp.pdf>

## COMMISSION FOR EO

### With immediate effect EO is now an Associate member of Amazon.co.uk

What this means is that people who buy books or audio books from Amazon.co.uk having gone to Amazon via the links on our website will be earning EO a commission of approximately 6%. This commission applies to the books advertised on the EO website as well as other books, CDs, DVDs and software etc which are not on the EO website but which are bought as a result of entering the Amazon site via the link on the EO website. ***So if you want to buy anything from Amazon.co.uk, please check the EO website first.***

To view the books which we are linking to, go to <http://www.education-otherwise.org/Publications%20Files/PubList.htm> There are links at the top of the page to a page full of fiction books which feature children who have not been to school, and a page to non-fiction books relating to home education. I have to say here that many thanks are due to Tracy Coates who collated all the information about the books for me to put together on the page.

If anyone has any further recommendations which they think belong on one of these pages, please send me the title and author of the book. I am currently considering whether or not to include a page of educational software as well with links to help us generate a few further funds. If you have any views on this matter also, please let me know.

Jacqui Houlding [jc\\_houlding@onetel.net.uk](mailto:jc_houlding@onetel.net.uk)

## LEA & Social Services Work

Another email bulletin was sent out to all LEAs in England and Wales on 14 April. This gave information on Paula Rothermel's research and talked about different styles of education. We included the deregistration leaflet, mentioned s175 of the 2002 Act and again offered help with initial letters to families. One or two LEAs have taken up this offer. A bulletin has also been sent to all Social Services departments in the country together with a copy of the Summary of the Law.

For more information contact Priscilla Park Weir - Surrey.

## IMPORTANT ~ PLEASE READ: EO Treasuring and Insurance update

My name is Martine Frampton and I have recently taken over as treasurer from Garry Humphreys. It has been a steep learning curve for me and I have discovered that the job involves a lot more responsibility than merely adding up the money.

The most frequent question in the weeks after I took over concerned Public Liability cover for local groups. This has been an ongoing issue for many years so I felt it was important to establish what was what. I discovered that when our policy was established many years ago, the company had not had full information on what EO actually did, so I gave them a more detailed description of our aims and activities. Our current company realised that we were much larger and had a much wider scope of activities than they had imagined; they no longer felt able to offer us cover as they had been doing and insisted that local groups were autonomous and would need independent insurance.

I have been therefore investigating other options, with an emphasis on the provision of cover for local groups' meetings.

Whatever arrangement is made it is certain that the company involved will want a more detailed account of the groups. One suggestion was that we might actually have to pay an additional premium for the number of groups using the cover (which would be much cheaper than groups getting their own cover but still a substantial increase on what we have been paying).

As such I am giving notice here that local groups who might require insurance cover will most likely be required to be formally registered with Education Otherwise as 'official' EO groups. This would not mean every group would have to do this to be listed in the regional diary, only that any group wanting to make use of the cover would be. For most groups I am sure that the question of insurance cover has never arisen but for some who rent halls on a regular basis or make use of other private facilities it can be very important.

As things stand I am awaiting a response from two companies and will give more details in the next newsletter. In the meantime anyone who would like to be kept informed of the situation can send me an e-mail at [martine-frampton@macunlimited.net](mailto:martine-frampton@macunlimited.net) or phone me on 01608 812411.

## TIMES ARE CHANGING

### EO contact work with LEAs and EAs

Over the years much good work has been and is being done by many EO members with their local education authorities (in Scotland they are simply known as education authorities or EAs). This is usually, but not always, begun as "reactive contact" because of something going wrong in the relationship between the LEA/EA and a local family. Less often it has been "proactive contact" with the specific aim of improving understanding and relationships. Sometimes it is the family themselves who take up the work with the LEA and sometimes it is another EO member who gives support to the family; often this is the EO local contact. Such work has often gone on beyond the immediate issues (reactive) to become a dialogue (proactive) between the LEA/EA and EO where the home educators manage to work at "educating" the LEA/EA in the theory and many practices of home education. Sometimes this has been lonely work for one dedicated person and sometimes small groups of home educators have done it together.

Unfortunately, this still leaves it a bit of a postcode lottery as to whether you live in a "good" LEA/EA area. Also experience seems to have shown that good work often leaves with an LEA officer when they move on. Today, with the Children Bill imminent, with the accompanying preoccupation with child protection, and with draft guidelines by the DfES to LEAs in the making, work with LEAs in England and Wales by home educators is more vital than ever. In Scotland too, with the new guidance out, now is the time to exert a good influence on EAs and the ways they operate. **This is a crucial time, a time of change and with the right work now we can change attitudes and influence the policy and practice for years to come.**

If you are an EO Local contact who has been doing LEA/EA contact work, or would like to do some, or you are not a local contact but have been doing this work or would like to, then the EO LEA/EA Contact Group **would like to hear from you**. The group has reconvened with current members and recognises as its aims "a fresh need to organise, put in place and maintain strategies for informing and training LEAs/EAs about home education and for supporting and encouraging EO members to take on the work of establishing and maintaining relations with LEAs/EAs."

The need for mutual support and information is recognised and we hope to produce guidelines for work with LEAs/EAs soon. In order to coordinate everyone's efforts we need to hear from you if you are doing this work and/or if you would like to do it and become part of a wider group effort. It would be useful to hear what you have found supportive and useful and what you think would be supportive e.g. possibly a separate list or discussion forum for this specific work and also access to the letters or reports of others in other areas. The small group itself would appreciate offers of experienced help in moving forward.

If this is you or interests you please register your interest asap with Lize Stevens who has offered to coordinate the group for the first spell, and we'll keep you posted!

Thanks in anticipation to all of you doing this essential work.

The LEA/EA Group (currently: *Lize Stevens, Gary Podmore, Anne Wade, Rob Wade, Keith Charlton, Ann Samuel Till and Sarah Cook*)

Contact Lize on [kiss.it@lineone.net](mailto:kiss.it@lineone.net) (0116 2425802)

*There is increasing evidence that constructive and joint effort can produce change for the better.*

## LOCAL CONTACT WORKSHOPS – VIEWS & RESPONSES

### Less is More

The less we use "the top lot" from EO the better! The more we take responsibility for ourselves the better we live with our children and communities. Haven't we all done this by making the decision to home educate? It goes on, all through life, until one is looking forward to old age and listening to our grandchildren (hopefully home educated!).

I joined the e-mail group for Local Contacts and asked a few questions using words from the April NL: "Too many LCs are working in isolation, are over-burdened and are not getting the help that they deserve. We think that LCs need to connect with each other, share experiences and be able to delegate some of their work."

Several letters came up on screen from members of the LC e-mail group. They were clear and succinct about what LCs do - reflecting the LC Guidelines. It is interesting to know how different counties work and this can be absorbed from the letters on this e-mail group (although less than half of the LCs subscribe). I have suggested that quotations from those letters could be added to the Guidelines as examples of what some areas do. However, in the end we should be using our own interpretation of the Guidelines to help with our own communities.

Now I may be wrong but surely all LCs receive LC Guidelines? These are very clear and well written by the LC Co-ordinators. To quote: "Make yourself known and communicate with other LCs" and "Think about and organise or suggest venues" and lots more good advice. LCs can simply go ahead and contact each other and arrange to meet face-to-face and exchange experiences etc., in their own time and in their own way.

I recently found out that EO faced bankruptcy about nine years ago. To quote from an EO pamphlet published at the time (Spring/Summer 1995):

"It seems clear that EO is financially viable from subscriptions as long as we confine ourselves to what it was set up for: to print the newsletter, contact list, leaflets and booklets, to underwrite modest meetings, and to meet modest expenses for coordinators and officers."

In my county subscriptions are down - people are not renewing their memberships and many people receive concessionary subscriptions. If this is reflected nationally then I believe that EO has to seek inexpensive alternatives to the 13 LC workshops that have been planned until November 2005. The money is a serious issue: travel across the counties and the nation is expensive, and the number of claims may well be high if many members choose to attend a workshop. I hope the Treasurer is looking at the future expenses that these workshops might incur.

I certainly don't want to quash the excitement of the LCs and the thought of meeting people from another county. Why not meet up anyway as we did in the '80s? As a new acting LC I have started ringing round all the members who live in the most remote areas here, and what do I find? The same things happening as in the '80s - people using the Contact List to get together. They organise themselves into little groups, doing things together when they can. All the groups are different. I'm here just for the awkward bits. If I can't help with a query, I know where to find the information.

I regard all EO members as unofficial LCs, being responsible, just getting on with it and sharing information and ideas. It's grassroots stuff and the only way really for this organisation.

Long Live EO! Happy Home Education!

*'Minerva' (Name & Address Supplied)*

## Concerns about proposed workshops

I am quite concerned about the proposed LC workshops to be held across the country over the next 18 months. I volunteer for EO in coordinating the advertising for the NL and understand that EO has to watch the pennies.

**Finance:** Are vital EO resources to be spent on venues, accommodation, travelling expenses and more for those running the workshops? More worryingly, if large numbers of members decide to attend a workshop are they all to claim expenses too? Is there an estimated cost of these workshops?

**Attendance:** Will the number of participants be booked in advance to prevent a wasted journey by workshop leaders? Is there an actual demand from LCs and other members which has necessitated these workshops?

**Content:** Will the content be any more than the LC guidelines that exist? If LCs want to get together, then presumably they can contact each other quite easily via telephone, e-mail and, of course, share interesting experiences with the NL?

Has the finance team considered that money may be better spent on 'phoning up members who are active in the regions (see the regional diary) and the LCs and finding more LCs. Isn't this the LC Coordinator's role?

*Gita Prasad, 21 Cozens Road, Norwich NR1 1JJ Tel: 01603 765 730*

## RESPONSES

Hello Gita,

Thanks for copying me into your letter to EO's Chair and Newsletter. To answer your questions:

### **Finance:**

It's unlikely that money will be spent on venues. These workshops will be small enough to be held in the home of a LC. No expense claims for accommodation will be considered. My colleague, Lize Stevens, and I have been given clearance by Council to claim travel expenses for these workshops. We will travel together and what we will claim will be the cost of fuel. We'll claim only for distant workshops. This will not include the Scottish workshop, as this will be held during the Gathering at Melrose in November. Local Contacts have been given clearance to claim travel expenses to the workshop in their own region.

### **Attendance:**

We will, of course, be talking to the LCs in each region prior to the workshop for that region to encourage them to attend, to get them to think about who they'd like to invite (whether they be EO members already helping with the work, thinking about doing so, or interested in finding out about the role of LC) and to arrange a venue. None of our journeys will be wasted. Nobody has "demanded" these workshops. They have arisen from the thinking that Lize and I have done about supporting LCs and encouraging others to take on the work as well as from views expressed by LCs at workshops we've held at EO National Gatherings.

### **Content:**

Yes, the content will be more than the guidelines; otherwise we wouldn't be giving up our precious time to do this work. We're doing this because we're committed to EO and, in our role as LCs' coordinators, to supporting LCs and the invaluable work that they do. Yes, of course LCs can contact each other by the methods that you suggest (I hope that they do) but in my experience

things happen when human beings think together, face to face. It's much more than sharing interesting experiences.

Yes, it is part of my role as LCs' co-ordinator to telephone LCs, to find more LCs and to communicate with members local to a particular LC who are or may be interested in doing some of the work. I do these things and I claim no expenses for doing them. However, there are so many LCs (and I'm persistently trying to recruit more) that it's impossible for me to maintain personal contact with all of them. One of the purposes of the forthcoming series of LCs' workshops is to organise a network of communication and support.

I hope that this is helpful.

If you want to know more about what we're doing and about being a LC you'll be most welcome at the East of England LCs' workshop on 26th November 2005.

Best wishes, *Keith Charlton*

\*\*\*\*\*

Hello Gita,

I hope that Keith's response has helped to quell your concerns. Council does support Keith and Lize in their attempts to work more closely with Local Contacts. I do know that LCs who have attended gatherings, including myself, have been very positive about the idea of getting together with others and finding out how they operate. Some of us feel quite isolated in our jobs and often wish to talk over situations with somebody who may have similar experiences. LCs have recently begun to use the email list for LCs, which is one positive step towards peer support. Funnily enough, this has mostly happened as a result of the discussion surrounding the anticipated workshops.

EO needs many more local contacts. There are vacant areas around the country, and there are contacts whose areas are far too large. I, personally, hope that these workshops are a step towards supporting Local Contacts in the very important job they (we) do. Being a LC can be fun, demanding and rewarding. To some who would consider volunteering, it can also seem intimidating. Perhaps if some people see how we are trying to support each other in EO, trying to work together, trying to facilitate communication between those who work within EO, they will be more willing to volunteer. We all have something to offer, but offering it can be scary. Meeting people in real life at an organised event can be easier than picking up the phone and introducing oneself.

Expenditure is always a concern for EO. But these workshops are not going to be expensive. They will hopefully, prove worthy in facilitating communication between Local Contacts and those who are interested in supporting the work that local contacts do.

And if anybody reading this is interested in becoming a Local contact, or working with the contact in their area, please contact Keith Charlton or Lize Stephens. :-)

Best Wishes, *Julie Ridley*  
EO Chair, Local Contact for South Manchester

## Connexions – report from Kathleen Warner

I was invited to a meeting with Connexions in Hull, little did I realise our organisation was the topic of this meeting! At this meeting were Young People Support Service of Gipsyville Forward, Bransholme Community Service and The Learning Shop - these three support life long learning and I know of members who use these services - Connexions and me. The LEA had also been invited, but they were conspicuous by their absence, they never show up at these meetings apparently.

I felt the meeting went well though I was very nervous. They asked about EO as they didn't know much about home education and our LEA hasn't been very forthcoming with information. Connexions had contacted HEAS who told them they had to become a member before they could get any information.

I took along copies of Summary of the Law, which were very welcome, as were the trifold leaflets. I was able to tell them that we always inform people how to deregister, and that they do not have to follow the national curriculum, or keep to a school timetable and they do not have to use tutors. They thought it was a good thing that we are happy to talk to people about home education, so they can make an informed choice.

I felt it all went quite well and they have invited me back to another meeting in about a couple of months (May). They are still hopeful that the LEA will come. They have my phone number so they can contact me as well as our web address etc. They gave me a list of organisations that take young volunteers, and if we need any help with resources at a local level they may be able to help.

*EO are sending out a copy of Summary of the Law along with a letter to each of the 47 regional Connexions offices, asking them to copy the information to their area offices. Priscilla Park Weir*

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## FUTURE BUILDERS

*On 5<sup>th</sup> May, Iris Harrison and Leslie Barson attended the launch of this initiative, which looked as though it could possibly provide a source of funding for some of EO's activities, as a fact-finding exercise. Iris reports:*

This funding available by government is intended as a loan of monies for charities. An army of advisors are in place to advise on how the charities can then earn money to repay the loans. In other words, these advisors etc. will be the benefactors. There is no way round this - AT THE MOMENT.

Luckily Leslie and I had opportunities to discuss education otherwise at length with Fiona Ellis, the Vice Chair, Peter Deans, Director of Funding and development and the Chief Executive, Richard Gutch. Richard has a friend home educating and knows the problems, plus knows of the support we give to those our system fails.

Having had The Minister for School Standards (Mr. David Miliband) state in the House the previous day that he personally would see if Future Builders can help us, it seems sensible to let them have a dialogue before Leslie and I start writing letters.

I was able to raise a question from the floor (a camera throws up your face onto a screen when doing this) asking - is there documentation we could look at of charities in a similar position to ourselves applying for funding? They will now put these onto their website for us and others to read, at <http://www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk/>

Although there is no immediate benefit to us I believe that long term we have made many aware of the enormity of the work EO does for our community, and Leslie and I will follow up the contacts we made in due course.

