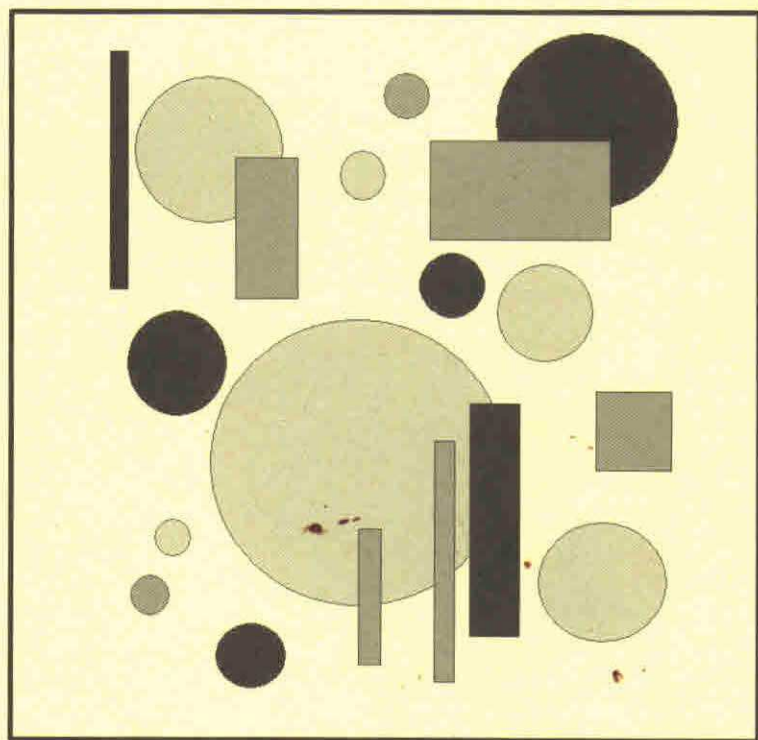


# education otherwise



No. 159 - August 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> September 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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**New Competition Editor!**

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## CO-ORDINATORIAL

Welcome to summer's newsletter everyone – I just hope that summer has finally arrived by the time you get this! Still, it has been lovely weather for ducks recently, and no watering the garden for a change (try to look on the bright side, unlike the sun)....

Apparently us Brits are a nation of individualists as well as gardeners – especially, it seems, us home educators – barely anywhere else in the world do we have such freedom from curriculum restraints or indeed the right to home-educate at all....Sadly I think that many of us will have met the kind of education officer who, if they had their own way, would see every child forced into school – regardless of their individual needs or parental preferences.

It is very easy to become isolated as home-educators though – unless you are lucky enough to have a friendly community of like-minded parents nearby....For myself I have found this newsletter to be the only contact I have with other home-educators – and it has given me valuable reassurance at dire moments...Not so much guidance on how to 'do' home-ed, but reassurance that I'm not the only person out there following a different drumbeat to my neighbours and local community.

There is no right way to 'do' home-ed, and I quite often think I'm getting it terribly wrong – but the many different accounts of other parents in the newsletter remind me that raising and educating children is more a case of 'feeling your way' than following an infallible rule-book. Long may we continue to enjoy the right to follow our parental instincts and do what's best for our children in the long run (hopefully – does anyone out there have a crystal-ball?) and please keep your contributions and views coming, as we really are stronger together, even if we're alone in our neighbourhood.

Fiona Stewart 27.6.04

NB: Special Thanks to Anne Rix  
for nursemaiding me through  
my first newsletter!

## SCOTLAND

### Funding to change with the times!

#### Educating the LEA:

Following the article in the last newsletter on working with EAs and LEAs "Times are Changing" I was inspired to apply to a small charitable trust which I know of for funding for HE resource packs for education authorities in Scotland. The application was successful and we have been awarded £4000 for EO to produce these packs in the first instance in Scotland!

The idea to date is that each education authority should have on its shelf a resource pack that has in it at least the essential reference material that an education officer would need to help him or her deal well and respectfully with home educating and enquiring families. It should also help them to comply with the law and in Scotland's case with the statutory guidance.

This would then mean that any home educator or Local Contact or LEA/EA contact could make reference to the contents of the pack and direct the education officer to it in communicating about any issue regarding home education in their area. It should provide a resource and a support for anyone dealing with the local authority (and hopefully minimise the reinvention of the wheel which often has to go on each time). Although produced by EO it will be a general home education resource.

#### Your Contributions Welcome!

The LEA/EA group have had an initial discussion about this and the contents of such a pack. We would like you to have a think about it too and to write to us with any strong preferences on what you think should be included e.g. a book or an article, a quote.

The question to ask yourself is "What would I like the education authority to know or have read and understood about home education when they are dealing with home educators (yourself perhaps!)" A simple reference list would be great; comments and thoughts would be a bonus for us.

If you have a burning desire to contribute more then get in touch and offer to help either with the Scotland packs or with the LEA/EA work in general.

### Fresh Chance for Guidance:

The idea of these packs for Scotland has been triggered by the current situation. We have new statutory guidance, which to all intents and purposes is reasonable overall, but we have local authorities which are to varying degrees as clueless about many aspects of home education as they were before. Many of them are trying to embrace the guidance but they have limited staff time and usually not much budget to do this efficiently or well.

What we don't want to happen is that the different authorities establish hard-set new procedures that are all different from each other again or unhelpful to home educators. So they need training and they need it NOW and home educators are the experts. We hope these packs will play an important role in informing EAs and assisting them in developing good procedures.

Other initiatives are also under way: Alison Sauer, a home educator who founded the Highland Home Educators' Group and who is also a professional trainer and project manager, has independently developed a training course for the Scottish authorities. Several of them have taken it up and at the time of writing a couple of courses have already taken place. I have seen the course and in my opinion it is very good and excellently presented. I understand the feedback from participants has been positive. I also understand that the Scottish Executive are considering a conference/seminar later in the year to give an opportunity for feedback on the guidance to education authorities and home educators.

### We Can All Make a Difference:

We are all potential trainers of our Local authorities whenever we deal with them. The LEA/ EA group wants to support whatever work makes that easier for home educators to do. I hope you will agree that a resource pack, stout and enduring, full of pertinent material, to be available on the authority shelf for several years will be a useful contribution to this. So help us to put the right stuff in it! Do feed in to the EA/LEA group and the Scotland group on this.

*Ann Samuel Till  
Lize Stevens*

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## THE 'GLOBALISATION' OF HOME EDUCATION.

Amanda Petrie 2003 ©

*(This article was first published in Education Otherwise Newsletter No. 151, April 2003)*

Easter 1999 - there was a steady stream of email contact from France, mostly from people I had been in contact with for a number of years. The inferences were the same - the French government were discussing changing the education law of 1882. Why? A sect had been 'found' to be operating a small school and they cited the law as it refers to home education. Home education had become confused with a small extreme religious school and the fate of home education was sealed when the draconian law was passed only nine months later in December 1999. A relaxed, fertile approach to home education is no longer permitted in France.

One of the French members of the Assemblée during the debate claimed that children who did not attend school were subjected to the influence of sects and that the children were at risk of being marginalized and incapable of developing an independent spirit. When he finished his speech, the whole of the parliament erupted in lengthy applause. The voice of home educators was completely lost and consequently the law, which applies to home education, makes the practice of home education as akin to schooling as possible. Registration is compulsory and inspectors, educational sociologists, and psychologists have a right of entry to the home. There is a fundamental belief in many regions that a home educating parent has chosen this form of education for dubious reasons - there is a strong possibility that they are harming their children and limiting their life experiences. Having met some of these families, nothing could be further from the truth. As the current law imposes a list of curriculum criteria and one of these is French Literature, there is no leeway for non-French speaking people to home educate. A 'French experience' for German or English home educators is inevitably out of the question.

Not six months later, home educators in Ireland contacted me. There, too, the Government was changing the education law as it applies to home educators. In this case, the new law was principally concerned with children who were truanting from school. Despite the setting up of the Home Education Network and the support of some members of parliament and a prominent barrister, the case for the freedom to home educate according to the needs of the child was barely heard. 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.

In both these countries, the law had remained unchanged for decades, why change things at that point?

The next surprise was that the DfEE was prepared to fund a study to assess whether it was possible to calculate how many children were educated at home in England and Wales. This was finished in December 2000 and concluded that not only was it impossible to assess the number with any accuracy, but that LEA staff felt compulsory registration was a bad idea, as constructive relationships between home educators and LEA staff could be harmed. They pointed out that it would be difficult to create a compulsory registration law that could only be enforced by depriving the family of money, as in the payment of a fine, or by imprisonment, depriving the child of a parent. Not only was this research conducted by people experienced in home education, but those LEA staff who took part were aware of home educators, the variety of education which home educators provide and of many other issues surrounding home education. This shows that when minority issues are considered, government policy needs to be based on in-depth information rather than popular media-fuelled politics.