Jim, a friend working in Parliament, met me from the train with a copy of the Hansard report of George Young's speech for EO on 4<sup>th</sup> May (available at <<http://makeashorterlink.com/?S60221738>>) and escorted me to the event. I read this report before the launch. *Iris Harrison*

## Diary Of A Home Educating Nobody

Well! I'm totally embarrassed now!

When I put the footnote on Feb's 'diary' it was meant generally speaking. Unfortunately the powers that be omitted to print the bit that read 'members perhaps forget that EO is governed solely by *your* opinion, so if you don't make your opinions known we don't know what you like'. (Sorry! Anne)

Well - I certainly know your opinion on the 'Diary'!

THANK YOU. Thank you for all your kind and positive responses, both in the newsletter and personally to me by letter and email. You have no idea what a wonderful boost you all gave me, what a great injection of motivation and encouragement it was to keep going. Just what I needed. Thank you to all those who took time out of their hectic day - as I know all EOers have hellishly hectic days - to contact me. It meant so much. Thank you.

I think Home Educating is exactly the same as parenting when it comes to positive feedback. Here we all are struggling on blindly through this unfamiliar jungle, that others may have been through before, others may have written books about, and others may have even mapped out. But, just like parenting, until you actually get there and do it yourself, you've really no idea of the involvement, commitment, sacrifice and workload! And it's different for each family anyway so a map doesn't help much! And just like parenting there is so little *positive* feedback. Plenty of the other of course! Plenty of comments like 'well I think HE is wrong - they should be made to learn' Or 'can't your kids read yet?' Or 'school knocks them into shape - just what they need!' Or 'they won't have no friends!' Etc. Etc. You'll no doubt have experienced it!

There are always plenty of negatives. What we rarely get, both as parents and HEers is positive feedback. Rarely 'I think you're doing a brilliant job.' Rarely; 'your children are so mature and intelligent.' Or even more rare; 'you must work so hard and make so many sacrifices to give your children a happy and fulfilled childhood!'

No - sadly, we're a race that rarely gives positive feedback. So I *doubly thank you* all for yours. It was like a sweet drink in a bare desert!

It also made me think! Because as parents and HEers I fear we might be in danger of being the same with our children at times. I know I am!

Somehow our society is one that's very quick to criticise and very slow to praise. Our culture, most particularly the media, seems to thrive on nit picking! Thrive on catching people out, at their very worst, and blazoning it all over the newspapers. By TV shows based on doing others down and criticising bad performances.

Criticism also seems to have become a generally accepted way in which to raise and educate our children. Both in the home and most particularly in schools.

In schools it can be horrendous. We've no doubt all been on the receiving end of humiliating and degrading criticism, usually in front of all our peers! It has replaced the cane for an abusive, but seemingly acceptable, way in which to coerce children into performing better.

And I admit that I've been guilty of it too, guilty of being damagingly critical of the things my children produce, in a misguided attempt to help them to improve.

Having been on the receiving end of over-critical parents and the schooling system I didn't know any different for a while. I shall never forget my English teacher throwing my book down on my desk in front of everyone and criticising me for expressing myself badly and that, if I continued to do it, I would never be able to write anything. You'll all have similar stories I guess.

But the point is that now I know different. No - not about the expression, I never knew what expressing myself badly was anyway - and you'll be able to judge whether she was right or not! I have learned that actually in our job of helping young people to develop, criticism is not required. Not useful. Not effective - not unless it is specifically invited.

And just because we are older, are parents, may know more, have experienced more, it does not mean that we have the *right* to criticise those still learning.

There are far more pleasant and effective ways to help our children develop.

Guiding children towards becoming intelligent, educated, mature and caring adults can be achieved equally well by our example and *by praise*.

As I see it criticism makes a learner's work never good enough. We should perhaps be mindful of the stage our learners are at and trust that as they develop as learners *they* will begin to see the need for adjustments to their work and how to develop it *for themselves*, even without criticism. If we can just step back and trust and wait! (That's the tricky bit!) Being older and wiser (!) *we* can see how maybe our children need to improve. But part of the learning process is that *they* discover it too.

Once we criticise we devalue whatever has been achieved, what someone else values, and it is extremely discouraging. More often than not it's negative! That's what we need to turn around.

We are all human. We are all under pressure from our own anxieties about getting our children to achieve. We all get to the end of our tether sometimes. Let's face it, having several small children irritating the life out of you constantly, or sulky teenagers who never get out of bed or away from one screen or another and worry you sick about their future, it's pretty difficult to turn things around and praise them!

But praise changes everyone's perspective from the negative (disheartened) to the positive (encouraged). It improves everyone's motivation. It ups the atmosphere in the house enormously. And it makes everyone happy - both the recipient and the praise-giver!

If we HE from the point of view of giving *positive* feedback rather than negative criticism to our children, which I believe we can if we think on it for a while and just remember to, I think we'll find that it goes a lot easier!

Keep in mind - 'plenty of praise makes happier days'! Corny, but true!

You certainly made my day happy. Thank you.

And in case you're all short of praise today as parents and HEers congratulations and well done to you all for opting to take on such an admirable task and mammoth commitment!

*(name and address supplied)*

## The HHE Club

**Before:** back in January 2003, with the prompting and support of a couple of Home Ed friends, I started up a Home Ed Club. We hired a small hall and had about 6 or 7 local families join us for various activities, but mainly for the social number. All was fine, but sometimes families couldn't come; the cost of the hall exceeded the subs from the families and I ended up rather out of pocket. We agreed that we would have to go public and broaden the group, so in September I duly put a Notice in the Regional Diary of the EO newsletter and went on holiday, as you do.

The flashing light on the answer phone was working so hard when we returned I thought something dire had happened. In fact, there was an amazing response to the Notice and suddenly, we had 9 new families who all wanted to join the Club. We could easily have been a victim of our own success and invited everyone to join us right there and then, but we thought it best to have families join in twos and threes so as not to overwhelm existing Club members. Even so, I remember my younger son, then 3, hiding under a chair and turning rather pale at the volume of new children invading what he considered to be his personal domain.

However, eventually, all these new families were enfolded in the broad cloak of the Club. They came with enthusiasm and energy like old friends, reunited unexpectedly, delighted to have found each other once again. They brought new ideas for activities and began to swap information - something my learned sister-in-law calls 'social capital'. They enjoy that lovely warm feeling of being part of a friendly group who all have this big thing in common - home educating. It's very exciting. By Christmas, we had expanded enough to afford The Big Hall.

**Now:** There must be something in the air. We've had a wave of new interest in the Club and we've had to close the doors to new people, as 25 families (over 45 children) is enough even for The Big Hall. Luckily, we'd already arranged an informal meeting in a local park to which we invite newcomers, but there was an awful feeling of excluding them from the fun.

After a preamble, I wrote to Anne Rix\* at EO who told me what others had done in a similar position, and we now have a Club Bulletin, courtesy of one Club member, which is emailed regularly to members (both existing and on the waiting list) to keep them informed of all sorts of things - from local places of interest that have proven particularly fruitful, to sorting out a bulk order of EO tee shirts to save on postage. We also find that there isn't enough time to talk to all Club members during the sessions, and the Bulletin means everyone gets to hear the latest news. We also link up with other groups to share information or go on outings together.

Sometimes, I worry that the Club will go belly-up, but then someone will say that it's been such a life-saver and helped them to glean information about LEA visits, autonomous learning, encouraging reluctant writers and so on. Sometimes, I think those little niggling doubts creep in, but more often, I have moments of indulgent gladness that we've managed to make this work.

*Tina Burnett-Pope, Hornsey, North London*

\* I usually suggest splitting responsibilities up as much as possible, having lots of people arrange activities that they enjoy doing anyway (so it doesn't matter too much if nobody else turns up!) and an 'events co-ordinator' who puts a monthly list/bulletin together and can be referred to when planning to ensure your event doesn't clash with something else in the area ... that leaves plenty of room for things to evolve organically (e.g. a local newsletter, website ...) from the grass-roots up, provides a variety of different kinds of activity, empowers everyone and gives the LC something to refer new members to. Occasional child-free parents' evenings are useful, too ... *Anne*

## A personal story...

I wanted to get a few things off my chest and finally decided to write to you.

I took my son, Jack, from school, last October. He is 13 in May and very mature for his age. From starting school he was always advanced I all areas and I was very pleased with his school work. However, getting him to school was always a complete nightmare; every single morning, we went through the same routine of arguments; why he had to go to school etc. etc. etc.

On arriving home from school, I had to go through endless arguments of why he had to go back the following day! Bedtime was hell on earth, because Jack knew that that was the end of that day and it all started again-tomorrow.

I felt helpless and didn't know how to cope with it all. As Jack grew older, he started with physical symptoms which had everyone worried and baffled. This went on for years.

To cut a long story short, Jack started skipping school and I started having visits from the authorities. At 12 Jack was a very intelligent boy who was fine during school holidays but ill the rest of the time; to such a point that he would be sick as he left the house and cry every morning when he knew he couldn't get out of going to school.

All this was making me ill too. My heart went out to him, but I had to do 'what was right'.

One day it all became too much and I decided to talk to Jack about home education. I had been thinking of it for a while and wondered what Jack thought. As soon as the subject was brought up, we both felt an enormous sense of relief and I knew it was right. However, I did have a huge problem; Jack had had enough of learning and wasn't interested in anything I wanted to do, even though he knew that by law, he had to be educated. So, after a few weeks of 'rest' and then lessons, I backed off and did nothing. Jack began asking why we weren't doing any work.

After a long hard talk, it was decided that we would only pursue what Jack wanted to do and see how that worked out. Since then, things have been almost perfect. He is learning guitar and doing really well, he loves art and is very good at it and spending quite some time learning skateboard manoeuvres and getting very good at that too. In between, he spends a lot of time on the computer or we 'play' games such as trivial pursuit, who wants to be a millionaire, scrabble and any quiz we come across... a favourite at the moment is a geography quiz on the computer called around the world, from a Comptons 3D atlas disc. Jack 'hates' geography, but so far knows every flag in the world and wins me around the world nine times out of ten!

So, he does English, Geography, P.E., music, art and I.T and we have the occasional day out visiting somewhere of interest. The last visit was a science museum and was a great day out. We have spent so many years arguing that I thought we could never be friends, but thank heaven, we are finally enjoying our lives together. I wouldn't have it any other way now.

If Jack was still being forced into going to school, I doubt that he would actually be in class, let alone be learning anything; at least I know where he is and what he's doing now - And of course that he is learning something!

I hope this helps anyone else who was beginning to wonder if they'd done the right thing.

*Kathryn McCartney, Sheffield E-mail: [Mccartneyk2@aol.com](mailto:Mccartneyk2@aol.com)*

P.S. Please feel free to e-mail me if you are having problems and want to share them

## Single parent and benefit

I am a single parent on income support with an 11-year-old boy. Several years ago I received a letter saying that the government planned to insist on helping lone parents to get back to work.

I put it away in the drawer, thinking that I might at worst have to go on some courses. Possibly computer courses, with my son, I thought. Maybe even one of those deals where single parents get help to buy a cheap computer? (Sadly, no longer available)

Then last summer I had another letter informing me of my interview date and time. I can dimly remember when in order to get Unemployment Benefit one had to study the situations vacant board under the eyes of the judges at the benefit office. See! I am LOOKING FOR WORK!

Finally I read the enclosed leaflet - which made it quite clear that the government has no coercive power in law; that this help is for single parents who *want* to go to work, or at least would be prepared to countenance the possibility of gainful employment.

I read the leaflet again several times to make sure. When I went for my interview I took along my son and his friend, not as an alibi, but where else might he be at the time?

As it happened, it was the school summer holidays; the friend was a school student; the office was crowded with children. So my 11 year old raised no comment. I suppose that in term time I might have felt the urge to offer some explanation of his presence.

The interviewer asked me whether I had any plans to return to work. I said that from my reading of the leaflet I was not obliged to have any plans. He said, yes, this was true. But would I like to go back to work? I said, that from my reading etc. I understood that I did not have to want to go back to work in order to continue to receive benefit. He said that was true too.

Then he assured me that the office would always be there to help me if I changed my mind. And he reached for a form for travel expenses. I said that I had walked into town, but he insisted that I have the return bus fare anyway.

It took ten minutes and I came away with a pound in my pocket.

I think I didn't mention home education at all on the basis of not volunteering gratuitous information.

As Rowenna says, there is in fact nothing they can do to you to help you if you don't want the help - whether one is home educating or not.

It is unfortunate that the department sends out such menacing-sounding letters: You must do this and that. But all I had to do was to turn up to collect my pound.

*Fiona Nicholson*

## Response to April newsletter...

It was good to hear from Barry in the April Newsletter; I particularly liked his last 2 sentences, "Put Simply - there are no rules and the only wrong way of doing it (home schooling) seems to be when we stop listening to our children and start to impose upon them the things that we think they need. They're the teachers, we're the pupils." So true, I have learnt so much from my home-educated 16-year-old daughter. I would say that my daughter is home-educated not home-schooled, but it's only words and I don't mean to be pedantic.

I also would like to congratulate Cher for having achieved what she set out to do. It is good to be able to make the LEA do what they initially claim would be impossible, and to allow your children to follow their interests at a time that is right for them.

Home educated children, it seems, make up 1% of the school age population, I would say it was slightly less. In business, no one in their right mind would change policies for such a small minority; it would not make sense to do so. I am not meaning to be pessimistic here, just realistic. We have chosen to be a minority. We chose to home educate - therefore we have to push the boundaries, but, as soon as we have gone through, the boundary will most likely revert back to what it always had been, needing to be pushed again by the next home educator. Each time the boundary is pushed it becomes easier to push the next time around, but it is unlikely that the LEAs will remove their boundaries. This is not right, but it is understandable. Things should change to allow home educated children to study in college, aged under 16, if that is what they want to do, but government policies do not usually change for such a small percentage. Sad, but true!

In my experience, all further education colleges are different, some will accept under-16s, but quite a few still won't take under-16s unless they have been excluded from school. To be honest, I wouldn't want a 14-year-old child of mine to be learning alongside these children, who have no interest in learning and are only at college because they are of compulsory school age, and not because they want to learn. Also, I wouldn't want to think all home educators thought that they could easily get their 14-year-olds into college; at the moment many people will still find this is not an option, not without a fight anyway. Further education colleges should make space for home educated children and LEAs should be happy to pay for the tuition fees, but unfortunately, the majority of other people

who are taking GCSEs in further education colleges (at the moment) are those doing re-sits and those excluded from school; there could be one or two eager adult learners but these are few and far between at GCSE level.

Would you want your 14 or 15-year-old doing GCSEs in college with people who didn't want to be there? If there were enough home educated children wanting to do these things in any one area, it would be nice to think that a separate learning group could be created. I have been told that this was set up in one area but folded because the LEA wanted to do an OFSTED report, which the parents were not happy about. If we accept LEA help, they will also expect us to accept their interference. Meanwhile, I think we should be asking for LEAs to fund distance learning for the home-educated children who wanted to do this, but again, the LEA may think it has a right to become more involved if it is funding the venture. I think we should be careful in what we wish for.

I have friends who have tried to get their children, aged under 16, into colleges; one family were initially told that they would have to pay the full tuition fees, but then the offer was withdrawn and they were told the college would only accept payment from the LEA. The LEA refused to pay. Instead of fighting this the family decided to seek out different options, their young adult spent a year doing work experience, then found a college course that would allow them to continue working in their chosen field, and to attend college; the work experience place also offered part time work whilst they were at college. And to think, this family could have pushed the LEA to allow them to take the 'wrong' option without even realising. We never know what is round the next corner.

I personally don't think we should push our children into taking GCSEs, when they might be able to go on to do something that interests them without the help of these old fashioned exams. I think we

should all be aware that most colleges require a C pass or above on 5 GCSEs (at least) before they will take a school going child onto an A level course. Home educated children, on the other hand, can ask to be considered on 'exceptional circumstances' and could be accepted onto an A level course, if they know their subjects. It is up to the individual college, not the LEA, whether they accept home educated 16 year olds, who have not taken GCSEs and will be above the compulsory school age when attending.