New guidelines restricting home education have been written in Scotland. It has become more difficult to home educate in Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

On surfing the Internet, I realised that all these changes were not a coincidence. The OECD\* publishes comparative annual reports of school attendance and achievement. Before the changes to the law in France and Ireland, there had been a series of meetings of government staff of European countries in Geneva, ostensibly about truancy. A Swedish home education researcher accessed the minutes of the meetings - it appeared that home education was not discussed. Could this meeting have been the impetus for government investigations into all children who are not in school and therefore not necessarily receiving a school-type curriculum? Who knows?

Recently, a fellow-researcher contacted me with details of a research proposal that was submitted last year in the hope of obtaining European money. It was to assess the feasibility of setting up a register for all home-educated children in Europe. It was prepared by IT people who were not cognisant with home educators, although one of the universities involved professes to be a part of 'the European Homeschooling Community network'. The two main proposers were in Israel and Germany - two countries where it is almost impossible to home educate. They believed that home educators feel 'alienated, isolated [and] left out of their community' and that the home school population is 'slowly distancing itself from those families who send their children to educational institutions' creating 'the first sign of social alienation of the two groups'. People working within the education sphere for European institutions will have read this proposal.

I would think that any genuine researcher into home education would gainsay the fundamental premises of this proposal and of the arguments put forward by the French government. They certainly bear no similarity to home education - the area of research which I have been involved in throughout Europe for the last seventeen years.

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. Members of home education support networks devote many hours to supporting specific families within a particular geographical area; when possible they give support to other organisations as has happened over the recently published draft guidelines in Scotland. There is rarely the chance to look at home education in the wider world perspective.

In an attempt to broaden the debate, I created a website in 2000 called International Home Education - which can be found at [www.worldzone.net/lifestyles/homeducation](http://www.worldzone.net/lifestyles/homeducation). It is a site where contact can be made between home educating groups in different countries, and researchers new to home education can be encouraged to become fully aware of the real issues. People who have a mindset of schooling can use this resource to dispel some common misconceptions, and access alternative thoughts and concepts; they can contact home educators and people who know what home education is really about. The website has certainly created a pool of home education researchers who want to give active support to the excellent variety of home education as it is actually practised by home educators.

*Dr Amanda Petrie is a Research Associate at the Institute of Education, University of London. Amanda is a highly respected researcher internationally (as well as within EO), who is primarily concerned with education policy which affects home educators in different countries.*

*She is currently involved in an International project, involving researchers in the UK, France, Ireland, Germany, Norway and Sweden. The aim is to evaluate the similarities and differences between several aspects of home education in various countries in Europe and the US. It is hoped to assess the relevance of home education research results across national boundaries. This is important as legislators referred to above did not acknowledge the body of home education research, believing that home education was very different in their respective countries and that home education research conducted for example in the UK or the USA was not relevant to their own circumstances.*

\* OECD: The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development is an international organisation formed in 1961 to promote trade, economic growth and aid for developing countries. Member countries include much of Europe as well as North America, Mexico, Australia, NZ, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

## Statistics

Too often people ask 'What is EO doing for us?' When you receive your Welcome Pack with the Contact List and Handbook and copy of School is Not Compulsory, and your newsletters, you 'see' where some of your subscription money goes. When you renew, you get the Handbook and the Contact List and newsletters...and you wonder what else EO does. Some of that money goes towards informing people of their rights through the telephone Helpline, the email Helpline and the website. We thought (the Helpline people and I) that you might like to see some statistics.

### **Website first**

On average there are 4,500 sessions per week. A session is defined as someone logging onto the website and looking around it and then leaving...regardless of how many pages they look at or how long they spend on a page. This is an increase of nearly 2,000 sessions per week from August/September 2003. The first week in May 2004 saw the highest ever number of sessions since moving to Rhye (I didn't have access to statistics before we moved to Rhye) with 5,380 sessions. Tuesdays are the day the site receives the most number of hits on average.

To give a snapshot of the site, all the following figures relate to just May 2004.

A total of 46,745 individual pages were viewed

#### Breakdown of top pages viewed were:

Home Page	16,833
Index to Legal Pages	1,413
Joining EO Page	1,271
Index to About EO	1,228
Site Map	1,131
Publications List	1,124
FAQ	882
Local Groups List	723
GCSE Information	687
Contact Details	675
Educational Philosophies/Provision	650
Young Persons Index Page	583
Legal Information for England and Wales	574
Socialisation Pages	557

The least viewed pages were those listing concessions in various areas averaging up to 14 viewings per month. I've now removed those pages from the website since it is almost impossible to keep them up to date, and the information is available in the Handbook for members anyway.

The viewings on some pages were surprising. For example:

How People Found out about Home Education	75
Trademark Page	50
The Famous People who were home educated page	128

The page listing books featuring children who did not attend school, even though it was not uploaded until near the end of May, still managed to get 57 viewings.

Other information for people interested in techy statistics:

Top browsers used to view the EO site:

MSIE	43%
AOL	23%
Netscape	14%

Operating Systems used to view the EO site:

Windows NT	46.00%
Other Windows Systems	19.00%
Mac	1.81%
Linux	0.51%

Referrals to the EO site from search engines:

Yahoo.com	91.00%
Alta Vista	5.28%
Lycos	2.48%

Not sure where Google appears here. 'Education Otherwise' and 'Home Education UK' bring up the EO website as the top site when those phrases are used as the search criteria.

A strange one for you. Of the 20,550 unique user sessions, 15,103 of them were traceable to geographic locations. 47% came from Britain; 42% came from the USA and less than 1% each came from places as far afield as China, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Japan and various European and South American countries.

## **Onto the Enquiry Line**

I have a great deal of admiration for those people who operate the Enquiry Helpline on behalf of EO. Although some statistics will follow, this team of people working under the guidance of Iris Harrison, take some extremely harrowing calls. The worst ones often get passed to Iris to deal with and she has told me about calls she's taken which last for more than an hour, several times sometimes, about children who are drinking bleach, who are being horrendously bullied and who's parents are at their wit's end trying to do what is right for their children. It is a job which I could not do...you have to be a special kind of person to listen to people with such tragic stories and still be able to keep going. The Helpline is divided into two parts really. The email helpline is answered by Jo Borthen who will (after weeding out the many spam/advertising emails) answer 3-10 emails per day about home education. I remember when Jo first started doing this job not so long ago, she would send me lots of emails asking for advice on how to answer. Her

learning curve was steep, but she sends very few my way now and deals with all of them by herself quickly and competently.

The telephone helpline is operated by a team who man it for a week at a time. The number of calls they have dealt with this month are:

- January	566
- February	472
- March	573
- April	374
- May	479

Most of the calls are on week days; very few over the weekends. It was interesting looking at the daily statistics and realising that the fewest number of calls happened during the school Easter holidays, presumably when the children aren't stressed at being sent to school.

Jacqui Houlding

### EDUCATION OTHERWISE INSURANCE COVER FOR LOCAL GROUPS

We have now re-established full insurance cover for EO having had our cover withdrawn by our previous insurer. This policy offers public liability cover for both national EO events and local group meetings. In order to ensure that we know who is covered by this policy we are going to establish a formal list of local groups who wish to consider themselves 'EO' groups and who want to take advantage of the cover.

In order to do this I would like everyone who runs a local group, wishing to take advantage of the public liability cover, to contact me with the following information: Name, address and phone number of a contact person for the group, who MUST be an EO member. It is not essential for everyone who attends the group to be EO members, but we must have an official contact name who is. If you have a regular venue where the group meets, please notify us of this also.

Can I stress that all groups in the regional diary DO NOT have to register and this list will remain as it already operates in the newsletter for anyone who wishes to advertise their group. For many groups, insurance is not likely to be something they need. If you simply gather once a week to go swimming together at a public baths you will be covered for any accident by the provider's insurance. But, for example, groups who rent a hall regularly would be covered by our insurance for accidents/injury and/or damage to the property caused by the group.

This cover does however only extend to normal 'social and educational' activities and would not include any dangerous sports or the like, for which groups would have to take out separate cover.

I will arrange for the register of groups to be added to the website so that people can check whether or not they are included. Also, people can contact me at any time to check that the group they attend is covered.

Martine Frampton, Treasurer  
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# Educating Archie

by SEE

An EO stall in the rain? It must be a summer festival.....



## Diary Of A Home Educating Nobody.

It is the end of a Home educating day!