So, to Jackie who asked, "GCSEs or not?" - it really is down to personal choice. If you think that putting your daughter through the stress of GCSEs is worth it, (OK, she may not find them stressful at all), and you think that having passed GCSEs will enable your daughter to move on in a way that she wants to, then go ahead. GCSEs are worth as much as you want them to be. I know of home educating families whose children have taken GCSEs from home, relatively inexpensively, and have felt that this was worth doing to further their child's career prospects.

My opinions are only that, the opinions of one person who has experience of LEAs, further education colleges and home education. We have to make our own decisions and can only learn from our own mistakes; some say a mistake is just a part of our learning process.

After all that, all I can say is; weigh up all the options and make the decision that is right for you and your family.

*Jo Borthen, 57 Florida Drive, Exeter, EX4 5EX Devon email:jo4eo@aol.com*

## **Bad Press for Home Ed?**

An issue has arisen which may affect all Home Educators, and we in Hedge (The group in Hastings and the surrounding area) were hoping we could open a discussion to see if we can prevent the situation from snowballing.

We went on a trip to a national organisation (which shall remain nameless) back in December, which was greatly enjoyed by kids and parents alike. There were a couple of incidents that had to be dealt with involving the behaviour of the kids but overall the outing was deemed successful. Apparently we were the first Home Ed group that they had catered for, although they have visits from schools all the time. Since then other HE groups from different areas have visited and I have been made aware that the organisation are concerned about HE groups visiting, due to the unruly and disrespectful behaviour of some kids and the unwillingness of their parents to do anything about it.

In my opinion it would be dreadful if we were to lose fantastic (free) resources like this and I have written a letter on behalf of Hedge to the organisation to try to convince them to work with us to solve the problem rather than taking more drastic measures such as banning all HE groups, (rumour has it that this is an option they are considering.) I know that technically they cannot discriminate against any group, but it is within their power to make trips difficult to organise or unpleasant once under way.

However this seems to be a superficial short-term solution, as convincing the establishment in question is a cure rather than prevention. And how many other organisations feel similarly about Home Educators? Surely the fact that the issue arose in the first place needs to be addressed by the Home Ed community and we need to be aware that not all people are as tolerant of, and

indulgent towards our children as we are. **We** know that our kids are forward thinking, spontaneous, enthusiastic, thirsty for knowledge and eager to display all of the above as energetically as possible, but to someone accustomed to the herd mentality of our schooling system this can come across as overwhelming and often downright rude. Then of course, there are the moments when it is the **parents** who want their children to be there taking advantage of all the wonderful resources available to them, while the kids on the other hand, would rather be elsewhere.

In my opinion, it is all about finding a balance. Most of the time it is entirely appropriate that my kids make decisions about whether they partake of an event or an activity. But if we have made a specific trip to visit a resource, or the resource has gone to a lot of effort to come to us (and we have chosen to be present), then I feel that common decency requires respect for the people who are giving their time and expertise for our benefit. Sometimes it is out of the hands of the children, and it is our responsibility as adults to make a decision to remove a crying infant or a toddler who finds it hard to stop running around.

In Hedge, we have grown considerably as a group over the past year both in size and in ethos and we have found it invaluable to have monthly meetings where we can air our concerns and battle out our differences. Rather than creating tension or bad feeling between us, this promotes a close-knit community where we all feel empowered and part of the decision making process. Some of the ideas that we implemented have been invaluable in creating a supportive and caring network and it has been useful to have guidelines already in place when a situation arises. For instance, sometimes it is hard for a parent to give guidance to their own child in front of a bunch of other home educating parents lest they appear repressive and failing the 'spirit of home education'. Or sometimes a parent may not be present in a room where unsociable behaviour is taking place. We in Hedge have decided that it is perfectly acceptable for an adult (other than the parent) to resolve a situation if it is done with love, respect and understanding. Far from creating bad feeling among us, it is often a relief to have that responsibility removed from our shoulders.

Another guideline that we have found useful is to provide suitable events for all age groups and to advise if an activity has a specific age range. This doesn't mean anyone is excluded if they want to be there, or if there is that age old problem of toddlers thru' to teenagers in one family, but it does ensure that those parents are aware that they need to take responsibility for the smooth running of the workshop or lecture.

This is by no means meant to be prescriptive, and what works for us in Hedge may not work for other groups. We don't always get it right, but what is important is that there is the space for discussion and review.

While HE is growing so successfully nationwide it is necessary now more than ever to re-educate those who believe that all home-educated kids are troublemakers and have been excluded from school (I have been on more than one trip where the facilitators drew straws to see who would deal with us, for that reason!) I'm sure there are many of us who believe that it is not our problem and if certain establishments are going to be so stuffy then there are plenty of other opportunities available to us. I would say that those people have a point ...to a point. But we live in the real world and while I am more than happy for my kids to become adults with alternative lifestyles, I would still like to provide them with the option to integrate into mainstream society if they so desire.

Well ...I've set the ball rolling – it would be great to hear other people's views on the matter!

If you want to know more about us you can visit our website at [www.hedge-education.org.uk](http://www.hedge-education.org.uk)

*Rachel Lovera*



## Archives

Compiled by Sarah Guthrie

*Looking back at Education through the Press*

*(A regular part of early newsletters presenting a miscellany of education news stories)*

**This month: MATHS**

1978: HMI's survey was described as "...this generation's biggest investigation into primary schools - which shows that reading standards have improved but maths are still decidedly shaky." (Guardian)

1980: "Most maths teaching is ... totally inadequate for today's needs;" complains the Institute of Mathematics. It warns that students are put off for life by being presented with too much abstract maths too early in their careers. (Guardian)

1980: Teaching maths to resentful pupils where neither teacher nor pupils has any choice is ... mutual torture. (Letter from a teacher, Guardian)

1981: Japanese in the UK worry that a British education will leave their children deficient in maths and so Japanese schools are being set up here to compensate. (Daily Telegraph)

1982: By the time they are 15, many girls find maths hard and enjoy it less than at 11, according to a survey at the Department of Education and Science. (Guardian)

1983: "Doing sums is not the way to teach modern maths and it is debatable whether maths is as important a subject as is commonly claimed," said a Cambridge maths tutor. (TES)

1983: HMIs reported that Sixth formers find maths teaching rigid and dull and unrelated to the real world. They call for urgent new teaching methods. (Daily Telegraph)

1983: "One of the most significant causes of failure lies in over-hasty attempts to get children working at an abstract or formal level. As a result, children become lost trying to manipulate symbols which have lost any real meaning," explained a maths project leader. (TES)

1984: "Parts of the mathematical software pack for the government produced micro-computer programme for primary schools contain ... serious mathematical deficiencies" said the Mathematical Association. (Daily Telegraph)

1985: Research shows that many employees without maths qualifications or even with a strong aversion to maths were nevertheless confident at maths in their jobs. Few employees, young or old, could see much value to themselves in the maths they have been subjected to in school. (TES)

## LETTERS PAGES

### The Books we Sell

Firstly I would like to give a big "thank you" to Hazel Hutton and Bridget Elgie who jointly took on the major task of selling EO books for a number of years. Thank you both for keeping the books flowing out to those who needed them. Now books are sold by June Wilson-Billing and you will find her contact details on the inside back cover.

We have recently struck some excellent price deals for the books we sell and I do not think you will find any of them at a lower price anywhere else. Alan Thomas' book on the research he did into home-educated children, entitled 'Educating Children at Home' has been reprinted. The rrp for this book is 16.99 but EO members can buy it from us for £9.

We are now stocking Jane Lowe and Alan Thomas' book 'Educating Your Child at Home' with a rrp of £14.99 and this too is available for £9. This is a useful handbook with emphasis on a variety of learning styles, with practical examples from primary through higher education. Post and packing is an additional £1.50 regardless of how many books you buy.

Information about all the books we sell is available on the web site where they can be bought on-line. For those without web access send an sae to June Wilson-Billing and she will send you a publication order form.

*Priscilla Park-Weir*

### Access to home education amongst ethnic minorities

In reference to the council meeting minutes of February 2004, which appeared in the April NL, I would like to offer some ideas to anyone who is interested in informing ethnic minorities about home education.

Firstly, as a former anti-racist and community development officer, may I take this opportunity to talk about terminology. "People of colour" is no longer an accurate phrase, as many ethnic minorities are white. Also, I've always thought that white was a colour too!

Black people, or visible ethnic minorities, and invisible ethnic minorities sometimes

form associations and groups which promote culture, language and religion. The best way to reach these people is to contact your local Racial Equality Council (RECs) and send them a flyer about EO, which you intend to reach ethnic minorities. To find out about RECs contact the Commission for Racial Equality in London (they have a website).

These minority groups may also be willing to come to a local EO group and talk about their culture and customs, story tell and may even provide a dance class for children. These groups were also the people I turned to for advice on translating information, although formally trained translators can be found locally and nationally.

I do believe that home education is a viable option for positive reasons and, sadly, for the reason that racist bullying in school is the main reason that some black children do not achieve and do not have happy school experiences. Another scenario that I came across in my work all too frequently was that of the victim of racism-turned-bully, who eventually gets excluded from school. This was more prevalent amongst boys.

Please do contact your Racial Equality Council - they are not just for taking cases, but also for promoting relationships.

*Gita Prasad, 21 Cozens Road, Norwich NR1  
1JJ Tel: 01603 765 730*

*Note: Regular visitors to the EO website will have noted that there have been links to a number of minority/specialist organisations for some while.*

*See < [http://www.education-](http://www.education-otherwise.org/Links/Useful_HE_Orgs.htm)*

*otherwise.org/Links/Useful\_HE\_Orgs.htm >*

*Links to various minority/special interest email lists can be found at < [http://www.education-](http://www.education-otherwise.org/Links/internet_lists.htm)*

*otherwise.org/Links/internet\_lists.htm >*

*JH AR*

### Another response to 'Diary of an Educating Nobody'

A like-minded read is a joy. Supportive, thought provoking, free, simple advice. Enjoy going outside. Marvellous!

We'll be face painting in the Kidz field at the Glastonbury Festival. E-mail and let us know where you will be.

*Polly Hallan, Rod and Rory (3).  
Tel: 07929862138 E-mail:  
[mrsmigqins13@hotmail.com](mailto:mrsmigqins13@hotmail.com)*

## Newsletter Advertising

Hello, I'm Gita and I have been coordinating the advertising for the Newsletter for six months. Some members and other advertisers have been sending me leaflets and flyers for display. Could members note that I do not have a display, and the advertising I arrange is confined to the Newsletter. Occasionally, advertisers do send samples - but after a discussion. So please don't waste your postage and do get in touch with me regarding your advertising enquiries.

Also, if you use a product/service which you would recommend to others, tell the provider to advertise in the Newsletter.\*

Please contact me by e-mail or telephone and please do leave a message. (Details are in the inside front cover of this NL)

Gita Prasad

\* But please note we do not print 'advertorials' as letters or articles. Anne Rix

## Visit from an advisor

George (7) has never been to school. We informed the authorities of our decision to home educate when George was a baby. We had no contact from them.

Recently we got the local paper to do a piece on us and obviously the education authority got in touch. We had a quick meeting with an education social worker who was helpful and then we had our visit from an advisor.

Prior to his arrival we were a little anxious, mainly because of the horror stories I'd read through EO of other people's experiences. I'm pleased to say the man who visited us was lovely - he was really pleased with George's progress; he never criticised anything and was very positive. George had a chat with him and read a bit of one of his books to him. It was a pleasure to have someone taking an interest and praising George's 'work'.

So anyone worried about 'visits', it doesn't have to be a bad experience. I suppose every family and area is different though but for us ... we're quite looking forward to next year's visit.

Leanne, Tony & George Osgerby, 2, West Garth Gardens, Cayton, Scarborough, YO11 3SF  
E-mail: [a.osgerby@btinternet.com](mailto:a.osgerby@btinternet.com)

## New South Bucks Local Contact

I have recently become Local Contact for South Bucks. This is a new area as previously Georgeanne Scott valiantly covered the entire county on her own from way up in the north of the county! As I live right down in the south of Bucks and I was wanting to do something useful for EO in return for all the wonderful support I have had, it seemed like a good idea to offer my assistance. Georgeanne was very happy to share the work load as she is so far away from my end of the county!

I would like to say 'Hello' to any EO member in South Bucks (roughly Aylesbury and south) and would be very happy to hear from any of you - just to say 'Hi' to me, let me know what you're up to, any information on groups that meet up, etc, etc. I live in Marlow Bottom with husband Peter and 15 yr old boy who came out of school 4 yrs ago after 2 terms at secondary school. I look forward to getting to know more of you and to welcoming new members!

Gail Borrows Tel: 01628 483895  
email: [gail.borrows@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:gail.borrows@tiscali.co.uk)

(apologies for omitting last time - ed.)

## Solution to taking GCSEs

We are a home educating family that has recently been considering the question of GCSEs and, if you live in the Essex/ Hertfordshire/ Cambridgeshire area, you might be interested in the solution we have found.

For the past term our 14-years-old, home educated, daughters have been attending The Christian School at Takeley (close to Stansted Airport) for one and a half days each week. This is a very small, independent school for 5 - 16 year-olds, which is happy to work with Home Educators and is an examination centre for AQA. We have found the school to be very helpful and flexible in its approach; it has a positive attitude and a happy atmosphere. We had some reservations about moving from total home education to flexi-schooling but it has been a great success and we are delighted with progress so far.

If you would like to find out more, the school's website can be found at [www.tcst.org.uk](http://www.tcst.org.uk) (email: [office@takeley-christian.essex.sch.uk](mailto:office@takeley-christian.essex.sch.uk) telephone: 01279 871182)

K.J.C. (name and address supplied)

## EO Gathering

I just wanted to say another **GREAT BIG THANK YOU** to the organisers of the EO gathering at Ironbridge, Staffordshire, last February. Yvette Hartley, you did a brilliant job in organising the hostel for us all and our trip to the *Enginuity Museum* - not a hitch in sight - thank you! And Sarah and Alan Cook enabled the valiant army of volunteer cooks to produce some delicious menus. Thank you for catering so well for my special diet.

Yet again I thoroughly enjoyed the whole gathering, the company, meeting up with old friends, mixing with so many like-minded and yet very different people. It was yet another opportunity to visit a different, and previously unknown, part of the country. The floods, though I'm sure very unpleasant for those affected, were incredible to see and the flood barriers, in action for the very first time in this country!

I get a real boost out of these gatherings and am looking forward to the next one - if I can manage to get all the way up to Scotland - will certainly try!

Seems like a very long time since there was a gathering down in the south east, any chance of one being organised in the not too distant future?

Thanks to my 'EO family', for all the support and encouragement I continue to receive! See you again soon.

Gail Borrows Tel: 01628 483895  
email: [gail.borrows@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:gail.borrows@tiscali.co.uk)

(apologies for omitting last time - ed.)

## Home Education Research

Following publication of her request in the newsletter a year or so ago, a number of readers helped Trevena Whitbread with her BA research project investigating admission of Home Educated children to colleges and universities, by completing a questionnaire; a few subsequently gave interviews.

Trevena is very grateful for the help she received from EO members and other HErs. Her thesis is now completed and she has sent a copy to the NL co-ordinator, stating that it is for EO either to edit and publish or to keep and send to anyone who might be interested regarding young people going on to college and university who have been home educated. The dissertation is 52 pages in total; Anne Rix (retiring NL Co-ord)

has an electronic copy which can be sent out on request by email (it will also be put on EO's website).