It is the time of day when I feel as soiled as the last dregs of the washing up water I just swished down the sink. As drained as someone who has just donated all their blood! And as tired as a daily marathon runner. Actually home educating is a bit like daily marathon running when you think about it!

The house is strewn with the remnants of the days activities; a book here; a set of paints there. A jar full of disgusting coloured paint water, a glue stick with the top off, fabric snips all over the kitchen. The cushions in the living room are on the floor; there's a snowfall of paper cuttings on the carpet not to mention a snip in the cushion! A battery under the settee, a bit of wire down the back - I can't see it but I know it's there because I just threw it there in a paddy after sitting on it! The table is laden with stuff, chairs laden with coats, library bags full of books dumped by the door.

In other words the house looks like the usual Home-Ed battlefield!

I can only sit and look at it - I haven't one gram of energy left to do anything about it!

The children have been busy right up to the last minute. We've been out. We've been fed. They're in their jim-jams and it's almost time for bed.

I've slumped, my blood gone all heavy, eyelids gone all magnetic!

And the little one says: "mummy, can you read me a story?"

And how do I respond to this need for our cuddly time at the end of the day?

With a desperate shriek: "For goodness sake, can't you just give me a break for two minutes?"

Her little face drops - she doesn't understand why I'm suddenly shrieking at her when I usually read her a story! And I don't understand why I suddenly find that reading a story - a bit of the day I usually enjoy - is the last straw and my lovely children have suddenly become horrible leeches always wanting more!

In the instant I regretted it I also realised how it happened.

It's so simple really. I was just tired. I was used up. I needed some space.

But that wasn't her fault. I cuddled her, apologised, explained and dragged up enough energy to read just a little story.

What's not so simple for all us HEers is not letting it get to that pitch before we do something about it.

I've said before that I believe that successful home educating is as much about how we manage our own personal time as it is to do with education or timetables! How we manage time off!

Time off seems impossible. For most home educators, the children are always around. But it is essential.

It is essential that we each have our own personal times for space and relaxation. It is essential that we have our own time away from our children. It is essential that we have that time without guilt! And it's essential that we value these times. They are so important.

The home education we provide - whatever form it takes - will be dependent on the relationship between ourselves and our children being a good one.

It is extremely difficult to maintain a good relationship with overkill!

It is extremely difficult to maintain a good relationship when we don't have time and space to recuperate from the demands of each other. Both for children and adults! And it's really difficult to feel happy, energised, enthusiastic, and well when we never get time off. It would be in any job.

But how do we get time off? Perhaps members would like to write in and share tactics!

For myself I find the first thing I have to do is remember to take it! Because it doesn't just happen! I have to make it happen, and regularly.

I need to remember to organise the children to be somewhere else sometimes!

To do a time swap with another HE friend. Or to go off by myself when there's someone else around! Instead of always being available!

When that's not possible I have to do it by talking to the children about respecting one another's space, about me needing some time for myself - as they do, about not disturbing me when I'm having this time.

That was difficult at first, but as they grow and I persevere they do understand and respect it - although a refresher course is often needed!

Just as I need a refresher course in remembering that just because I opt to home educate it does not mean that I have to feel guilty about being with my children all the time, or every moment with my children being 'educational'!

Sometimes we all slump, chill, vegetate, watch a video, sit in the garden, lie on the bed, just to get a break!

Sometimes I go off into another room and make myself out-of-bounds! (Like now!) Sometimes, when the children are content with what they're doing, I drift

off into a good book or some other engaging diversion like gardening. (Great for releasing pent up frustrations!)

We need to practise! For the sake of our children and ourselves. We need to find a way to separate ourselves from each other and get a break. We need breaks.

Just so we don't turn into shrieking maniacs like I did, and we conserve some energy for the loving bits!

Which reminds me - I need to go and read someone a story before I get too tired!

Ross Mountney.

#### Response to "Response to April Newsletter" EO newsletter 158

I read Ms. Borthen's response with interest, especially regarding the pros and cons of sending a Year Ten home-educated teenager into a college environment.

I was such a 14 year old teenager (home-educated from birth....yup...a pure home-grown...) who was completely plunged into the deep-end in a pre-vocational college programme for year 10/11 individuals who were not attending school for one reason or another (generally truancy, disruption etc). My family and I encountered many "LEA boundaries" and "government policies" that required pushing before I was permitted to enrol.

My late Grandparents met the first two years of my tuition fees (LEA refused to fund me until I turned 16) - numerous letters to our local MP, David Blunkett, and other funding organisations met nothing but red tape and politicians talking their way out of corners. However, if I had attended a local secondary school and got expelled for e.g. breaking windows, an LEA funded college place would have been given to me with a red bow and their blessings.

Ms. Borthen also asks in her response "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."

When I was the 14-15 year old I would have happily welcomed something like this. Regardless of what educational stage they are at I do not feel that there are enough resources or contacts or 'after-care' for the older home-educated child. Whilst this is a nice idea, I feel that myself and possibly Ms. Borthen are looking at things through rose-tinted spectacles where this idea is concerned. In general, I liked college; however - the things I found most irritating and disrupting towards my learning techniques during my time at college were the persistent lateness, sarcasm; work not being returned on time and the walking out of lessons earlier than scheduled....and that was just the tutors!!!!

However, now aged almost 20, I feel that regardless of how/where/when they are studied/sat, taking GCSEs is an important part of your schooling (not education - people confuse the two words) as it summarises your academic life for potential employers and demonstrates ability to apply oneself.

If one is home-educated there is often little hard evidence available to demonstrate that learning has taken place, especially if an autonomous approach has been adopted. I often feel sad that the typical emphasis today is placed upon academic learning, with less importance placed on the spiritual and artistic growth of the individual (lovely skateboarding dear, but what mathematics did you do today...?). But unfortunately this is the world we live in."

I have been working full-time for the last few years whilst trying to find a direction and recovering from some personal issues that have been paramount since finally ending my relationship with Hertfordshire Regional College. I do not feel that my few years at college prepared me for life as I view it, apart from getting those annoying bits of paper (2 Bs, 5 Cs, 1 D at GCSE and a D at A/S English literature; sat in year 11).

I would also like to add that, fabulous as home-education is, I do find it tends to be geared towards parents and children of primary-school age (as I know is intended). Apart from a few parents tearing their hair out when GCSE time rolls around, there is very little for those of us who are sixth form age, or who would have recently left school, or who are involved in FE or who are just completely baffled by everything and staring around thinking "oh my goodness, what do I do NOW?". I would be really interested in hearing about anyone else's experiences "after home education" and, if possible, maybe starting a casual meet for the younger and groovier of us or contact by e-mail etc. etc. etc!

Katie Morley, Golf Cottage, Cozens Lane West, Broxbourne, Herts  
[starstruck121@hotmail.com](mailto:starstruck121@hotmail.com)

## Acceptable Behaviour

Further to Rachel Lovera's 'Bad Press for Home Ed?' in the last newsletter, I wanted to add to the discussion as we have had similar, though not as serious, problems in Staffordshire.

For example, on a recent trip, and despite giving out instructions from the custodian as to what our group should/shouldn't do on an ancient monument, I still had to ask children to climb down from it.

Everyone is entitled to bring their own children up in the way that they choose and I champion this but sometimes the freedom of the few encroaches on the freedom of the rest. Sadly, for certain trips, the only solution I could come up with was to invite only those whose children would behave in a manner that gave home education a good name.

Most of the places we visited hadn't even heard of home education and were sceptical about our group visiting. I wanted to make a good impression for the sake of other home education groups, whom I hoped would in future be welcomed with open arms because of the good

behaviour and keen interest shown by our children. I have seen too many school children, running amok like a pack of animals, with not an ounce of interest in what was around them. I always assured any sceptical education officer that 'our children' were not like that.

When I was required to sign a form saying that I accepted responsibility for my group's behaviour on site, I just could not ask certain families to come, as I was NOT prepared to accept responsibility for what their children might do. Although I apologised, this did upset some people, even those who weren't excluded.

I agree that it would be dreadful to lose resources and opportunities for everyone, due to a few who behave differently to the accepted norm. I am sure they would not ban schools for the same reason. Although this is unfair, we do live in a society where a certain standard of behaviour is acceptable to most.

How we behave at home is entirely up to us but unless we wish to be excluded by society in general, missing out on things that can benefit us and on educational opportunities, we do need to occasionally adopt a standard of behaviour that pleases the custodians/education officers at certain facilities.

I hope that those who didn't at the time understand my decision will maybe do so as a result of reading this.

Helen Donaldson, Colwich, Staffs - serf@unappreciated.co.uk

## Re: Bad Press for Home Ed.

It all sounds so depressingly familiar: an organisation generously accommodates Home Eders ... just to find that a *certain element* treats them so badly that they never want to have anything to do with HE ever again. Over the years I have been ashamed to be part of an HE group on quite a few occasions. There was the time a local venue offered cheap special events exclusively for older HE kids and were verbally abused by a number of EO parents for their choice of time, cost and age restriction. Then there was the time when the LEA funded a free HE event to which families from outside the area were also invited at a reduced rate. A substantial number of the participants from outside the LEA area gave false addresses in order to avoid paying. When they were found out, the only mistake that they could see that they had made was to *be* found out.

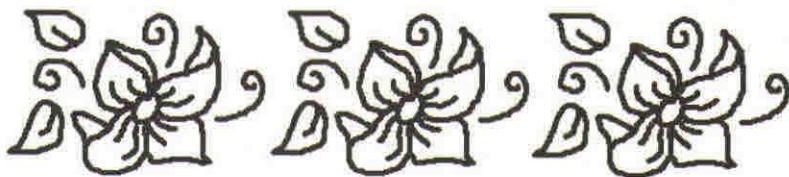
Rachel Lovera is extremely lucky to be able to air differences and, crucially, find compromises within her group. My experience has been very different. Yes, meetings are held and differences aired. But the *certain element* conclude that those who expect anything in particular from the children (or their parents) – be it sociable behaviour or participation in the special events they choose to attend – are 'coercive', 'controlling', 'fascist' and, obviously, 'wrong'. Even when the *certain element* are in the minority, they manage to dominate others and chase the rest away.

This *certain element* pride themselves on their liberal thinking. When it comes to HE, however, they know for certain that there is only one way to do it – their way. When almost secret gatherings of 'refugees' from the original groups spring up, they try to stop them or make them like the groups these people are avoiding in the first place!

Some of us have now recognised there are people who turn up with two objectives in mind: 1) to impose their one, true method of HE and 2) to make sure that anything anyone else sets up fails. We have slowly learnt how to offer resistance, stand our ground and collect money in advance. As a result, we have suffered much unpleasantness and criticism.

I think it is only reasonable to expect a minimum standard of behaviour for the few hours we choose to be together, be it at a social meeting or a special event. And other than try to avoid all contact, I don't know what to do. It also puts me off having any direct involvement with EO at a national level. I certainly have no wish to sign my name.

*Name and address supplied.*



#### USEFUL Home. Ed. ARGUMENT

"Every argument against home schooling by parents is equally valid against home cooking by parents. Parents might not balance meals properly, they might give their kids junk food, some might not feed their kids at all. Some might leave "gaps" in their children's dietary experience. Shouldn't we then require all parents to use meal plans prepared and approved by university educated and certified dieticians? And bring their children in at least once a year to be measured and weighed to make sure that they are following the plans properly? And if their children are not within the proper height and weight ranges on the charts, then their right to cook at home would be revoked and the children required to take their meals at State run and supervised cafeterias? I actually hesitate to spell this out in too much more detail for fear that someone will take me seriously and draw up plans to implement State-certified nutritional and cooking programmes for parents."

(attributed to the Shearers of Greenleaf Press)

## HANSARD & COUNCIL TAX (Single Adult Discount)

*Or – What we have to do to get what's due to us ...*

In April this year I filled in a 'student discount form' saying that my son (then aged 18yr 11 mo) was home educated, and giving the usual explanation (accepted as 'full-time education' by other authorities) as to what he did with his time in a supporting letter. I received the following reply:

\*\*\*\*\*

"Dear Ms Rix

Thank you for returning the student discount form I recently sent to you, following the single occupier review form in which you stated your son was a full time student.

Unfortunately correspondence courses do not fit the criteria required to qualify as a full time student, and as such I am unable to offer you a discount on your council tax.

I have removed the single occupier discount from the date he became 18 which was 21.05.03. A new bill reflecting this will be with you shortly....

Yours sincerely (Head of Customer Services).

\*\*\*\*\*

Having already explained that it wasn't a correspondence course, or a college course, or anything else on their list of courses, I had another go - enlisting the aid of the recent Hansard Reports of Home Education Debates at Westminster:

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear (Head of Customer Services)

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the student discount form I had returned.

My son is not undertaking a correspondence course. He is registered as a member of 'Education Otherwise' – the voluntary organisation that supports home-based education, and his education is proceeding by autonomous self-directed learning, averaging about 25 hours per week. He intends to continue until the end of this academic year. The Inland Revenue and Benefits Agency accept this as being a full-time student, and I receive Child Tax Credit and Child Benefit for him (although I understand these will cease on his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday). I cannot understand why the criteria for studentship should be different in the Local Authority than in these government agencies.

Home education has been the subject of parliamentary debate on at least two occasions over the past year. On 13<sup>th</sup> May 2003 The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education and Skills (Mr. Ivan Lewis), referring to the inequity about access to further education by those educated at home, in response to a speech by Mr John Randall (MP for Uxbridge) said:

"The playing field should not be uneven ... The Government believe that we must recognise the right to choose home education ... There is no question about the Government being negative or trying to impede home educators, whose contribution we value."—[Official Report, Westminster Hall, 13 May 2003; Vol. 405, c. 66WH.]

More recently, on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2004, responding to Sir George Young (NW Hants), The Minister for School Standards (Mr. David Miliband) said :

'The right hon. Gentleman is right to say that not only children, but adults, are diverse individuals. It must be right that the education system should have the flexibility to cater for individual student needs, interests and aptitudes. That is what we call personalised learning.'

It seems to me that the recognition of home education for Council Tax purposes would be in the spirit of these perorations, and I hope that you will be able to re-interpret the 'letter of the law' in line with the above anti-discriminatory attitudes.

Yours sincerely ....

\*\*\*\*\*

When I had received no reply after about six weeks, I called in at the Council Offices to enquire about the progress of my claim. I was informed that a reply was in the post, and it arrived the following day:

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Ms Rix

Thank you for your letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> May 2004; I apologise for the delay in my response.

I note from your letter that your son is undertaking self-directed learning, and have reviewed the Council Tax legislation accordingly. Unfortunately, despite stating in a newsletter in 1999 that the Government were reviewing the attendance criteria for students with regard to extending the exemption for Council Tax purposes, the law has yet to be altered.

However, as your son is in receipt of Child Benefit up to his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday on 21/5/04, I am able to extend your single occupier discount to that date, as the legislation does allow for persons in receipt of Child Benefit to be exempted from Council Tax Liability.

Hopefully, with Home Education being the subject of recent parliamentary debate, the Council Tax legislation will be amended in the near future. I have lodged a query with the ODPM on this subject.

I trust the above clarifies the current situation pertaining to Home Study; however if you do have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Your amended Bill will be sent within the next 7 days.

Yours sincerely ....

\*\*\*\*\*

The bit about exemption being related to Child Benefit is particularly interesting - in that case, why didn't they just give me the discount in the first place? But hooray for Westminster - I'm sure those debates could provide a rationale in support of other things as well ... Anyway, the amended bill duly arrived with the discount reinstated, up to my son's 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. Success!

While at the offices I had been told that if he was still a 'full time student' I could claim Council Tax Benefit (out of a different 'pot' and administered by a different department) for the same amount, after he became 19. I would need to fill in a Housing Benefit & Council Tax Benefit claim form (it was huge, but for this purpose I only needed to complete 3 pages) and provide certain pieces of evidence (of his identity, income and savings, national insurance number etc.). The following day, I trogged back to the office with the paperwork for them to photocopy for their files,

and was told that they now had all they needed and that the benefit would come through in due course. I looked forward to receiving a further amended bill.

•However, a couple of days later, I received a letter from the Council's Benefit department (those familiar with correspondence regarding benefits will recognise the 'writing by numbers' style):

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Ms Rix

I refer to your recent application for Council Tax Benefit/Housing benefit ... unfortunately we are unable to deal with your benefit claim because you have not provided all the evidence we need. Please provide the necessary evidence as detailed below ... We need to have evidence of the income of Mr D... S.... (my son). You have stated on the application form that he is a student. Please provide proof of what course he is attending by a letter from the relevant college/school stating what course he is taking, when it started and how long the course is for. Please also provide any relevant proof of his student grant or loan if he is in receipt of these ..... Please ensure this additional evidence is provided to us within 28 days ... without it, we cannot pay benefit, so it is important you tell us if you cannot provide any of the information we have asked for ...