*Pam Vickers*

## GWERSYLL DEWI SANT--ST DAVIDS' CAMP-- -NEW CAMPSITE

Sat 19th to Sat 26th June 2004

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

Coastal camping at a **NEW CAMPSITE**

(caravan site next door for tourers and statics)

Places strictly limited, bookings **ONLY**

(INCLUDING DAY VISITORS)

N.B. Bookings close on 9th June

**THIS IS A FAMILY CAMP**

i.e. No unaccompanied persons  
under the age of 18 yrs

Send SAE for booking form and information to:  
GDS, 48 Marlow Bottom, Marlow, Bucks, SL7 3NB  
GDS is a not-for-profit camp, constituted to and supported by Education Otherwise

## PEAK CAMP 2004

Friday 2nd July - Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July

Open to all EO members and to those interested in home education.

Two large fields for tents and touring caravans; showers etc., toilets, small shop.

**Charges** (payable direct to the farm, not to EO) per person per night:

Adults: £2.00, Children: £0.80,

Cars: £1.00, Caravans: £4.50

No need to book - families stay as long or as short as they wish. (however, it would be useful if I had an indication of the number of families coming that I could pass on to the farm.)

No pre-organised activities; walks, cycle rides, rock climbing, circle dancing and shared meals popular in the past. Cycle hire centres/tracks nearby, plus riverside walks. Offers of shared activities or workshops always welcome. Plenty of time to share experiences of HE and to socialise freely.

Site as usual: Barracks Farm, Beresford Dale, near Hartington (grid reference 123 586).

From A515 between Buxton & Ashbourne, take B5054 through Hartington village. In 2 miles turn left towards Beresford Dale. Barracks Farm is on the left, near the end of the road.

**More details:** Gary Podmore, 52 Rupert Road, Sheffield S7 1RP. Tel 0114 2585702

## FRENCH EXCHANGE ...

Hello! I am Félix DETHIER, Belgian-French boy, 15 years old, 16 next 7<sup>th</sup> June. See below : I am the one on the right side. My presentation will be a little bit long, because I need to give you enough information to get at least relevant advices or even proposals at my following request: I am looking for an English-speaking family who could welcome me into their home for a few weeks or months.

### 1 - Description

#### of my family:

Mananne sitting on the middle is my mother Belgian and Jean Claude standing my father is from France. I have only one brother younger Noé, 13 years old. On the left side is Alise. She is not my sister! She is a friend, practicing home schooling too who accompanied us two months in Sinai /Egypt last December, January.



### 2 - About school: Both of us have never been to school. We world schooling!

**Meaning:** Since we are small children, we think we are lucky boys to move everywhere in the world. My parents have organized their life to be just enough self sufficient to show us how world is beautiful. (My father owns a restaurant French classical bistro in Lyon that he is renting since many years and I never had been in our flat in Lyon which is always rented too: we have an official French address, but no home! (My father says we are very rich... in free time!)).

Since I am 3 years, all family does every year about 3 trips during more or less 3 months each one. Between, we share one month between Lyon in France and Eupen east Belgium to visit reciprocal family who enjoyed seeing us regularly. The places I love to be is Mongolia for horse riding in nature without end or fences and living in friends' gers, watching for hours hundred of Whales coming each year in peninsula Valdes/Argentina, or I love also Cambodia for at least extraordinary Angkor Temples, China and his extraordinary variety, Mali in the native welcome villages along the Niger river, Negros island in Philippines where I am writing to you actually, Nepal for fantastic trekking... nature, native or incredible cities as New-York, Hong Kong or La Paz we adapt and find everywhere friendly and great people. World is really wonderful.

We belong to the French home schooling association "**Les Enfants d'abord**" in France ([www.enfantsdabord.org](http://www.enfantsdabord.org)). (Jennifer FANDARD the responsible of the Association is one of our friend.)

Since I am small: I always visited pilots' cabin for let them signing my travel book. I want to become a civil pilot. Not surprising!

I must explain you also that. In France, the royal way to become pilot is government Enac school where you can enter in by hard competitive examination starting 18 years old (No more than 45 succeed in 2003 on 1200 enrollments!)

The only tests for this hard examination in are only mathematics, physics hardest level one year after baccalaureate (final French examination before College), and perfect writing and oral English.

Already my English I learn mainly by traveling is good, but not fluent and with too much French style! Which is, may be nice, but I want and need to speak almost perfect English and correct my French accent.

The best advice I received to succeed my aim is first to improve foreign languages first English, then Spanish and German.

### How am I school working while traveling?

Since small, we always followed seriously the school program ourselves with books and teachers-books for correction, and with my parents' help in case we need. Inspectors control us every year in June. That was the system I adopted for me till last year.

Since last September 2003, to assure my dream, after good public exam and good Inspectors' controls, I have been accepted in governmental hard level classes by correspondences, named "Cned" in second class.

I am autonomous, hard worker and meticulous in my progression studies to do always better. Yes yes true! My passionate motivation can be my reactor as level enough to take off!

Consequently, not perfect, but I get good results and good marks in most of the subjects. I will go next September always by same correspondences courses Cned in the most difficult section First class, section S: math's and physics. But to succeed exams, I must be good in all subjects, not only languages.

My home works and lessons are sent and come back rapidly corrected through Internet, easy practical way! Genius, because never mind where am I. I just need Internet close to me or not far:

It is actually the case where we are in Negros oriental island, besides Cebu island in Philippines. We leave south Dumaguete among friendly fishers families. (I was 3 years old the first time we came here. I passed already more than one year and half in that place where we come about every three years to visit our Filipino friends that we help also.)

For school example, in Physics, my home works come back corrected with good advices from my experimented teacher. Actually, Internet is at 30 kilometers (around 18 miles) from the place we settle, and my father is going to Dumaguete city with USB key included my duties registered twice a week to send it. If I need experimentation, I will do it grouped by private lessons when I come back France.

So, as you can see on the next picture, just taking a few days ago in our bamboo hut where we are till end of this may, I am working with a good lab tap adapted to the courses with educational CD as Encyclopedias Universal's...



For the mean courses as maths or French, if I need, I am be able to join support almost directly from French teachers through Internet. So, for my schoolwork, I am self-sufficient.

I must also practice regularly weekly for preparing my gymnastic exam at least these two sports: **soccer** or some football I love to exercise, also **long distance running jogging**, and eventually swimming and volley-ball I like practice too, if available. I forget I like to play ping-pong, I like to trek.

**Daily life:** I am easy to get along with and used to adapt

quickly. I sleep well, eat everything, yes true, no special dish, even very simple, even no meat if there is not! I can do my housework! What else? Planes are not my only enthusiasm. I like to read lot novels...

I like listening classical music and mainly opera singers, but also world music like from South America or classical Arabic music.

I would like to have the possibility also to participate in a school a few hours a week where I could be present in English classes or in two others subjects like maths or physics or geography/history or others activities, where I could practice more and more my English.

I have no real idea of which kind of family could welcome me, and how long, I will say between few weeks and 3 or 4 months... If there are teenagers home schooling in the family, could be better, but even if there are smaller children I will be agree, if I can work in a quiet room or place for my daily work which is at least 8 hours a day I need. I prefer also not to go in a family too too busy, so that I can enjoy sharing time with them. I hope my request seems interesting to you enough for sending me your proposals or advices. I tell you good-bye, and good continuation.

Felix

My email address is: felixdethier@yahoo.fr, but send also your reply or any kind of questions to me and my father: I let my father to explain others important details of possible organization...

**Hello! I am the father, Jean Claude MARCEL** (marceljc@wanadoo.fr). I would like to add to Felix's request that the possibilities are the following:

1 – Felix could be welcome into a home of an English-speaking family after this coming summer for a few weeks or months (July and August Felix will go to La Paz in an Spanish-speaking family) and then the teenager of the welcome family will accompany us leaving 2 weeks in a native village in the Amazon forest in Rurrenabake, north La Paz. We did already that a few days last summer, it was so great we want to do it longer.

Principally he could be received from October to... December 04, or January/February to May 05, summer July and August 05, then from October to December 05, February to April 05. Every year, in September and sometimes January he is in France. **We could also imagine 6 months or more with eventually a break of 2 weeks in January on the middle, or even without.**

2 – **Of course all the expenses will be paid in advance, and even more. We will accompany him at the beginning for better acquaintance.** We can also exchange with a young member of the welcome family who could accompany us while traveling as trekking in Everest part in Nepal (Could be planned for next February to may 05) or elsewhere even as he wishes! Like now, in Philippines, we have a French girl who is 17 and accompanies us the 3 months. We met her and her family at the association "Les enfants d'abord" (Translation: children first.).

3 – We don't really see inconvenient about Felix: he is much matured and easy friendly boy. We, the family, also can settle for a while not far from Felix, renting somewhere around a flat. **Every thing is possible to arrange.** We are open mind to take care of all your proposals.

**Thank you for your help. Yours truly ... Jean Claude Marcel**

marceljc@wanadoo.fr

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#### *After Home Education ...?*

I left school initially at the age of 14. I came to home-education after enduring months of bullying. Although my original reasons for pressuring my parents into letting me leave 'the system' were negative, I discovered many positive reasons to home educate.

When I was 15, my parents did not think that GCSEs were one of them. I had been self-taught for a year by this time, but reluctantly I agreed to go back to school. It was a different one from my original secondary school, but I was not content there. I felt that school didn't fit me any more. Perhaps I had outgrown it. After four months, I promised my parents I'd find a way to study GCSEs at home, and again they let me teach myself. In the four years since, I have experienced a sixth form, a technology college and a university. In my search for something that works for me, I am pleased to have found that The Open University does.

Although my experiences have been very positive, they were not, of course, all rosy. Studying for exams at home was not an easy decision to make. On top of that, I had to obtain syllabuses, find centres and defeat obstacles that I remember thinking were insurmountable. Despite not having any tangible help from my parents (they both worked full-time and were divorcing throughout), I succeeded in what I had set out to do.

Though usually an enjoyable journey, home education has its difficult points. If you are a young adult who was home educated, I would love to hear stories of your experiences to include in the book I am now writing.

Please e-mail me at [Martinalouise@hotmail.com](mailto:Martinalouise@hotmail.com)

or write to *Martina Moodie*, Hembury Orchard, Frithelstock, Torrington, EX38 8JT

## EDUCATION OTHERWISE ADVERTISEMENTS

### Resource listing

based on National Curriculum materials available to parents.

Covering all primary levels, and some of secondary.

Most useful to parents looking for a structured or NC approach.

Available free from

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

or please send a stamped addressed envelope plus £1 for printing costs to  
H. Turnbull, Hadlow House, 2 Hadlow Road, Sidcup, Kent, DA14 4AF

### EO Hoodies and Mugs

#### Hooded sweatshirts

with the **triangle logo** and the letters **SINC** now available in navy blue and black children's and adult sizes (£15 for children's and £20 for adults' including postage and packaging).

#### EO 25th anniversary mugs

available in white and red with a picture of **Archie**

(£5 including postage and packaging).

If you are interested in the above please contact [Jill.Fisher@care4free.net](mailto:Jill.Fisher@care4free.net)

**or ring at 0116 212 8120 for further details**

### 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.

Lucinda Smart, 4 Chester Gardens,  
Church Gresley, Swadlincote,  
Derbyshire, DE11 9PU.

### EO Home Education Cards

Extra cards are available from:

EO HE Cards,

5 Ridge Way, Aldridge, Walsall WS9 0HL

Please send a stamped, addressed envelope

plus 1 x loose 2<sup>nd</sup> class stamp

for each card required.

### EO Car Stickers

#### *Help spread the word.*

Please send a reasonably large SAE to:  
Ali Willer, 28 Cozens Hardy Rd, Sprowston,  
Norwich NR7 8QF

*Other stationery also available ~ please see inside back cover, and page 16 of Handbook*

### EO/NEC vouchers

- £30 discount per course -

A5 SAE to Sarah Cook, The Old Cottage,  
Croglin, Carlisle, CA4 8RZ

(quoting EO membership number)  
or [sarah@croggies.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:sarah@croggies.freeseve.co.uk)

## REVIEWS

### **The Usborne Introduction to Art**

by *Rosie Dickens & Mari Griffith*

This is an excellent book particularly for those who are studying art. It covers art/artists from before 1400 up to the present day. What I particularly liked was the fact that the book is Internet-Linked so you can go onto numerous web-sites to find out about the artists as well as other paintings they have done. It is the sort of book that opens up the whole world of art and artists. The colour pictures are wonderful!

Francesca Houghton (14)

£14.99 ISBN 0-7460-4715-0 *Usborne*

### **The Usborne Book of Art Skills by Fiona Watt**

This book has not stopped being looked at since we received it! We all love art and have several books along the lines of 'things to make and do', but many either seem too basic, or have pictures of finished works which are so perfect that they can be demoralising for our budding artists. This one, however, is different. It contains many fresh ideas, or old ideas given a new twist, and is both written and presented in such a style that it is appealing and accessible to all ages. We were all desperate to get started straight away. The only drawback is the arguing over whose turn it is to look at the book next....

Karen McIntyre Bhaty with Holly (7) and Hamish (4)

£12.99 ISBN 0-7460-4746-0 *Usborne*

### **Drawing Cartoons by Anna Milbourne**

I like drawing cartoons and this book has given me lots of hints about how to draw them. It tells you how to do everything about cartoons, such as expressions, animals, colours, scenes and backgrounds. There are tips on animation and drawing cartoons on computers, with links in every section for access to websites connected with cartoons. You don't need to have a computer to use the book, but it is good to have information in useful internet activities and resources. The instructions are easy and the drawings of all sorts of cartoons are bright and colourful. This is a really good book for anyone who would like to draw cartoons, or for anyone who already does and would like more ideas for them. Internet linked.

Freyja Steenman-Clark (11)

£6.99 ISBN 0-7460-4842-4 *Usborne*

### **Fall Out by Lynda Waterhouse**

Stella Kirby is a girl who has had a huge argument with her best friend, Lottie. They never see each other any more. This book is about what her life is like without a best friend and while her other friends are all behaving oddly. As the book progresses, Stella realises that she actually wants to go back to being best friends with Lottie, but it seems to be very difficult. This is a good book which I enjoyed reading.

Emma Whitehall (13)

£5.99 ISBN 1-85340-758-5 *Piccadilly*

### **Dustumust by Sue Mackay**

This funny book is about a bed bug called Dustumust who is very grumpy and rude. He meets a boy called Timmy whose family is having money trouble, which means they might have to move house. Dustumust and Timmy have lots of exciting adventures often involving the Bed Bugs. Since it's against the Bed Bug Law to talk to humans, Timmy and Dustumust have to avoid being caught talking together. They become firm friends and Dustumust finds the solution to Timmy's family's money trouble. This is a fast-paced book with lots of variety and I would recommend it for six to eight year olds with a good sense of humour.

Alex Burnett-Pope (8)

£8.95 ISBN 1-85776-734-9 *Book Guild*

### **The Usborne Illustrated Dictionary of Maths**

Another excellent value book from Usborne this is for anyone studying maths. Suitable for a wide age (including adults) it has over 500 clear definitions of all the main mathematical terms and concepts. There are hundreds of clear explanatory illustrations and diagrams with plenty of worked examples showing how to put the theory into practice. Lots of useful cross-referencing and many Internet links for those who like to use the web. We have found it to be a most valuable and frequently used resource. A book you will dip into time and time again.

Susan Hooper with Oliver (10)

£8.99 ISBN 0-760-5157-3 *Usborne*

### **The Gold Spectre by Elizabeth Arnold**

A wonderful ghost story about a city boy, Joe, who is sent to stay with grandparents in Scotland only to get involved with a crime from the distant past involving the Gold Rush of 1868 and what turns out to be his murdered ancestor. One of the Black Cat series, a fabulous read.