\*\*\*\*\*

Well - when the red mist had cleared a bit, I tried to telephone, but couldn't get through. Just as well, probably! So I sent an email:

\*\*\*\*\*

With reference to your letter of 7 July, this information has already been provided to TDC. I appreciate that you have two different 'pots' but it seems to me that I can do no more than ask you to refer to two letters I wrote in this respect earlier this year, on the basis of which I was awarded single occupier discount up to the date of my son's 19th birthday. Please also refer to Mrs B's letter to me of 1st July (of which I assume an electronic copy is on file at TDC) to clarify the current situation pertaining to home study.

\*\*\*\*\*

At the time of writing, I have not yet received a reply ... watch this space!

Anne Rix, Devon.



# MATHS GAMES

*Miscellaneous games to play and activities to do with your child to help number awareness.*

*N.B. Children may play them on their own later, but your presence, support and active enjoyment are an important part of the process of 'demystifying' numbers, shapes & patterns, and using them for fun or for a serious real-life purpose.*

*Once you've got the idea, you'll think of lots more for yourself ....*

**Playing Cards** – many variations (some ideas overleaf)

**Dominos** – many variations (including just making patterns)

**Wooden bricks**

**Lego/Knex/Meccano**

**Monopoly** (and other board games – Ludo, Snakes and Ladders, etc.)

**Jigsaw puzzles**

**Noughts and Crosses**

**Battleships**

**Paper aeroplanes** (and other origami-type paper-folding activities)

**Making mobiles**

**Cooking**

**Shopping** (just talk about prices, compare weight of packs, at the supermarket, etc.)

**Household budget** (e.g. help check bank statements)

**Growing plants** (e.g. beans, courgettes) in individual cells, potting on, selling produce...

**D.I.Y. decorations** (e.g. paper chains from cut up magazines)

**Finger rhymes**

**Number songs** (Ten green bottles, Twelve days of Christmas, One man went to mow, This old man)

**Cardboard constructions** (include egg boxes)

**Sandcastles** (and mud pies! – make sure everyone at the Teddy Bears Picnic has a fair share!)

**Water play** (best in Summer out of doors, or in the bath – use plastic bottles, cups, sieves, yoghurt pots, etc.)

**Scrapbook** (cut and paste)

Anything with a **pattern**

**Stamp collecting**

**Collecting conkers** (use egg-boxes to store)

**Marbles**

**Magic – The Gathering** (original more sophisticated version of pokemon cards, great appeal for some quite young children also, broad range of skills stimulated)

*REMEMBER – the Games are for FUN (though learning will come as part of it) and other activities are REAL (i.e. real shopping with adult, using real money in real shops - not play shopping with fake coins).*

*Don't TRY to make any of them a 'lesson' – your child will know what you're up to! If you suggest something and your child isn't interested – STOP!!! Try something else, or just let it go and they'll find something they are interested in themselves ... NEVER force them to continue an activity just because it looks 'educational'. Let them consolidate their abilities by repeating earlier activities as often as they want to. They will move on to the next stage when they are really ready.*

## My Favourite Websites

1. [www.joethedragon.co.uk](http://www.joethedragon.co.uk)  
This is a brilliant maths resource in my opinion – better than any others I have seen. There are very well structured maths games and quizzes, for all levels of ability – plus tangram puzzles and jigsaws. Even my maths-phobe son finds himself unwittingly drawn in.
2. [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)  
The beeb provide a massive range of websites for games and education, aside from the obvious links to their television programmes. Their home page has a link to Entertainment/games – many of which are educational as well as entertaining. I particularly like the Brain games and the Kids CBBC games – which lead on to other links and so on and on like some vast onion with layer upon layer to peel off and have a look at.
3. Also from the beeb's home page – links to the UK weather pages contain lots of information about climate science, as well as an e-card facility for famous weather paintings.
4. There are many other links from the Beeb's home-page – particularly useful for older teens – in the Science and Nature section and, obviously, in the Learning section. My son almost enjoyed the skillswise links, covering basic grammar and maths games for adults. There is also a link at the bottom of the BBC Learning page to Online Courses, which features a useful interactive first aid course, amongst many others.
5. If you or your children want to learn a foreign language, the Beeb is also sickeningly efficient in this area – links from the Learning page exist for several European languages, including Greek, and even Chinese – the audio is very useful for practising pronunciation.
6. [www.gridclub.com](http://www.gridclub.com)  
But let's not forget channel 5! Their gridclub site is packed with interactive learning games, although they can take a while to download without broadband. There are forums on here, as on the beeb's bitesize revision sites, enabling young students to compare notes, and ask teachers for help.
7. [www.easyart.com](http://www.easyart.com)  
Finally, for arty types, this is a great site, and frequently updated. Aside from the lovely range of pictures to pore over, there is an amusing take on art history, and a clever feature to assemble your own galleries of pics. – mounted and framed to your taste.

*F. Stewart*



### National Trust Concessions

Home educators can now join the National Trust and National Trust for Scotland for an annual fee of just £15, saving a massive £50 on the family membership price. Joining as an 'Educational Group' rather than a family will entitle you to limitless visits to Trust properties throughout the year, plus Trust mailings and a handbook. The only conditions attached to this are that you pre-book visits, which must take place during school term times, and that there must be a ratio of 1 adult to 10 pupils. Tel: 0870 458 4000 for an Educational Groups application form.

# Archives

Compiled by Sarah Guthrie

## Musings from the 90's on how to educate

'They work every morning with me for an hour (Maths and French). They have several activities: music, gym, theatre, tales and artistic activities.

Twice a week they get together with (another family) for various activities...and they help with household duties. The girls do at least half an hour's housework a day...they choose what they do according to their wishes and also to what needs to be done; hanging out the washing, hoovering, washing the floor or windows, cooking, etc. That there is a contribution to household chores seems important to us.....work (not just housework) seems to me to be a fundamental part of education. To exclude children from the world of work is a bit like excluding them from the community.'

Marie Cellot Beaudoin, writing from France in June 1992.

'My own biggest problem is to be dealing with Tabitha's three year old games, teaching Fenris (8) to read, helping Sif (5) to make bread, Merlin (10) to design an apple dispenser (do I really need an apple dispenser?), Amaryllis (12) to spell something for her letter and discuss the latest fashion in clothes with Melusine (16) who is now training to be a model..'

Sylvia, writing in June 1990

'We tend also to do most written work in the winter and very little in summer; everyone's got too many other things to do. Last year they barely picked up a pencil between June and September,....I find as they get older (they re now 9 and 11) they have more confidence in their own abilities to learn what they need and what interests them, and are less willing to follow any kind of curriculum.'

Terri Shoosmith August 1991

'On the academic front the girls (11 and 9) get through 12-20 pieces of work a week (2 to 4 each morning). Subjects currently being worked on include English, History, Geography, Religious Studies and Human Biology...with Childcare, Environment and conservation topics, community studies, other sciences and some maths. This programme may seem rather structured on the surface it probably is. There is substantial flexibility within it though in terms of approach, time and context.'

Roger Rich-Smith, June 1991

'I am a 12 year old boy and I have been home educated for almost 2 years. I am going around the world by horse-drawn caravan and have learnt things that I would probably never have known....I have learnt to speak languages of the countries I have been in. I have made lots of new friends and I have learnt to be more responsible. Also I have learnt some cooking and many other things. I think sitting and studying a book or doing maths in a classroom is boring. Walking around the countryside is educating and fun, even if you are in a town it can still be fun. ...'

Toreuil Grant writing in October, 1992

(Are you one of the above? How did it turn out? What did you do for a social life?!)

# COMPETITION PAGE

Hi all - Competition time again...open to all ages.

Closing Date 31<sup>st</sup> August

This time a batch of riddles for you to solve, some of them being very simple and others a bit more difficult, most of them will be groaners when you see the answers next month ;-)

This month's prize: An Education Otherwise hoodie in the size of your choice.

Please remember to include your name, address, phone and email if you have one and send to: EO Competition, 79 Cumberland Avenue, Cleveleys, Lancashire. FY5 2DS

Last months winner: Sue Osmond from Quorn, Leics who received a selection of books:



1. How long did the Hundred Years War last?
2. Which country makes panama hats?
3. What is a camel's hair brush made of?
4. How long did the Thirty Years War last?
5. What starts with 'e' ends with 'e' and contains only one letter?
6. What gets wetter the more it dries?
7. What do we all put off until tomorrow?
8. What has eyes but can't see?
9. This you should always keep - no one else wants it.
10. What question can you never answer 'yes' to?



## **On the Move?**

I am Alethea married to Michael, with our four children; 17, 11, 2, 6 months. We live in West Yorkshire and we are relocating to either Cornwall, Devon or Wessex. We are selling our house but are not in a rush to purchase another. We are looking for somewhere to stay – either in our own caravan or in a static (let or buy) on a small, private site. If you can help, please contact us at: 48 Upper Lane, Emley, Huddersfield, West Yorks. HD8 9RE - Telephone Number (01924) 840492  
email: [j11aap@btinternet.com](mailto:j11aap@btinternet.com)

## LETTERS

### Help with my Research Please

I am writing a PhD about how long term home-educating parents are affected by the experience. I am looking for parents who have been home-educating for over 3 years and have children under 12 to interview. I will come to you at your convenience.

If you would be willing to be interviewed or would like more information please contact me.

Leslie Safran Barson Tel: 0208 969 0893 or e-mail: [lesliebarson@yahoo.com](mailto:lesliebarson@yahoo.com)

### Contact wanted

We are about to start home educating our two daughters who are aged 7 and 9. We would like to contact other families in our area who are home educating. We live in High Halden in the Ashford area in Kent. Please e-mail us at [chrispaul.rose@virgin.net](mailto:chrispaul.rose@virgin.net)

Chris and Pauline Rose.

### Re 'Bad Press for Home Ed'

Regarding Rachel Lovera's letter on the behaviour of HE children at events (Bad Press for Home Ed?). We too have had similar problems in our local group and have started having discussions on how we are going to deal with it.

Like Hedge we provide a varied events programme covering all age groups. Recently we have appointed volunteers who are willing to approach parents when any issue arises.

We are considering several other options but consider the most important thing is that we continue as a group to discuss the whole issue.

I am interested to hear of the experiences of other groups.

Sheila Mariscotti E-mail:  
[sheila@mariscotti.freemove.co.uk](mailto:sheila@mariscotti.freemove.co.uk)

### New group meetings for Rutland

We are a small group of four families so far who have decided to meet fortnightly at Rutland Railway Museum near Oakham for friendship, craft activities and outdoor games with the children so all are welcome to join us. We shall have the first get-together on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> September with a small donation of about £1.00 per family to have use of a portacabin in an area of beautiful countryside. The children are of mixed ages and would love to meet you.

Contact Carole Clohesy, Tel.01664/434689 if you would like to know more.

### Camping in Melton Mowbray

Also, in Leicestershire, The Melton Mowbray Arts Festival is coming up in September with lots of activities for families, including a crafts and music/dance/drama activity day on Sat.11<sup>th</sup> at Covenant Life Christian Centre in the town. We hope to have a few home-educating families camping with us that weekend at Brooksby Station House, near Melton, so please let us know if you'd like to join us.

Carole Clohesy, Brooksby Station House,  
Hoby Road, Brooksby, Melton Mowbray,  
Leics.  
LE14 2LE

### Alternative Education Fair in Bristol, Saturday 18th September

Is there anyone out there willing to help run the stall, all day or for just a couple of hours? A chance to share your experience and chat to new interested people, and there are talks and workshops you can attend if you are a volunteer.

Contact Martine Frampton  
[martine-frampton@macunlimited.net](mailto:martine-frampton@macunlimited.net)  
(01608) 812 411



## REVIEWS

### **A.N.T.I.D.O.T.E** by *Malorie Blackman*

Elliot and his mother Lisa lead an ordinary life until one day when his Uncle comes round one evening to bring Elliot a new computer game he has been working on for him, and to talk to his mother. Uncle Robert says the object of the game is to find out the title. Elliot gets sent to bed but overhears his mother and uncle's conversation about breaking into a Pharmaceutical company on behalf of the protest group that his Uncle works for—ANTIDOTE. The reason is that the company are doing scientific tests on endangered animals. Elliot thinks no more of the conversation and the next day after school he goes to his friend's house (nicknamed Nosh). When he returns home, Lisa tells Elliot that he is going to be staying with Nosh for the night, so Elliot returns to his next-door friend and stays with him. Later that night, the doorbell rings. It is the police - his Uncle has been arrested for breaking into Shelby and Pardela Pharmaceuticals and his mother has gone on the run. Elliot doesn't believe this but the police say that they have a security tape that captured it all. It is now up to Elliot and Nosh to find out what's been happening. Could the security tape be a fake? Could Uncle Robert's game hold a vital clue? This is one of those books I found very hard to put down because it is so gripping. There are plenty of twists and turns in the novel and it has a very exciting climax. I would recommend this story to anyone aged 10+ who likes gripping stories.

Simon Hoggarth (15)

£4.99 ISBN 0-552-55168-6 *Random House*

### **Hurricane** *Verna Allette Wilkins*

Troy and Nita are children living on a Caribbean island. They are young and do not know what to do when a hurricane arrives. They do not go straight home and when the hurricane hits them it scares them to death. It is very hot and tropical and there are lots of storms. People lose their homes and lives. I think this book is very interesting and I just learn about things as I go along. Hurricanes are more devastating than rain here. The book gives children a life size view of what hurricanes can do. I love the book and I think 6 to 12 year olds would like it.

Karis Youngman (9)

£5.99 ISBN 1-870516-66-4 *Tamarind*

### **Fairytale News** by *Colin & Jaqui Hawkins*

Anyone familiar with Hawkins' cartoon style will love this rendition of several fairytales in one and the 'free' newspaper at the end. The younger children really enjoyed the story and the older ones loved the puns and jokes, especially the newspaper. Really good fun.

Kit Freiesleben (11), Jem (9), Celeste (6) and Ivo (4)

ISBN 0-7445-9257-7 *Walker*

### **Pelle's New Suit** by *Elsa Beskow*

First published in 1912, this beautifully illustrated book tells of a young boy who needs a suit. He shears his sheep, takes the fleece to his grandma for carding and then to his other grandma for spinning, asking his family and friends to help with their skills and doing jobs for them in return until his suit is complete. This is an exceptional book, taking you through the process of making a garment and gives an interesting insight to rural Sweden. It was instantly one of our favourites and one we shall always keep and read again and again.

Hilary Woolfe with Isaac (4)

£9.99 ISBN 0-86315-092-6 *Floris*

### **The Last Siege** by *Jonathan Stroud*

In the ruins of an old castle, three teenagers meet up by accident and plan to spend the night inside.

Things eventually go wrong as Marcus, one of the children who stay at the castle, gets himself in serious trouble and at this point the siege begins...

This is an exciting book where the climax is only reached in the last few chapters. The book describes deeply the thoughts of the teenagers as they stay at the castle for the night, and also tells some fascinating stories about past battles and mysterious ghosts. As well as this, it shows maps of the castle itself in the first few pages, which are interesting to follow along with the story. I give this book eight out of ten and recommend it for both boys and girls in their early teens, as at some points this book has some strong language in it.

James Baker (12)

£5.99 ISBN 0-552-55146-5 *Random House*

### **The Usborne Book of Origami**

There are lots of exciting origami projects in this book. We particularly enjoyed the *Snapping Mouths* and the *Water Bombs*. The book is arranged sensibly with the easiest projects at the beginning and the more advanced towards the end. The instructions are concise and easy to follow, with clear diagrams and colour photos of the finished models. There are witty ideas for decorating the origami models. For instance, your snapping mouth could become a shark, a lizard or a mouse by adding a splash of paint or some ears. As we busily folded, Lucy exclaimed, "It's going to be a boat - it can't possibly look like that picture when it's finished." And yet it did. Whoever would have thought that paper folding could cause so much excited anticipation?! We had a great time with this book. Highly recommended by us all. Vivienne Hughes with Lucy (7), Claudia (10) and Stephanie (12)

£4.99 ISBN 0-7460-2719-2 *Usborne*

### **The Music Express Songbook (years 1-2)**

This book is filled with a good mix of familiar songs (such as 'I am the Music Man' and 'Looby Loo') and new fun songs (such as 'The Prehistoric Animal Brigade' and 'The Hairy Scary Castle'). In all there are over sixty songs. The melody line, lyrics, piano accompaniment and guitar chords are given for each one. The music is clearly presented in straightforward arrangements with a few black and white drawings to add interest. Given the number and variety of songs, it is no wonder this was an *Education Resources Award Winner* in 2003. The advantage to being home-educated, of course, is that you can still enjoy making music with this book even once you've moved on from years 1 and 2.

Vivienne Hughes with Stephanie (12), Claudia (10), Lucy (7)  
£16.99 ISBN 0-7136-6782-6 A & C Black

### **The Little Woodman and other Stories**

by *Mary Sherwood and George Shaw*

Unfortunately, I was fighting a losing battle trying to get my 9 year-old son to read this book. The main reason for this was the style of language used. Both authors were writing in the 18th/19th century and this is reflected in the vocabulary and grammatical style found in the seven stories in this anthology. I did read the first story to my son and he quickly saw the link between the little woodman (William) being left in the dark forest by his older brothers, and the Bible story of Joseph. Each story has a Godly message about how children should behave and/or how parents should approach their upbringing. Although the messages are valuable, I am sure that there are more modern books out there that could get them across just as well.