Carole Yeomans with Jack (7)

£4.99 ISBN 0-7136-6655-2 *A&C Black*

### **Maisie Morris and the Awful Arkwrights**

by *Joanna Nadin*

Maisie must save all the old people at Withering Heights Retirement Home from the evil owners Mr and Mrs Arkwright. Enter Mr Cumberbund and Monkey Onassi! I liked this book because it's strange, I think Mr Cumberbund is funny with all his magic equipment and medicines. Maisie is great with her flying bed and Monkey Onassis - international jewel thief - is really funny.

Denise Ridgeway with Lewis (9) and Katie (5)

£4.99 ISBN 0-7445-9091-4 *Walker*

## Let's Go Shoolie-Shoo

by Helen MacGregor and Bobbie Gargrave

Comprises book, CD with 41 audio tracks and CD-Rom with 48 videoclips to enable children to explore different sound and musical styles. Includes music from different times and different cultures. Easy songs to learn and dance movements to interpret. An enjoyable resource for any child interested in music and movement. Suggests age 5+ but younger children could easily take part.

Carole Yeomans with Jack (7) and Luke (4)

£19.99 ISBN 0-7136-6615-3 A&C Black

## Woolly Jumper – the story of wool

### Sticky Jam – the story of sugar

both by Meredith Hooper and Katharine McEwen

The beauty of these books is that they are presented as a storybook while incorporating how wool and jam are made. Rowan's interest was kept throughout the books by the use of rhymes and each page ending in the same line, which he enjoyed saying. The books cover the process of how wool is made starting from the sheep eating the grass and ended up in a jumper being knitted. With the jam the process began with the sun and the rain and ended with a boy Harry eating a jam sandwich. Also at the end of each book there is a summary of the procedure and more facts as to how the wool and jam are made. Rowan has enjoyed these books and we have now read them quite a few times, each time he is learning a bit more about wool and jam.

Kathleen with Rowan (5)

£4.99 each Walker

## The Male Agenda by Barry Durdant Hollamby

This is a book that explores the hidden territory of men's emotional experiences and needs. It's an excellent book, written clearly, and well set out, with lots of useful practical ideas for helping men open up their inner life. With chapters such as *Fatherhood, Creating Time, What Does A Man Need and What Goes on Inside a Man*, it's a book that home educating dads might find useful. And as men and boys don't talk much about their feelings and emotions, it might also be a good read for some HE mums. The responsibility for bringing up children still rests primarily with mothers, and those with sons might like a glimpse at the sort of things that are going on in the male psyche and the sorts of problems boys and young men face. It's a positive, energy-enhancing book that deserves to be widely read.

Ian Wild

From *The Art Of Change*, PO Box 441 East Grinstead, RH18 5BH. £9.99 plus p&p. 01342 823809.

[www.artofchange.co.uk](http://www.artofchange.co.uk).

## Slime by Maureen Fry

This is a rather bizarre book about 2 witches, a cat, a frog (Slime) and a boy named Walter. One of the witches has become too human and so is taken to hospital to recover! There she meets Walter who is in

hospital as he has become tired and weak and 'behaves as if he is being haunted'. Very strange things ensue, some funny and some just plain odd - both patients recover but from the care they received in the hospital or magic? Although I quite enjoyed this book Chloe found it all rather confusing and soon lost interest. It was perhaps too complicated with the 2 stories (the witches and Walter's) merging into one and a 'jumpy' sort of plot. I think this book would appeal to slightly older children (perhaps 6/7+) who enjoy slightly weird books with off-beat humour. I'd recommend looking out for it at the library before buying.

Emma Sibley, with Chloe (5)

£9.95. ISBN 1-85776-797-7 Book Guild

## Have a go! Science Test

### year 5 (ages 9-10) and year 6 (ages 10-11)

Each book contains two 45 min tests covering the national curriculum. There is no discussion about the topics covered, nor any suggestions for further reading. The questions require a tick, one word, or short sentence answers; with answers and parent's notes provided. Oliver has a great interest in science and found them fun to do, although he did not want to do them within a time restriction (however he finished them in approximately 25 min). I don't feel that many home educators would find a need for these unless they were following the national curriculum and wished to test their child's knowledge. Oliver gave them a rating of 9/10 for being interesting and felt that things were explained well. I think that his interest in tests may be related to the fact that he has only been out of the system for 3 months and is still thinking in that way!!

Debbie Landsbert with Oliver (8)

£3.99 each Andrew Brodie

## Other Echoes by Adele Geras

It's about a girl called Flora Baxter. She's in an English boarding school and she's very ill. She's dreaming about when she was much younger and living in the tropical paradise of North Borneo. She's in an African boarding school and the only girl who likes her is a girl who is 2 years younger than her, and her name is Vinnie. Flora finds out about an abandoned house and a war that many people died in. I thought that the book was very good and very sad in places. I would recommend this book to girls 10 and over

Tabitha Cromie (10)

ISBN 0385-60688-5 [www.davidfickling.co.uk](http://www.davidfickling.co.uk)

## Ghost Abbey by Robert Westall

This book is about a girl called Maggi who lives with her father and twin brothers in Yorkshire. They all move when her father gets a new job helping to repair an abbey in Cheshire. Strange things start happening when Maggi explores the abbey and opens a locked door where she finds some teddy bears. She sees a man who turns out to be a ghost and bad things happen to other people who are trying to damage the abbey. The teddies

turn out to be valuable and they try to sell them to pay for a new roof for the abbey. Lots of other spooky things happen, which Maggi thinks are caused by something in the abbey. This is an exciting story, which I liked because it is well-written, with good descriptions so that you can get a good mental picture of what is going on. If you like spooky stories, you will enjoy this book.

Freyja Steenman-Clark (11)

£4.99 ISBN 0-552-55-53-1 Random House

**The Snail Patrol** by Chris d'Lacey, illustrated by Phillip Reeve.

A great book! Thomas read it from beginning to end (124 pages) in a day and thought it was wonderful. It's a very funny story about enterprising Darren Winterburn: he goes into business getting rid of snails which are eating his neighbour's cabbages - but then the neighbour won't pay up. Darren has to get Mr McDuff to hand over the promised cash and find a new home for the snails (his mother doesn't want them in her bread bin) - this all involves a giant talking snail and his friend Sharon. We thought the story hilarious and well written; the text is unjustified, a good size and broken up by the many excellent illustrations; Thomas did spot that some speech marks were missing, but we still thought it was a brilliant book.

Sue Onions and Thomas Onions (8)

£4.99 ISBN 1-903015-30-8 Barn Owl

**The Secret of Iguando** by Robert Dodds

This book is all about a brother and sister called Ben and Clare, who go with their father to a jungle in Mexico to collect animals for their zoo. The zoological team find an amazing new part of the jungle with strange animals and birds that the people have never seen before. Ben and Clare agree that it is a great place to get specimens of animal, but they also feel something is not quite right about taking them away. After a while strange things start to happen and when a French zoologist goes missing Ben and Clare realize that their theory of "brujas" (wizards) being in the jungle is true..... This gripping book was brilliantly written with many wonderful descriptions. I give it a rating of 9 out of 10.

Jenny Allwood (12)

£4.99 ISBN 1-84270-3277 Andersen

**The Body in Action**

*Thinking & Feeling* - ISBN 0-7136-6337-5

*Moving* - ISBN 0-7136-6336-7

*Eating* - ISBN 0-7136-6335-9

*Seeing* - ISBN 0-7136-6338-3 Absolutely wonderful books for helping children understand what their body looks like, how it works and what it needs to work effectively. Full of excellent pictures and diagrams together with interesting facts means children of all ages are able to get something out of these books. We particularly enjoyed finding reflexes, pulses and various bones! There is a section at the back of each

book giving further reading, websites and organisations to build on the excellent foundation laid down in the books.

Carole Yeomans with Jack (7) and Luke (4)

£11.99 each A & C Black

**Sir Gadabout Goes Overboard**

by Martyn Beardsley

A story about a knight who is clumsy and dippy.

It made us laugh sometimes especially the

Chilliwillly Islands!, but on the whole it wasn't a good

story, quite boring.

Max Stokes-Abela (6)

£4.99 ISBN 1-84255-2740 Dolphin

**Eragon** by Christopher Paolini

Once upon a time in the golden ages everything was in peacetime but all that was about to change. A mysterious army of Urgals led by a shade was going through the towns pillaging. Now Urgals were these big monstrous things, they carried axes, spears, bows and arrows, shields and clubs. And the only ones able to stand up to them were the Varden, Surdu and the Elves. Eragon was a boy aged 15 who had found a dragon egg in the pines. And it grew but one day some people came and were black all over. They were called the Razac and killed Eragon's step-father. Eragon went off to try and track them down and kill them. Someone called Brom went with him and taught him to do magic when he had accidentally killed two Erguls with magic. Eragon's dragon was called Saphir. They rescued an elf and healed at the Varden, a place inside a mountain. They they got attacked by loads of Erguls and they only just managed to kill them. The Varden was saved! But while they were going to the Varden, Brom had been killed. Instead, before Brom died, they met Murtigh. The story continues.....

This is a great book and it's very long and I think it's excellent and I wanted to keep reading it without stopping.

Jacob Stuttard (8)

£12.99 ISBN 0-385-60788-1 Doubleday

**Song of Sula** by Lavinia Derwent

Although this book was good to read, I felt it never really came to anything. I kept expecting the adventure to start, but it never did. It was merely a story about a short part in the character's life. I noted that it was one of four stories about a young boy called Magnus Macduff so maybe I would have got more from this tale if I had read the three previous books. Magnus lives on an island called Sula and goes away with a friend who is an adult and a Duke. They go to London where they hear a large orchestra playing a symphony called Sula that has been written by the Duke. Various things happen when Magnus returns to Sula, a fire at the Vicar's house and a great snowstorm which cuts the island off. The Vicar has a young boy staying with him when the fire breaks out and so Magnus's Grandmother,

whom he lives with, takes the boy in and Magnus feels jealous towards him. Even with these things happening though, I still felt something exciting was going to happen but nothing did so I was disappointed. Nice story, but not very exciting. The whole book seemed more like a couple of chapters of a larger story.

Francesca Houghton (14)

£4.99 ISBN 0086315-4387 Floris

### **My Dad's Got an Alligator by Jeremy Strong**

A funny read, great characters set in a realistic family environment. Nice illustrations with good-sized chapters. Basically Nicholas's dad brings home an alligator and it causes all sorts of mayhem. George and I both laughed out loud at it. It was a shame to come to the end of the book. George hopes there are more books about this particular family's adventures.

Leanne Osgerby with George (7)

£3.99 ISBN 0-403-6584-2 Puffin

### **Charlotte's Web by E B White**

Mum and me have recently finished this book. It is a story about a pig called Wilbur and a spider called Charlotte. At the beginning of the story Wilbur is a runt and Fern's dad decides to kill him but Fern begs him not to and promises to look after him. Later in the story Wilbur is moved to another farm next door and becomes very lonely. That's when he makes friends with Charlotte, the spider. Wilbur finds out that at Christmas he will be eaten. So Charlotte helps him by spinning webs with words in them. Then people think that Wilbur is a miracle pig and so he doesn't get killed for Christmas. I think this is a good story for children 5 - 12.

Georgina Devine (9)

### **Caribbean Animals by Dawn Allette**

A creative A - Z book written in rhyme with a neat section at the end containing interesting facts about the creatures. Suitable for very young children upward. It holds the attention of me and LiChen. A good educational tool, imaginatively presented. The illustrations are exceptional; vibrant, colourful and detailed. Clear enough for identification purposes and very beautiful too. A must for anyone of Caribbean origin or family bound for a Caribbean holiday. We're neither, but it's a welcome addition to my daughter's bookshelf.

Carolyn Mc Court with LiChen (3)

£4.99 ISBN 1-870516-67-2 Tamarind

### **Book 1 The Fizzing Stone**

### **Book 2 Shapeshifters of Cilgerran**

by Liz Whitaker

It all started when my mum took me to our local theatre to hear Liz Whitaker tell stories. She told us the stories that her two books are based around. The stories were really good and when I read her books I found they were both excellent. A standing stone that fizzes and two

friends who have physic powers; they have to get rid of the 3 evil dream stealers and return them to Neptune in the sea where the original cauldron of the dead came from. The cauldron of the dead is a traditional Welsh legend. The books are bit creepy in places but when I started the first one and finished it I just had to keep on reading and finished the second book too! I am really looking forward to the 3<sup>rd</sup> book in the series. The stories are based in the part of Wales where I live so I located all the standing stones and places on a map and we visited them all which was really great.

Keith Hall (10)

£5.99 each Y Lolfa

### **21 Fairy Stories and Other Tales**

by John and Mavis Chappell

This is one of the stories from this book we particularly liked. Prince Peter is a silly Prince and Prince Paul is very intelligent. For their birthdays they are permitted to choose 3 gifts. Prince Paul chooses a brave horse, a sword and bow. Prince Peter wanted a hornet in a cage, a sheet of polished metal and a box for making fire. Just then Princess Lyla stepped in and said that she had a fierce giant in her land. The Princes go to get rid of it. Prince Paul gets hurt so Prince Peter takes over. He puts his piece of polished metal in front of the giant and blinds him. Then he lets out his hornet that stings him and finally he made a fire in his box and killed the giant. We thought this book was just ok. Other fairy tales we have enjoyed much more such as Grimms and Hans Christian Andersen. I do not recommend it.

Rowena Macqueen (9)

£12.95 The Book Guild

### **The Blends Book by Rachel Goodchild**

This spiral bound book of photocopiable worksheets is ideal for short 'chunks' of learning, for children who find spelling patterns difficult and for those like Celeste who like to do 'work' whilst I make the tea!

Kirsten Freiesteben with Celeste (5)

Brilliant Publications

### **The New Pregnancy and Childbirth, Choices and Challenges by Sheila Kitzinger**

There are so many pregnancy and birth books but this one really stands out. A very positive book with over 400 pages full of information. No pictures of agonising births. The photos have been chosen carefully so as not to be alarming and slow labour in a very positive way. Due to this sensitive approach it would make an ideal book to talk through with siblings to show what mum was going through. Plenty of helpful advice about choices, written in a reassuring way making childbirth the natural and joyful event it should be. There are lots of ideas for exercise, preparing for labour and taking care of yourself.

Hilary Woolf

£20 ISBN 0-7513-6438-X Dorling Kindersley

## Children Just Like Me – a celebration of children around the world

by *Barnabas and Anabel Kindersley*

Like other DK books there is exceptional photography and layout. It is very attractive and readable. The idea is simple but brilliant. Children from all over the world having a page or two each showing them, their families, what they eat, their homes, games they play, their customs, religions, hopes and fears. It is interesting to see how different these basic things can be and so interesting to find the similarities. Ideal for raising cultural awareness. Barnabas and Anabel travelled for two years, meeting and getting to know and photograph the children. They have been careful to represent races and indigenous peoples in a fair way but I think it would have been nice to have seen a Jewish family and an Arab family representing Israel. On the whole, though, a lovely book, promoting tolerance of differences and world harmony. Written in association with Unicef, who benefit from each copy sold.

Hilary Woolf

£10.99 ISBN 0-7513-5327-2 *Dorling Kindersley*

## EXPLORERS WANTED! In The Jungle

by *Simon Chapman*

I was hooked on sight by this book. On the front cover it claims to give 'real adventure from the comfort of your couch', something very well met by the content. In it you are the main character travelling through the jungle. When I first started to read it I expected a pure game book and, though it has games and puzzles, there are a lot of facts as well, and it has a storyline. The combination works well, especially with the help of a good presentation through interesting illustrations, text sizes, layout.

You are first faced with the problem of what to pack. That is the first game. Having packed the essentials you make a boat to sail upriver, then you meet the rapids. Fortunately there are some nearby locals who will help – for a price. The second game is how you pay them. When you reach a waterfall you continue on foot, on your own as your 'helper' has sailed back, until you reach your goal – a lost city! Finally, there is a thrilling climax when you discover... what? You'll have to read it to find out!