Chrissy Murphy

ISBN 1 - 85792-854-7 Christian Focus

### **The Story Tree re-told by Hugh Lupton**

We have previously read some barefoot books and this one is up to the usual standard. It contains seven stories from different parts of the world. The only one we knew already was *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. The *Blue Coat* story which is Jewish in origin contains the lesson of re-cycling which I really liked. Rowan liked the story about the magic porridge pot as he loves porridge. He also found *Monkey-see Monkey-do* funny and said he enjoyed all the stories, as he had never heard many of them before. Also in the back of the book is a sources page which explains where they found each story, so you can find similar stories if you really enjoyed the stories in this book.

Kathleen Smith with and Rowan (5)

£12.99 ISBN 1-8414311-7 Barefoot Books

### **The Butterfly Lion**

by *Michael Morpurgo*

This is a beautiful story told through the eyes of a young boy and an elderly lady. It is about a boy, Bertie, living with his parents in the heart of Africa. His father is a cold person who is away a lot. His mother is nice but often sad Bertie is lonely. This all changes when Bertie rescues an orphaned white lion cub. Bertie and the lion become great friends. Then one day his father sells the lion to a French circus man and Bertie is sent to boarding school in England. Bertie swears that he will see the lion again one day.... There are lots of emotions in the story but it is written very gently. There is a brilliant twist at the end. Michael Morpurgo has also written *Tom's Sausage Lion*. This is brilliant as well and I'll write about that next time.

Bryan Bradley-Evans (9)

### **The Summerhouse by Alison Prince**

This is a book about a group of school children who help an author write a thriller novel. It is told from the point of view of the children so there are two stories. One is about the everyday lives of the children and the other is the story that they make up together. The two stories intertwine. The main boy is a foster child who has his own imaginary world and is very much an outsider and a loner. Bored by school who give him easy, patronising work to do, he becomes keen on writing when he finds that it is an outlet for his vivid imagination and when he needs to persuade his foster parents to let him carry on. The main girl too, has nightmares about her sister's death. She identifies with the main female character whose storyline she helps to create. The children have a stake in the book and through working together and deciding what should happen to their characters, they are also working through their own personal demons. The story that they create is unusual, quite exciting too in parts but then it seemed to lose its way and became rather repetitive. I found that slipping from one plot to another made it rather bitty and the ending was rather boring. I would give it about seven out of ten.

Matt Longmuir (14)

£5.99 ISBN 0-7445 9098-1 Walker

### **Diamond Hunt by Hazel Townson**

This story is told in the form of e-mails, tape recordings, phone calls etc....about robbers hunting for a diamond. 2 children, Adam and Lucy, get caught up in the adventure. The style of the book leaves it up to you to piece together the information. We enjoyed this book although a little confusing at times and not in a traditional format.

Lewis (9) and Katie (6) Ridgway

£4.99 ISBN 1-84270-302-1 Andersen

### **Girl of Two Worlds by Lorna Eglin**

It's about a girl who lives in a tribe who worship lots of gods. When her mother gets quite ill some missionaries who just happen to be visiting the area take her in. In this big camp where the missionaries are they change her life and she finds it very hard to go back to her own camp to worship idols. It is a little bit of a moving story because the times when she goes back to her home are very sad and she has to decide whether to go to the missionaries or back to her home. But it was quite badly written and I think the person who wrote it was in a rush.

Tabitha Cromie (10)

ISBN 1-85792-839-3 *Christian Focus*

### **Heroes and Villains of the Ocean**

This is just one in a series. This one is about life in and around the oceans of the world. I liked all the information it contained and think that it would be really useful if you were studying ocean life. There are sections about sharks, dolphins and whales. There are also some interesting facts about pollution and conservation (including links to websites). My favourite part was about *Scott of the Antarctic*. Did you know that his whole team died on his expedition to the South Pole? You can colour the pictures in yourself, but you would need a reference book to get the colours right. I learnt a lot from this book, in particular that sharks have very highly developed senses. It was just at the right level for my age, but I think it would be difficult for younger children because the print is very small.

Deimol Murphy (9)

ISBN 0-95421-02-6-3 *Colour of History*

£2.99 each plus p & p of between £1 and £2 depending on the quantities ordered 01349 824459 – less for bulk

### **Puzzle Pyramid by Susannah Leigh**

This is one of Usborne's *Young Puzzle* series - Fred gets a letter from his Aunt Cleo in Egypt and an air ticket to visit her and that's where his adventure begins. A lively tale linked with fun picture puzzles and things to spot. An enjoyable and educational book, one of many in the *Puzzle* series.

Carole Yeomans with Jack (7) and Luke (5)

£4.99 ISBN 0 7460 6064 5 *Usborne*

### **Hamish and the Fairy Gifts by Moira Miller**

This book is the sequel to the book *Hamish and the Wee Witch* that we have not read. I enjoyed some of the stories in the book that are about magical things happening. Some bits I found a bit scary and sometimes it was hard to understand the language. I liked looking at the pictures. We think this book would be enjoyed by girls and boys who are about 7+ and like fairy stories.

Emma Sibley with Chloe (6)

£4.99 ISBN 0-86315-439-5 *Floris*

### **Oxbridge Entrance- The Real Rules**

by Elfi Pallis

Directed at the parent of "the brightest and the best" and occasionally at the "brightest and best" themselves, it is a self help book to encourage more Oxbridge applicants from poorer backgrounds. Oxbridge is looking for intellectual rigour and originality and provides unique opportunities for intellectual stimulation and social networking. Its admission system is weighted in favour of the public school applicants who take a disproportionate number of places relative to the 9% of the school population that are educated there. Public schools have better facilities, smaller teaching groups (equals higher 'A' level results) and more time and insider knowledge to coach their pupils to the requirements of the Oxbridge application process, than do the state schools. The book tries to redress this advantage by giving some unofficial insider knowledge on how to make the application (including a "kitbox" of sporting, voluntary, leadership and artistic accomplishments), how to choose the college, the course (courage to consider the more obscure courses) and how to survive the interview process. It looks at contrasting case studies and both pitfalls and successes and thereby makes the application process more familiar and less daunting to the general public. It is also a campaigning book. Whilst on a practical level it encourages students to take advantage of the government sponsored Access Courses held in the University, it is also critical of them for raising the state school students' hopes without increasing their prospects of being accepted. The author believes that an increased number of applicants from non traditional backgrounds puts pressure on Oxbridge to change its outdated entrance procedure as do government quotas, funding rewards and more pure ability testing so that the students that it accepts really are "the brightest and the best". The author has a clear writing style and the book has a limited readership although very useful for parents, aspiring Oxbridge students and possibly state schoolteachers.

Ann Longmuir

£10.00 ISBN 0-9545944-0-1 *Tell Books*

### **In the Land of Fairies by Daniela Drescher**

"I like the fairies in the pictures and the picture of the fox," says Gemma. Not so much a story about fairies, but one about the changing seasons. Aimed at 3 - 6 year olds, the story content is simple but uses words not easily read by young readers (bedtime reading for adults!). Lovely pictures for the children to look at while being read to; more of a book for girls. Not likely to be a best seller!

Gemma Landsbert (6) with help from dad

£8.99 ISBN 0-86315-450-6 *Floris*

### **Tigress by Nick Dowson**

This is a beautifully illustrated book about a tigress and her cubs. Their lives are described in flowing prose, and this text is interspersed with general facts about tigers. Aidan particularly liked the "baby tigers drink rich mother's milk and fill up like fat, furry cushions", and he also liked the pictures of the cubs splashing in the lake and the tigers disappearing into the forest. The paintings are wonderfully effective in capturing the different atmospheres, and I loved the use of pattern. Although the book doesn't shy away from the realities of life, they are approached sensitively, and Aidan was fascinated by all the aspects. A lovely introduction to these magical creatures, for any age up to ten.

Meraylah Allwood with Aidan (3)

£10.99 ISBN 0-7445 8619-4 Walker

### **The Road to Adventure by Helen Armstrong**

Once again we meet Ratty, Woolly and Cow who live on a city farm. We are taken on 'another roller coaster of an adventure' where we are introduced to some new animals. The animals come to Ratty's aid when the enormity of the task ahead becomes too great for a small rodent. Ratty loves an adventure and finds it hard to stand back and let others do the work. As in the previous title *The Road to the River* this second book in a trilogy, is a thrilling and gripping tale. Country life is not all roses and sometimes animals are kept in dreadful conditions for the profit of a few. Humans help too in this heart warming tale.