It is a bit like 'Horrible Geography: Bloomin' Rainforests', only quite a bit better due to the plot, games, and presentation

I would rate it 98.5%. It is suitable for ages 9+.

*Michael Thomas (10)*

£4.99 ISBN 1 4052 0553 9 Egmont.

## CONTACTS

### 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. *The Book People* (tel 0870 6077780 or visit [www.thebookpeople.co.uk](http://www.thebookpeople.co.uk)) is a good, economical source for books. It is NOT a book club and you order what you like, when you like (at prices well below publisher's rrp). Postage / packing is usually free on order over £25 but if you are ordering less tell them you are home educating and you will be able to get a discount rate. Many local EO groups have meetings where books and other resources are swapped or sold. Don't forget you can usually pick up cheap books at car boot sales, jumble sales etc and the library is a free resource.

Any EO member can review books for these pages. If you would like to be part of the review team please email or telephone Sally for more information.

## CONTACTS

*A & C Black* 01480 212666

*Andersen Press* 020 7840 8701

[www.andersenpress.co.uk](http://www.andersenpress.co.uk)

*Book Guild* 01273 472534

[www.thebookguild.co.uk](http://www.thebookguild.co.uk)

*Brilliant Publications* 01525 229720

[www.brilliantpublications.co.uk](http://www.brilliantpublications.co.uk)

*Dolphin (Orion)* 0207 520 4318

[www.orionbooks.co.uk](http://www.orionbooks.co.uk)

*Egmont* 020 7761 3691

[www.euk.egmont.com](http://www.euk.egmont.com)

*Floris (Scottish Book Service)* 0870 240 2182

*Piccadilly Press* 020 7267 4492

[www.piccadillypress.co.uk](http://www.piccadillypress.co.uk)

*Random House* 020 8231 6800

[www.randomhouse.co.uk](http://www.randomhouse.co.uk)

*Tamarind* 020 8866 8808

[www.tamarindbooks.co.uk](http://www.tamarindbooks.co.uk)

*Walker Books* 01256 302692

*Y Lolfa* 01970 832 304 [www.ylolfa.com](http://www.ylolfa.com)

Send in your reviews to Sally Hall, Nant-y-garreg, Saron, Llandysul SA44 5EJ or email [sally@aecb.net](mailto:sally@aecb.net)

## EARN COMMISSION FOR EO WHEN PURCHASING BOOKS

With immediate effect EO is now an Associate member of Amazon.co.uk

Please see notice elsewhere in this newsletter about ordering books via the EO website and generating extra funds for EO

If you want to buy an HE book, please check the EO website first

## Advertisements

**To place:** Adverts should normally be limited to 1/8 page or 50 words and sent to the NL Advertising Co-ord. (see inside front cover) but please send cheque payable to 'Education Otherwise' to Treasurer (see inside back cover).

**Advertising Rates:** Non-members - (subject to space and interest to members) £35 per issue (50 words)  
Members (please give full contact details) - small items/ notices, free; commercial enterprises, £25 per issue  
NB: DEADLINE FOR ADVERT COPY AND PAYMENT - 1<sup>ST</sup> OF MONTH PRIOR TO ISSUE.

### CAMPING HOLIDAYS IN WILD VALLEY, WEST WALES

With waterfalls, pools, spring water, we are an EO family living outside, we'd love some company. Situated 4 miles from nearest surf beach, 1.5 miles from shop, on 180-mile network of footpaths:  
Cost £3 per adult per night, children free.  
Telephone 01239 615634

### GOOD NEWS FOR HOME EDUCATORS Alternative Kidz

- a 24-page full colour quality magazine for junior children, with no room for ads.  
Includes news, views, posters, puzzles, original craft and yoga challenges plus unique in depth Who Dares and Who Cares features.  
Six issues a year to your door for ONLY £12. Interested?  
Telephone 01737 556768 or visit  
[www.alternativekidz.com](http://www.alternativekidz.com)

Personal tuition for dyslexics to improve reading, writing, spelling, numeracy and confidence  
[www.dyslexia-lessons.com](http://www.dyslexia-lessons.com)

Distance learning service (post, fax, e-mail)  
Individual lessons from £9 to £23  
Initial Assessment £35

Please phone for a brochure, or to discuss your requirements: 01536 510379  
**Sarah Ablitt BA (Hons) PG DipSpLD**

### HOLIDAY HOME TO LET BY THE SEA - MARGATE -

LOVELY GEORGIAN HOUSE SLEEPS UP TO 10 IDEAL FOR FAMILIES - EXTREMELY CHILD FRIENDLY - SHORT WALK TO BEACHES/MUSEUMS/SHOPS/BOWLING ALLEY ETC - OWNED BY HE FAMILY  
PLEASE RING 01707 271976 FOR DETAILS.

### Books to Sell

on school phobia, educating your child; "My story" (history told like a diary, on various themes); Letts workbooks on maths; questions and answers books on the planets and the human body; "Cut out and make" on sun, moon and tides, the globe, pivoting parrots, human skeleton; "Big book of experiments", etc..

Contact Jenny Sharp on 020 8851 9951  
or e-mail [jenny.sharp1@ntlworld.com](mailto:jenny.sharp1@ntlworld.com)

**Islamic Home Schooling Advisory Network**  
IHSAN aims to offer help and support to Muslim parents who are home schooling or seeking alternatives to state education.

**Quarterly newsletter, web-site and contact list.**  
Write to P.O. Box 30671, London E1 0TG, visit  
[www.islamichomeeducation.co.uk](http://www.islamichomeeducation.co.uk), phone/fax: 020 8851 1866, email: [info@islamichomeeducation.co.uk](mailto:info@islamichomeeducation.co.uk)

### Fourth Studland Bay Camp, Dorset

Friday 16th to Saturday 24th July

Chrystia and Keith warmly welcome all home educating families and friends.

Area of great natural beauty - pine forests, lowland heath, 4 miles from sea, nature reserve, bird sanctuary, Dorset steam railway nearby - to beach at Swanage. Free outings to Corfe Castle. Cycleways and paths through woods and to the sea.

Camping in large field backed by pine woods, stream, access to full facilities at adjoining Bumbake campsite. We provide canoes, cargo net, rope swings, craft materials, marquee or bender, fire barrels off the ground. Bring bikes, drums, other instruments.

Some acapella/gospel singing and peace dancing  
Cost for whole camp £100 a family (concessions and a half-camp rate available).

Information and booking: Keith and Chrystia, 020 8776 8597; 75 Kent House Road, Sydenham, SE26 5LJ.



A fantastic inspirational Postal Course for the student inventor. Every 2-weeks a mystery 'WONDER BOX' will arrive at your door! Filled with projects to build, Tasks & Internet Forum all parts included!

Next Term 1 Starts: July 19<sup>th</sup> 2004.  
Apply NOW online or telephone: 01226 760629

[www.kidstuff.co.uk](http://www.kidstuff.co.uk)

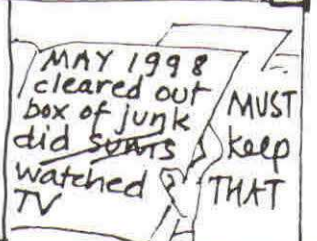
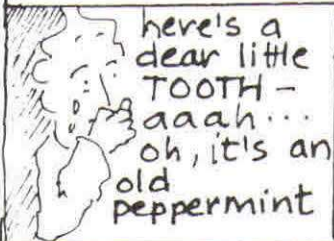
Just about the most exciting thing a boy or girl could do!

Services and products advertised on this page 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.

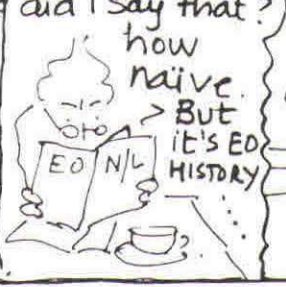
# Educating Archie

5/2/98

Archie's off at Hes Fes so Mrs G has time to herself.....



3 HOURS LATER



## Regional Diary

All regular meetings listed below are included automatically in every issue, but if you have a local NL, please reduce your details to minimum.

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

New members attending their first meeting should phone to check it is happening as shown.

**Thank you** to contact people who are keeping an eye on their local entries and letting us know if changes are needed.

Please do check every issue, it really helps!

- CHANGES BY LETTER OR EMAIL PLEASE -  
to: Anne Rix, (see inside front cover for address)  
or by phone to Jo, 01392 438876

### BATH

H.E.L.P. group meets regularly for outings and activities. Contact: Louise Jensen 01761 472568  
jensen-thomas@clara.co.uk

### BEDFORDSHIRE

For full details of events in Bedford and other areas of the County, contact June McDonald on 01234 341375 or email info@Bedford-Home-Ed.org.uk

\*Animals\* theme for summer. Lots of art and craft, plus cloth visits to Woburn Safari Park & Huntston Sealife Centre; visits to London Zoo, Whipsnade, Wimpole Hall, Wood Green & RSPB. Regular swimming, multi-sport & gym sessions. New Youth Group & Chess Club, + Open afternoons, resource library and more

Website: www.Bedford-Home-Ed.org.uk

### BERKSHIRE

E-mailing list for home educators in Berkshire and surrounding areas for events/activities

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BerkshireHomeEducators

For Local NL/What's on Contact: Dawn 01628 783107  
thirdEye1@compuserve.com Or New Web Site for

Berkshire www.homeeducators.co.uk

Maidenhead Heros Club Holyport, Mondays 10-3 sports, dancing, pottery crafts and cooking. £29 month or £10 family/day. Dawn 01628 783107

Reading: Mondays, 10am - 12noon swimming at Central Pool, lots of teenagers Contact: Lynn 0118 972 1420 Thursdays,

5.30-7pm. Activities for teens incl. video production, mixing decks, web design etc. Email becky h@ntlworld.com for more information

Fndays Caversham 12 - 5pm social, all ages, sep. rm 4 teens in hall with park outside and woods. £2/ family. Monthly, 2nd Tuesday, 11am - 6pm near Pangbourne

chat and play, Adventure playground, animals. £3/family Also activities 4 teens. Contact Lynda 0118 961 4466 or Gail 01628 483895 or email hitchmans@ntlworld.com

Bracknell Weds termtime, ice-skating at John Nike Leisure Centre, 2-4pm, £1.50 show EO card at reception. Contact: Angela 0118 9661331 (weekends only) or Edwina, email wgodfrey@netcomuk.co.uk

Burghfield Common Thurs termtime Swimming at Willink Leisure Centre 1.30-3pm. Contact Angela (see Bracknell)

Windsor Leisure Centre, Fns termtime, organised sports session 5 yrs up, 11am-noon. Contact Murel 01628 664939

Windsor Leisure Centre, Fns termtime, family swim 12.30. contact Angela or Edwina (see Bracknell)

Newbury Friendly group of mixed ages, meets Friday pm, regular activities incl. baking, arts and crafts, juggling, games etc. Newcomers welcome. Contact Heidi 0118 9710176

leslie.botha@btinternet.com

Lambour. Weekly meeting on a farm for crafts, cooking and nature walks, group based on respect for each other and our world and an unhumed childhood. Contact: Tracey or Roge 01793 610448 roge.tracey@virgin.net

01793 610448 roge.tracey@virgin.net

### BRISTOL

Thursdays meeting at St Paul's Adventure Playground 1-3pm; Spanish, Science and Pottery happening on a regular basis. Contact Ian or Silke 0117 9412707

Email list for Bristol and surrounding areas at:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BristolHomeEducation

Also local group website for more information

about home education in Bristol:

www.bristolhomeeducation.org.uk

### BUCKS

Newsletter for Bucks/Northants Contact: Georgeanne on 01908 662256.

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

Contact: Jackie 01753 886924

### CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Cambridge regular meetings and outings.

Contact: Penny 01223 526441 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 S.J.Lambert@aol.com

Cambridge/Norfolk border: fortnightly at Guyhirn.

Contact: Pat 01354 656582 or Ruth 01945 480232

North Cambridgeshire Contact Jane 01354 677869.

### CHESHIRE

South Cheshire and North Staffs newsletter for local social and educational events. Contact Carrie:

01782 786 720. Email: home.ed@ntlworld.com

CLEVELAND AND DURHAM (see also DURHAM)

Contact: Pauline Butterworth 01642 570786

### CORNWALL

Free events sheets every two months via Email or

SAEs. Contact: Anna Wheeler, Cambrose Farm, Redruth, TR16 4HT 01209 890378

Email: Annawheeler@cambrose.fsnet.co.uk

Local information on our local home ed website:

Homeedinkernow.tripod.com

### CUMBRIA

Informal gatherings for socialising, support and activities.

Cumbria Otherwise Newsletter, for full details of events throughout the county contact Martin, 01539 732918 or email cumbria.otherwise@dsl.pipex.com

Kendal alternate Mondays Endmoor Village Hall

1-4pm, Contact Jo Collier 01539 567005.

Penrith alternate Tuesdays Castletown Community

Centre 1.30-3.30 Contact: Sarah Cook 01768 896019

### DERBYSHIRE

Chesterfield group meets every Wed. morning.

Contact: Kaz 01246 205463 or Yvonne 01246

555645

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

regular meetings, socialising and days out.

Contact: Julie 01283 760800

### DEVON

Devon Newsletter, full details of events throughout the County: £3.00 for 6 months by post. E-mail copies free

news@ed-he.org.uk or 01297 625439

National Trust (Devon) - free membership/entry to NT sites to all Devon EO members for pre-booked

'educational' visits. Card held by Moira Kneale on 01395 279026

Exeter: Tuesdays, Free Range Learning, something for all ages: AM,10 -12.30, Yoga, Maths, cooking, swimming,

free play indoors and out. PM, 1.30 - 3.30, A varied arts programme provided by Magic Carpet, Wren Trust etc., including Drama, Craft + Musical activities. Bring packed lunch & stay all day, further details Annie 01392 434167 Wednesdays, fortnightly EO social meetings, 2-4pm, alternating between Exeter & Crediton, contact Lisa 01392 421614, email: lisa.cameron@tesco.net  
Pottery - held in pottery workshop with kiln etc, fortnightly 11am contact Neil 01363 82314 or Annie 01392 434167  
**East and Mid Devon:** Local Contact Becca 01404 549479 Lots of varied activities - full details in Devon newsletter (above)

**North Devon** Local Contact: Amanda 01237 422403

**Bideford area** Fortnightly social meetings on Tuesdays Ring Louise 01237 441786

**South Devon** Local Contact Bridget 01803 862158

Loads of activities for all ages - full details in Devon newsletter (see above)

**Youth Club** at Buckfastleigh (& alternate weekly outings) Thursday 12 to 3pm contact Corine 01626 368044

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

Lyme Regis, Axminster, Bndport, Chard

Contact Habiba 0845 4582984 (local rate)

Regular meetings on Thursdays, Contact:

Ali 01297 443816 or Karen 01460 30461

#### **DORSET**

Regular meetings, keep in touch. Contact Christine 01258 880355 or Rosemary 01747 853593

**Bournemouth area:** local website [www.he-ed.org.uk](http://www.he-ed.org.uk)

Meeting every Monday for crafts, games, play etc.

Friendly, welcoming group. Contact: June

01202 827945 [bugchick@btinternet.com](mailto:bugchick@btinternet.com)

#### **DURHAM**

Durham based group, monthly newsletter £5 p.a.

We also have a yahoo chat group at

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/durhamhome\\_ed](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/durhamhome_ed).

We meet weekly and have other less regular

activities scheduled. Contact Schuyler Waynforth

01740 622499 or [s.waynforth@btopenworld.com](mailto:s.waynforth@btopenworld.com)

or Beth Currie 0191 3735109.

#### **ESSEX**

Full details in Essex Epicycle newsletter, available from Corinne 07802 630693 [epicycle@wavy.org](mailto:epicycle@wavy.org)

**All over Essex** trips (usually Thursdays) and workshops

**Braintree** Cheeky Chimps indoor play area

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month (ex school hols) 2pm

**Chelmsford** Ice skating, Riverside, Fris 3.30-5pm

Meetings social and activities, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs of month 1-4 pm

**Colchester** Meetings, social and activities, all Weds,

11am to 3pm

**Tiptree** Meetings, social & activities alt. Tues. 2-5pm

**East London/Essex** group, Fortnightly meetings

Contact Gill on 020 8597 8537

#### **GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

Monthly social meetings open to all.

Regular workshops and outings. Website:

<http://members.lycos.co.uk/GlosHomeEducators/index.html>

Email list for events and forum for discussions,

information and virtual activities. Contact Rob and

Fiona 01684 290087 [openhorizons@ntworld.com](mailto:openhorizons@ntworld.com)

Caroline 01242 890351 [cambrose@iee.org](mailto:cambrose@iee.org)

Beverley 01242 524091 or Mhain 01452 384104.

**Gloucester** meetings & swimming. Contact Dawn 01452 540019 [dawnandmike@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:dawnandmike@blueyonder.co.uk) or Tracy 07941 612092

#### **HAMPSHIRE**

**ACTIVEEO** meet 3 times a week within 20 miles of

**Petersfield**. All welcome. Contact: 01428 712394

**FAREGOS** HE Group meet weekly at Holbrook, Gosport,

for swimming or skating, weekly in Fareham for crafts

and other activities. Other outings on an ad hoc basis.

Friendly, welcoming group. Contact Gayle 01329 823112

or Ros 01329 516482 or Email for more details

[gayle@timica.com](mailto:gayle@timica.com)

**North Hampshire:** Friendly group for children aged 0-

13 meets Wednesday afternoons. Regular themed

meetings in Scott Centre, Andover; Ice skating in

Basingstoke plus other educational visits and fun

activities in Hants and Wilts borders. Contact Carol

01264 357650 email [eo@azakit.com](mailto:eo@azakit.com)

**Farnham/Aldershot** Friendly group for under 10s,

weekly meetings/outings/activities. Contact: Emma

01483 426277 [emmajevons@supanet.com](mailto:emmajevons@supanet.com)

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

TOP Health and Education Together. Numeracy, literacy

and parenting health sessions. Literacy home study

program 3-10 years at **London Colney**,

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 01438 840674

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

**St Albans**, Social group meeting at Sandridge

village hall, 1-3pm, 2nd and 4th Thurs. Contact:

Carolyn 01727 851073 or Jenny 01727 810345

#### **ISLE OF WIGHT**

Contact Shara 01983 562313

Isle of Wight Learning Zone workshops, social

events and newsletter, contact Sue 01983 241095

for details.

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

picnics, barbecues, mutual support, especially older EO

kids but new members and visitors always welcomed.

Contact Jude 01983 531680

#### **KENT**

**Wealden Home Ed website:**

[www.when.omnia.co.uk](http://www.when.omnia.co.uk) and email group:

[wealdenhomeeducatorsnetwork@yahoo.com](mailto:wealdenhomeeducatorsnetwork@yahoo.com)

**East Kent** including Dover, Canterbury and all

surrounding areas ...

**Medway towns** Contact: Bridget 01634 234938

**Tunbridge Wells** group meet every Monday from 10-4

for Tae Kwan Do, art and crafts, & many other activities.

Contact Kim 01892 863941 or Lesley 07900 503247

French for beginners through songs and games.

Yoga for children. Contact: Katherine 01892 863958

**Bromley** Contact: Claire 0181 460 7347

Claire@wadefamily99.freemove.co.uk

#### **LANCASHIRE**

Fortnightly sessions at Botany Bay: contact Jacqueline

01204 361072 or Angela 01204 659634

Fortnightly badminton lesson followed by swim: contact

Angela/Jacqueline (PTO more Lancs)

Crafts at St Paul's/Old Cobblers/pond dipping/kayaking/wall climbing etc. contact Pam 01706 215585 or davidandpam@ntlworld.com

Events on **Fylde coast**: Contact Tracey on 01253 858840  
Ice skating group on 2nd Wed every month at Blackburn Arena. Cost £4.15 + £1 skate hire. 2pm - 4.30pm. Tel: Jackie 01695 424220 for information

**Blackpool \*NEW\*** weekly meeting at Michael Hall Theatre School, Preston Old Road (Whitegate Drive end)  
Details: Tracy 01253 858840

## LEICESTERSHIRE

Frequent meetings for play, craft, walks, hanging out, singing, swimming, science, skating and much more. Contact: Lise 0116 242 5802

## LINCOLNSHIRE

For a newsletter of activities and local events contact: Donna 01472 752507

Christine 01507 338070, Kathleen 01522 869239  
ashnkath@shhh.fsnet.co.uk

## LONDON

**Bromley/Croydon** Chrysalis group meets most Tuesdays in Bromley also other activities + outings, contact Jenny 0208 654 3972 or Mish 0208 289 5886 or email chrysalishomeed@yahoo.com

**Clissold Park**. Tuesdays. All welcome.  
Contact: Charlotte 0207 254 0419

**SE London** Wednesdays Honor Oak playground.  
Contact: Steve 8680 2933

**Lewisham** Thursdays 11-1  
Contact: Clare 8480 0740

**Kidbroke** rollerblading Contact: Fiona 020 8852 9756  
battleslake@clara.net

**Sydenham** Fridays fortnightly at 11.30-2.30  
Contact: Chrystia and Keith 8776 8597

**Forest Hill Nature Reserve** Fridays alternate fortnight 11.30 Contact: Dave 8692 4080

**Plumstead Common** Adventure Playground SE18 alternate Fridays, meeting at 12.30 pm.

Contact: Bev 0208 312 2160, Kim 0208 317 7262

**NW London** Otherwise Club Contact: Leslie 0208 969 0893

**Harrow** meetings fortnightly on Fridays

**Stanmore** events on Tues and Wednesdays.  
Programme available from Vivienne, email timsharkey@aol.com or tel. 0208 954 1885

or Vicki on Aceva@btinternet.com

**N London** Hornsey Home Educators Club (currently under 10s, meet for arts, crafts, drama, games etc) Thursdays 11.00-12.30

contact: Tina 0208 340 4212

**N London** Barnet Group, meets Mondays, contact Mirelle 0208 449 7868, email lance.e@virgin.net or Lynda 0208 368 9046. Also, if you would like to participate in the Hertfordshire Childrens Folk Dance Festival on Sat. 3 July ring Jenny 0208 441 8779.

**West London** EO group meeting 1st and 3rd Tues each month, at Chiswick Park, W4. Meet outside the cafe, from 11am. Alternative venue if wet.

For full details contact Naomi 0208 5677 589 or naomisandler@hotmail.com

**W. London/Middlesex** HE group every Tuesday for social and educational activities and visits.

Contact: Betsy 020 8747 3911  
betsylanderson@aol.com

**\*New\*** additional gathering - Wednesdays 12-2.30 pm, fortnightly during term-time. Good-sized meeting place, with pool table, soft play room, and excellent outdoor play area, equipped for all ages.

Optional organised activity for part of the session. Welcoming all for fun, friendship and support.

Please ring: Alison 0208 56 99398 or Kathryn 0208 566 0543 or e-mail Alison@rothwell1973.fsnet.co.uk or kathrynvglenn@hotmail.com

**MANCHESTER**

Monthly formal art lessons at Stockport Art Gallery £1.50. Also 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 Sats at Moores family home, limited places, Contact: Karen 01204 573136

## NORFOLK

**\*New\*** newsletter for Norfolk - Listing meetings throughout the county. To advertise your event, or to receive a copy from September, please contact Ali on simon.whitehall@tesco.net or ring 01603 401020. Also workshops for older children. If you would be interested in theme-based sessions for the older 11s please contact Liz Starling, 01760 725388

starling@starling.screaming.net (or Ali as above)

**NORFOLK/SUFFOLK BORDER**

Term-time, every Thursday 2.30 - 4.30

Swimming, indoor sports/play at Breckland Leisure Centre, **Thetford**. Contact Fay 01953 681785

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

For email updates of activities and outings send your email address to northantshomeed@aol.com or phone Jane 01234 326479.

Want to get together with other local home ed teens? Please contact Lynne Stewart 01604 454240, andrew.stewart77@ntl.com

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

Weekly meetings. For full list, Contact: Wendy 0115 9114312 or Louise 01773 780634

**OXFORDSHIRE**

Classes in creative writing Monthly Newsletter. Fortnightly Workshop group.

Local Contact: Wendy 01865-514973

**SCOTLAND**

**Fife**: Friday fortnightly meetings, activities and social get-togethers. All welcome. Contact: Nicola 01334 478530 nicola.stubbs@btinternet.com

**Irvine**: For details of regular and one-off activities please contact: Rhona 01294 273644 or Shirley 01563 540063 or Vivien 01563 537428

**Highlands meetings** Fortnightly meetings in **Inverness**, plus occasional outings. All ages welcome. Contact: Rebecca 01667 462772 or Alison 01463 232571 alison@sauer.demon.co.uk

**Lothian, Central and Southeast Scotland:**  
fortnightly group for meetings and outings. Ann 0131  
556 6271 or <ann.samuelkill@blueyonder.co.uk>  
or Jane 01835 863 118.

#### **SHROPSHIRE**

Activities and outings Contact: Val 01952 502225  
**South Shrops.** regular meetings every Tuesday,  
outings and workshops: 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/Taunton area** - regular get-  
togethers and outings: Maggie 01984 624651.

**Wells and Glastonbury Area** Regular social  
meetings, weekly swimming, outings and nature  
activities. Contact Lesley 01749 689241, Tanya  
01458 834871 or Steph 01749 812959

**SOMERSET NORTH** - Regular get-togethers and  
activities Contact Vicky 01275 848425

**STAFFORDSHIRE/SOUTH CHESHIRE/NORTH SALOP**  
**Stafford** every 2nd and 4th Wednesday in village  
hall for games craft etc. 12-3.30 Contact Jane  
01283 820642 jane@jackslane62.freemove.co.uk  
or Theresa 01889 563052

**North Staffs and South Cheshire** newsletter for  
local social and educational events. Contact Carrie:  
01782 786 720 Email: home.ed@ntlworld.com

#### **SUFFOLK**

**Felixstowe**, group meeting fortnightly in town centre  
location for socialising, outings, sports etc.

Karen 01394 279117 kjc88@whsmithnet.co.uk

**Foxburrow Farm, Woodbridge** Once a month,  
activities organised by Suffolk Wildlife Trust

**Wetherden** meetings every 3rd Friday 10.30-2.00  
£3 per family, shared lunch: Details from Heather  
Ward, 01953 688 128

**East Suffolk (Lowestoft/Gt. Yarmouth area)**

Contact: Lin 01502 741097 or Jackie 01502 566266  
**SURREY**

**Banstead** base but everyone is welcome. Weekly  
meetings/activities. Contact Sue 01737 556683 or  
Lindsay 01306 501229

near **Cobham** just off A3 - Learning Group for parents &  
children 0-7, in 26 acres of private woodland, based on  
HighScope approach to independent learning and  
problem solving. For more details contact Rachael  
rachael.underwood@classicfm.net  
or phone 01932 706191

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

898575. Skating during term time Friday 1-4:

Rachel 01483 565703 (no Sunday calls please)

Under 10s: Nicky 01483 232080

**Dorking/Reigate** area.

Contact: Helen Burnett 01737 243606

**Farnham/Aldershot** Friendly group for under 10s,  
weekly meetings/ outings/activities. Contact: Emma  
01483 426277 emmajeavons@supanet.com

**North Surrey Home Ed group** meets up in **Croydon**  
once a month. Age range from 2-15, small group,  
looking to grow. For more details, contact

Karen: karen\_wilkins@hotmail.com

or Viv: viv@madtoyman.fsnet.co.uk

#### **SUSSEX**

**Wealden Home Ed website:**

[www.when.omnia.co.uk](http://www.when.omnia.co.uk) also email group:

wealdenhomeeducatorsnetwork@yahoo.groups.com

Local Contact: Isobel 01403 261178 (W.Sx)

Winnie Durdant-Hollamby 01342 826087 (E.Sx)

Many events and activities throughout the County.

Monthly newsletter gives full details: £8pa or £4 six

months, For NL contact Tula 01323 648127, email

asanababy@aol.com

Or ring one of the following local events organisers:

**Lewes:** Sylvia on 01273 474375, Hope 01273 401594 or

Jan 01273 514528

**Lindfield** EO Friday club: Liz 01444 414058

**Hastings** HEDGE Group: Rachel 01424 422178, Emily

01424 719570 or Ali 01424 814175

**Brighton:** Kathy 01273 685674, Lucy 01273 204764 or

Jim 0779188343

**Eastbourne** Home-Ed Club: Tula 01323 648127 email

asanababy@aol.com

**Worthing/Shoreham** Beach: Sam 01903 233799

**Forest Row** Area: Winnie 01342 826087

**TYNESIDE** Regular, frequent & varied activities.

New members welcome. Email list:

[http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/home\\_ed\\_tyneandwear](http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/home_ed_tyneandwear)

Younger Group (under 8) - contact Becky 0191 478

5322 or becky.teeney@virgin.net

Older group (over 8) - contact Rosemary 0191 285

3707 or paul@thenews.icom43.net

National Trust & English Heritage Visits - Deborah 01434

674713

Woodland visits - Juliet 01207 544473

ablett.jules@tesco.net

Spanish - Carol 0191 2291178

Music - Rosemary (above) or paul@thenews.icom43.net

Book/Film Club/Citizenship (age 10+) - Peter or Carol

0191 2291178

#### **WALES**

##### **South Wales**

**Cardiff** area FREE email newsletter/contact list from

bev1.french@btinternet.com or Beverley 02920

797628. Monthly museum visit, organised by

museum.

**Swansea** Group For information on local activities

and events, contact Juliet 01639 760987; Frankie,

fran.kie@ntlworld.com or Geraldine, 01792 405894

or email: julafan1@ntlworld.com

**Pembrokeshire** EO swim & sauna: Haverfordwest

pool, Dew St. 3pm at main reception, fortnightly. Call

to check dates. Contact: Yvette 0845 458 9251

**Cardigan** area social meetings and outings on

Mondays. Contact: Yvette 0845 458 9251

**Gwynedd** Mondays swimming at Bangor

Contact: Louisa 01248 361254

Friday swimming at Porth Madog Weekly meetings

at Tremadog Thursdays. Contact Jo 01766 512330

**Powys** Weekly swimming/Tumble Towers in

Welshpool on Fridays (term time only). Monthly

workshops, outings, skateboarding and events in

Welshpool and surrounding area. Contact: Julia Phillips 01691 648152 gwastad@lycos.co.uk

**Newtown area:** Mondays get-together, twice a month, in the Scout Hall, for activities, play and socialisation. Contact Sue 01686 688748 or smw5@tutor.open.ac.uk

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

#### **WARWICKSHIRE**

Usually 2 Thursdays a month; at Wolston nr Coventry and for an outing in 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.freeserve.co.uk

#### **WILTSHIRE**

contact: Beccy 01985 840174

**Warminster** meeting each Monday at Tropical Park, Woodcock Road from 2.30pm, Beccy 01985 840174

**Salisbury** Friendly innovative group meets every Tuesday pm, (except last of calendar month) Lower Street Hall, off Netherhampton Rd., 2-5pm. £3.00 per session. Regular outings + visiting guest speakers: Contact: Miranda (01722) 320167

**Swindon:** Informal get-togethers twice per month; badminton weekly Contact: Shena on 01793 334673 or join email list at

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NWilts\\_HE/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NWilts_HE/)

Last Thursday of the Month The Scout Hut, Southbroom Rd **Devizes**, 11.30-14.30, games, activities, support and socialising. Outings most Thursdays

Contact: Janet 01249 818672 email:

janet.eldekvis@btopenworld.com

Jemima: 01380 727470 Helen: 01249 822958

[www.geocities.com/wiltshirehomeed/index.htm](http://www.geocities.com/wiltshirehomeed/index.htm)

#### **WORCESTERSHIRE**

Local Contact - Rachel 01527 597809

Meetings, events, trips out etc happening all through the month throughout the county.

Meetings - Karen Raybould 01527 835384

Meetings - **North Worcs/Kidderminster** - Gail Tutchter 101562 822034 gail@tqmi.co.uk

#### **YORKSHIRE EAST**

Regular meetings and visits.

Contact: Alison 01405 769902

#### **YORKSHIRE NORTH**

Regular meetings and outings. Contact Karen 01904 400317 kkarensandy@aol.com

Meetings at various venues over the summer; for info phone (N.B.new number!) Tess 01947 825 772 or email at chris.geall@btinternet.com

#### **YORKSHIRE SOUTH**

Regular meetings for arts/crafts, visits, swims, hanging out and more. Contact: Jo 01709 820866 Denise 01226 733478 Gary 0114 2585702.

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 or Fiona 0114 22751142

#### **YORKSHIRE WEST**

**Bradford:** Ten-pin bowling (last Monday of month) at Hollywood Bowl. Contact Sarah (01484) 361206 or by e-mail sl.marshall@ntlworld.com

Ice skating and optional lesson - Friday (weekly, except 2nd Friday) at Ice Arena. Contact Judith (0113) 226 5515 or e-mail: judith.shalkowski@ntlworld.com

Ice Hockey lesson - Friday (weekly, except 2nd Friday) at Ice Arena. Contact Sarah.

**Leeds:** Ten-pin bowling (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of month) at Hollywood Bowl. Contact Sarah (as Bradford)

Gymnastics lesson (coach directed) - Weds (term-time only) at Carnegie Gym, Leeds Metropolitan University Becketts Park Campus. Contact Sarah.

**Wednesday Club** - Wednesday (twice a month) from 1.30pm - 3.30pm at Room 9, West Park Centre.

Contact Judith (0113) 226 5515 or by e-mail judith.shalkowski@ntlworld.com

Monthly meeting - 2nd Friday of the month 11.00am - 3.30pm at Room 9, West Park Centre. Contact Sarah. Group trips - for list of dates contact Sarah.

**Halifax:** Gymnasium, Heath Training Centre. Free School Lane, every Monday except bank hols. 12 noon - 3pm. Meeting: Free-range activities + exchange of friendship and support for home educating children and parents.. Contact: Gill Kilner 01422 311876. email:

GillKilner@aol.com

**Huddersfield.** Last Thursday of month, 11-1:30 at Civic Centre. Lunch & chat.

Huddersfield Sports Centre. Swimming, Weds, term time 12-1:30. Contact Tracy 01484 317176.

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## **LOCAL CONTACT UPDATE**

### **If you want to volunteer**

or are interested to know more about the job of being a Local Contact  
please contact the Local Contact Co-ordinator (see inside back cover)

#### **New acting local contacts**

Glamorganshire Louise Murray

Leeds Andrew Nimick

#### **Resigning local contacts**

Dorset East June Wilson-Billing

Merseyside Hazel Croft

Cheshire Jo Lewis

**Areas needing a local contact - please see next page**

## Back Page Part Three

### LOCAL CONTACT UPDATE – continued: Areas needing a local contact

Carmarthenshire  
Cheshire  
Durham  
Dorset East  
Dorset West  
Fife  
Gloucestershire  
Herefordshire  
Hertfordshire

Highlands & Islands  
Humberside  
Isle of Man  
Kent  
London North  
Manchester North  
Merseyside  
Northumberland  
Staffordshire

Strathclyde  
Somerset  
Tayside  
West Midlands  
(Birmingham, Solihull,  
Walsall, Wolverhampton)  
Yorkshire South

## NOTICES

### Volunteers Sought to update Information Leaflets

All our leaflets in this series need updating. They are only 4 A4 pages, but it can be quite time consuming checking that every reference is correct and deciding what information is most important to include. It is ideal if two people can work on a leaflet, perhaps one taking the initiative and the other being available to bat ideas back from. There are 12 leaflets, so work for lots of people. Please do not be backward in coming forward and choosing a leaflet you would be interested in updating.

Contact Priscilla Park Weir - Surrey Tel: 01276 22735 priscilla@pvpw.fsnet.co.uk

### 2004 CONTACT LIST - IS YOUR ENTRY CORRECT????

The contact list is based on information received by the beginning of April 2004. Please look at your listing to check it's accurate and that you are in the right county/area. If any of your entry has changed, do get in touch with me.

If you move during the year, please let me know as soon as possible to ensure that future newsletters arrive on time at your new address. Please also contact me if you have renewed your membership but are missing a newsletter.

*Lynda Hitchman*

database@education-otherwise.org (see inside back cover for address/phone number)

### Handbook ~ EO Stationery

Please note that the list in the Handbook, page 16, should also include Compliment Slips and Summary of the Law relating to Home Education leaflet. New and continuing local contacts, enquiries secretaries and others doing jobs for EO can obtain supplies of stationery for EO Business use from Ali Willer, 28, Cozens Hardy Road, Sprowston, Norwich NR7 8QF  
or e-mail: simon.whitehall@tesco.net

### Security of Information

Please remember that non-members may see the main newsletter, and restrict your published contact details to those you feel comfortable to have in the public domain. Remember when giving details of venues, dates etc. that this may for some members be sensitive information.

The Children's Pages and the Contact list are for members only; please be careful of how you dispose of these so that private information doesn't get out. Someone had placed the Children's Pages of the newsletter in their recycling bin ... and then had second thoughts.

## Back Page Part Two

**New volunteers for any of the groups most welcome, with expertise or just an interest**  
**For more information contact any of the council members listed (in bold)**

If you would prefer to volunteer for infrequent or small tasks please contact Emma Birkenshaw emma-birkenshaw@ntlworld.com tel 0113 2172795 Emma will add you to our volunteer database and contact you with information when help is needed. (see also previous page)

### Small Groups:

**Finance:** Martine Frampton, Lynda Hitchman, Ann Samuel Till, Ali Willer, Helen Donaldson, Priscilla Park-Weir

**Enquiries:** Pam Bellinger, Geraldine Adams, Iris Harrison, Jo Borthen, Edwina Theunissen

**Publications:** Gary Podmore, Lucy Charlton, Ali Willer, Anne Rix

**Business Practice Group:** Priscilla Park-Weir, Pam Bellinger, Martine Frampton

**DfES Team:** Ann Samuel Till, Gary Podmore

**LEA/EA Group:** Anne Wade, Gary Podmore, Ann Samuel Till, Keith Charlton, Lize Stevens, Rob Wade

**Communications:** Priscilla Park-Weir, Anne Rix

**Scotland Group:** Ann Samuel Till, Lucie MacAulay, Anne Wade, Jill Fisher, Jane Bathgate

**Information for other organisations:** Priscilla Park-Weir, Anne Rix

### Grievances and Complaints

**Martine Frampton** 70 Fosseyway Avenue, Moreton in Marsh, GL56 0EA 01608 812411

[martine-frampton@macunlimited.net](mailto:martine-frampton@macunlimited.net)

**Lynda Hitchman**, 31 Audley St., Reading, Berks, RG30 1BP 0118 961 4466

[hitchmans@ntlworld.com](mailto:hitchmans@ntlworld.com)

**Celia McDonagh**, 169 Habershon Street, Splott, Cardiff, CF24 2LA 07763 729055

**Anne Rix** Hembury Orchard, Frithelstock, Torrington, EX38 8JT 01237 451535

[anne@annerix.demon.co.uk](mailto:anne@annerix.demon.co.uk)

#####

### EO Email Lists

The EO Business list discusses the organisation and policies of Education Otherwise. Open only to EO members (memberships will be regularly checked to ensure that the list members are still members of EO) and only for the discussion of EO business.

To join the business list: Go to:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/eobusiness>  
Or send a blank email to:

### Media Contacts

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

**Media co-ordinator:** Belinda Harris-Reid (see SW)

**Scotland:** Alison Sauer, Inverness.

Tel: 01463 232571 Fax: 01463 220 825

Mob: 07956 193 983 [alison@sauer.demon.co.uk](mailto:alison@sauer.demon.co.uk)

**Northern Ireland (VACANT) Volunteers please!!**

**North West: (VACANT) Volunteers please!!**

**North East:** Eva O'Rourke, Wilsden

01535 274520 [evaandmary@aol.com](mailto:evaandmary@aol.com)

**Midlands:** Helen Donaldson, Colwich, Staffs  
01889 882043 [serf@unappreciated.co.uk](mailto:serf@unappreciated.co.uk)

**Wales:** Celia McDonagh, Cardiff, 07763 729055  
[celiamcdonagh@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:celiamcdonagh@yahoo.co.uk)

**East Anglia:** Ali Willer, Sprowston, Norwich  
01603 401020 [simon.whitehall@tesco.net](mailto:simon.whitehall@tesco.net)  
[mailto:webmaster@education-otherwise.org](mailto:mailto:webmaster@education-otherwise.org)

**South West:** Belinda Harris-Reid Buckfastleigh,  
Devon 01364 643343

[bharrisreid@baselinedata.co.uk](mailto:bharrisreid@baselinedata.co.uk)

**South East:** (acting): Claire Turnham, 6 The Butts,  
Aynho, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX17 3AN

01869-811099 [Claire@birthandbeyond.co.uk](mailto:Claire@birthandbeyond.co.uk)

**London(1):** Linda Irene'schild, Stockwell, London  
SW9 020 7787 6692

[lindaflora2002@hotmail.com](mailto:lindaflora2002@hotmail.com)

**London(2):** (Acting) Kathleen McLaren,  
Walthamstow. 0208 527 3296

[krmclaren1@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:krmclaren1@tiscali.co.uk)

#####

[eobusiness-subscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk](mailto:eobusiness-subscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk)  
You will receive an automatic response from Yahoo asking for your full name and address. When you have responded and your membership has been checked as valid, you can be added to the list.

(General HE discussion can take place on the EO general list, which can be accessed via the website at [www.education-otherwise.org](http://www.education-otherwise.org))

## Who does What in EO

### Council Members

- Geraldine Adams** (N. London) 0207 2634922  
**Jane Bathgate** (Borders) 01835 862118  
**Pam Bellinger** (Leics) 0116 282 7929  
(Company Secretary)  
**Keith Charlton** (Leics) 0116 259 2118  
kcharlton@btopenworld.com  
**Sarah Cook** (Cumbria) 01768 896019  
sarah@croggies.freemove.co.uk  
**Martine Frampton** (Gloucs) 01608 812411  
martine-frampton@macunlimited.net  
(Treasurer)  
**Jacqui Houlding** (Cheshire) 01925 654856  
jc\_houlding@onetel.net.uk  
**Celia McDonagh** (Wales) 07763 729055  
celiamcdonagh@yahoo.co.uk  
**Gary Podmore** (Yorks) 0114 2585702  
podmorefamily@blueyonder.co.uk  
**Julie Ridley** (Manchester) 0161 860 7589  
julier@breathemail.net (Chairperson)  
**Anne Rix** (Devon) 01237 451535  
anne@annerix.demon.co.uk  
**Janet Simpson** (Lincs) 01427 617313  
HE@hubblesimpson.co.uk  
**Ali Willer** (East Anglia) 01603 401020  
simon.whitehall@tesco.net  
**June Wilson-Billing** (Dorset) 01202 827945  
educationotherwise@mac.com

### Membership

*Membership and newsletter subscription enquiries, membership cards, address changes, new member packs, other queries or missing newsletters contact:*

**Database Administrator**, Education Otherwise, 31 Audley St., Reading, Berkshire, RG30 1BP  
Tel: **Lynda Hitchman** 0118 961 4466 or 0118 901 2215,  
Email [database@education-otherwise.org](mailto:database@education-otherwise.org)

### Stationery

Leaflets, posters, membership forms, car stickers:  
**Ali Willer**, 28 Cozens Hardy Rd., Sprowston, Norwich NR7 8QF (donations towards postage welcome, reuse labels £2.50 per 100, free for EO business use)

### Publications

Books, information leaflets and back issues of newsletters. For a full list send SAE to:  
**June Wilson-Billing**, 17 Woodland Close, Verwood, BH31 7PM Tel: 01202 827945 e-mail [educationotherwise@mac.com](mailto:educationotherwise@mac.com) (please ring to check availability of items before ordering)

**Website and email lists:** **Jacqui Houlding**, 01925 654856 [jc\\_houlding@onetel.net.uk](mailto:jc_houlding@onetel.net.uk)

### Useful Contacts

#### **Contact with LEA / Member Support / Other Problems.**

*If you need help in dealing with your LEA ring your Local Contact or any Council Member.  
If you have a query not covered below please contact your nearest Council Member (list left)*

**Single Parent Family Contact:** **Rowenna Williams**  
[rowenna73@hotmail.com](mailto:rowenna73@hotmail.com) Berllan Gron, Llanycil, BALA, Gwynedd, LL23 7YG Tel: 01678 521348

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

**GCSE Contacts:** **Geraldine Adams** 0207 263 4922  
**Sarah Cook:** 01768 896019  
[sarah@croggies.freemove.co.uk](mailto:sarah@croggies.freemove.co.uk)

**School Phobia:** **Mary Thompson (acting)**  
01942 795975

**College Contact:** (Acting) **Lianne Smith** Ivy Mount, Canny Hill, Newby Bridge, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 8NU Tel: 015395 30716 (07717 301 887)

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

**Research Contact:** **Pam Vickers** 25 Boxley Rd, Walderslade, Chatham, Kent Home: 01634 671507  
Work: 01227 712206 [pjvickers@aol.com](mailto:pjvickers@aol.com)

**Company Secretary:** **Pam Bellinger** 56 Beech Drive, Braunstone, Leicester LE3 3DA 0116 282 7929

**Treasurer:** **Martine Frampton**, 70 Fossey Avenue, Moreton in Marsh, GL56 0EA (\*\*NB NEW ADDRESS\*\*) 01608 812411 [martine-frampton@macunlimited.net](mailto:martine-frampton@macunlimited.net)

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

**Coordinator for Local Contacts:** **Keith Charlton**, 2 Wistow Rd, Newton Harcourt, Leicestershire, LE8 0FT 0116 259 2118 [kcharlton@btopenworld.com](mailto:kcharlton@btopenworld.com)  
(Assistant): **Lize Stevens**, 10 Mantle Road, Leicester LE3 5HG (NEW) 0116 2513182 (NEW) [kissit@yawot.me.uk](mailto:kissit@yawot.me.uk)

**Coordinator for Enquiries Secretaries:** **Iris Harrison** (Assistant) **Jo Borthen** 01392 438876 [jo4eo@aol.com](mailto:jo4eo@aol.com)

**Newsletter Coordinator (Acting for August) Fiona Stewart**, 7 Firvale, Harthill, Sheffield, S Yorks. S26 7XP 01909 774811 [vulpixie3@btinternet.com](mailto:vulpixie3@btinternet.com)  
(Retiring) **Anne Rix**, Hembury Orchard, Frithelstock, Terrington, EX38 8JT. 01237 451535 [anne@annerix.demon.co.uk](mailto:anne@annerix.demon.co.uk)

**Chairperson:** **Julie Ridley**, 32 Cheltenham Road, Chorley, Manchester, M21 9QN 0161 860 7589 [julier@breathemail.net](mailto:julier@breathemail.net)

# education otherwise

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

Our principal aims are to:

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

For further information send an A5 s.a.e. to:

P.O. BOX 7420  
LONDON N9 9SG

Helpline 0870 73 000 74

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

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