Susan Bain with Gwenan (10) and Ceri (6)

£4.99 ISBN 1-84255-227-9 Dolphin

### **The Boy Who Ate Stars by Kochka**

This story is about a girl who moves house and plans to get to know everyone in her neighbourhood. Until one day she meets Matthew. Then she decides she only wants to get to know Marie (Matthew's mother), Maougo (Marie's helper) and Matthew who is autistic. There is also Francois, another neighbour's dog with no 'free spirit'. When Francois's owners have to go away, Lucy gets to look after the dog for a while. But he runs away and Theo, Lucy's friend, Maougo, Matthew and Lucy go out to find him. I thought this book was brilliant and give it 10/10.

Sara Fowler

£4.99 ISBN 1-4052-1129-6 Egmont

### **Victorian Town Children by Sallie Purkis**

This book is four true-life stories of children living in Victorian times. Two live with rich families and two were poor. It introduces children to source information and shows how it is used. Each child's story is told in a different way with colour illustrations, photos, historical evidence and

timelines. There are ideas for things to do, places to visit, web sites and book lists. A book to borrow from the library rather than buy.

Julie Randall with Amy (8) and Izzy (6)

£10.99 ISBN 0-7136-6233-6 A & C Black

### **The Story of the Root Children**

**by Sibylle Von Olfers**

A timeless, magical story first published in 1906 about the coming of Spring and the underground preparations of the 'root children'. They sleep underground amongst the roots until Mother Earth wakes them and unlocks the doors up to the world above. The illustrations are beautiful and full of detail; tiny beetles carrying candles, ants winding balls of wool, ladybirds being painted with red paint and furry bumble bees being brushed. We could name many of the species and could look up others. A wonderful book for 3 - 7 year olds.

Hilary Woolf with Isaac (4)

£7.99 ISBN 0-86315-106-X Myriad Natural Toys (01725 517085)

### **Making Sense by Nadia Marks**

This book is about a fourteen year old girl called Loulia Limonades. When she moves to London from Cyprus, she doesn't speak any English. She feels deaf and dumb because she doesn't understand anything that is going on around her. But she is determined to learn. When she gets mixed up with a boy much older than her, she feels confused and longs for her Cyprus home and her beloved cousin Sophia. But she struggles to learn and when Sophia comes in the Summer, Loulia can speak better English and no longer feels deaf and dumb. I really enjoyed this story and would recommend it.

Molly Whitehall (11)

£5.99 ISBN 1-85340-748-8 Piccadilly Press

### **Genie, Genie, Genie by Anne Fine**

This book is good. It is the 3 Genie stories in one book. The Genie is very funny and is sometimes naughty to the children he visits. The children's wishes always go wrong. **BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR !!!**

Katie Ridgway (6)

£4.99 ISBN 1-4052-1202-0 Egmont

### **The Button Family by Judith Hilary Priestly**

This book is about a mushroom family and they are buttons as they are growing up. Each one tells a little bit about their life. It flits from one thought to another which is a bit annoying and you do not know what is going on sometimes. It did not have very much feeling either. I did not like the pictures. I would rate this book 2 out of 10.

Rowena Macqueen (10)

£10.95 ISBN 1-85776-865-5 Book Guild

### **Dork on the Run** by Carol Gorman

Jerry Flack used to be a dork. This year he has moved to a new town and school. Things are better now and his social life is less embarrassing and he feels normal. He decides to run for Class President. Then he realises that his opponent, Gabe Marshall, the most popular boy in the school, is also running for Class President. Gabe will do anything to make Jerry look like a dork. In the end Jerry overcomes his fear of Gabe and he ends up winning the title. We did not think this book was very good and do not recommend it.

Lara (9) and Candace (12) Fowler  
£4.99 ISBN 0-7445-8352-7 Walker

### **The Wind in the Pylons** by Gareth Lovett Jones

I loved the *Wind in the Willows* and all its fabulous characters so I was really pleased to read this book. It is very different to the original but I really enjoyed it. It is definitely for older children or adults as it deals with quite complex political and environmental issues, some of which can be a bit difficult to grasp but really make you think a lot. The characters are all familiar but it is set in modern times and portrays modern day problems. I am really looking forward to the sequel.

Tim Bennett (13)  
£ 6.99 (£5.99 incl p&p) to EO members) ISBN 0-9536850-2-0 plus £1 per copy to be donated to EO for every copy sold. Hilltop Publishing PO Box 429, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP18 9XY, or [www.thewindinthepylons.co.uk](http://www.thewindinthepylons.co.uk) putting 'EO' in the 'company' box. (Although the usual price will register, you will then only be charged the offer price of £5.99 to credit cards.)

### **The Barefoot Book of Buddhist Tales retold** by Sherab Codjin and Alexandra Kohn

The Buddha taught that life is like a dream and this collection of stories I really loved and I have read many of them more than once. Each has a message that sometimes makes you think carefully. All are written in a lovely way with very beautiful, colourful illustrations. This is just the sort of book I would like to keep to read to my children.

Keith Hall (10)  
£7.99 ISBN 1-84148-009-6 Barefoot Books

### **Tara's Tree House** by Helen Dunmore

This is about a girl called Tara who has to stay with her Gran while her mum is in hospital. While she is there she learns about her Gran's life as a child when she was an evacuee in the Second World War. This story is interweaved with the story of Tara's delight and adventures in her Gran's garden. Rowan listened to this story without losing interest and thought it was ok. I thought it finished a bit abruptly and the information at the end about evacuees seemed a bit school orientated with lots of questions

to answer, therefore checking the information has been retained and giving related exercises to do. We would not probably buy another book from this series.

Kathleen with Rowan (5)  
£3.99 ISBN 1-4052-0978-X 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)  
Barefoot Books 0800 328 2640  
[www.barefootbooks.co.uk](http://www.barefootbooks.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)  
Christian Focus 01862 871011  
[www.christianfocus.com](http://www.christianfocus.com)  
Dolphin (Orion) 0207 520 4318  
[www.orionbooks.co.uk](http://www.orionbooks.co.uk)  
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)  
Tell Books Ltd 0207 372 7248  
[www.tellbooks.com](http://www.tellbooks.com)  
Usborne 020 7430 2800  
[www.usborne.com](http://www.usborne.com)  
Walker Books 01256 302692

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

## 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 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 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 Home Education Cards

#### ("Truancy 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

*Compliment slips, Summary of the Law, leaflets and 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.freemove.co.uk](mailto:sarah@croggies.freemove.co.uk)

## CHEAP PHONE CALLS

Please help EO raise money by switching to the Phone Co-op for your phone calls. Thanks to those of you who have already joined the Phone Co-op we have raised £2,228 in a 2 year period.

They are an ecological and ethical company and, being a co-operative, there are no Directors creaming off large salaries. Their charges are very competitive and I am always delighted with all the calls that only cost 1p (their minimum charge). They also offer customers an 0845 number for free so that long distant friends can phone you for the cost of a local call.

They are currently offering three alternative deals, including 1p anytime for calls under an hour in length, so have a look to see which one would suit you. There is a link towards the bottom of the home page on the EO web site, or telephone me giving your name and address and I will post you details.

*Contact: Priscilla Park Weir 01276 22735*

## THE NON STOP READER

The complete guide to reading for both parent and child in one volume, using a phonetic approach. Detailed advice for parents, lively text and wonderful illustrations, engaging for children and easy to follow. Widely used over the years by many home educating families.

NOW AVAILABLE DIRECT FROM E.O.

£15 including p&p for the reader and exercise pack. Cheques payable to 'Education Otherwise' to; M. Frampton,  
Fosseway Avenue, Moreton in Marsh, GL56 0EA



## LOCAL CONTACT UPDATE

### if you want to volunteer

or would like to know more about being a local contact  
please contact the Local Contact Co-ordinator (see inside back cover)

#### New Acting Local Contacts

Leicestershire  
South Lincolnshire  
Luton  
Bedfordshire  
Cheshire South  
Staffordshire North  
Northumberland

Louise Hall & Pete Goffin  
Lorraine King  
Angela McEntee  
June McDonald  
Carrie Pletscher  
Carrie Pletscher  
Carol Bromley

#### Resigning LC

Northamptonshire

Jane Owen

#### Areas Needing a Local Contact

Camarthenshire  
Durham  
Dorset East  
Dorset West  
Fife  
Gloucestershire  
Herefordshire  
Hertfordshire  
Highlands & Islands  
Humberside  
Isle of Man

Kent  
London North  
Manchester North  
Merseyside  
Staffordshire  
Strathclyde  
Somerset  
Tayside  
West Midlands (Birmingham,  
Solihull, Walsall, Wolverhampton)  
Yorkshire South

\*\*\*\*\*

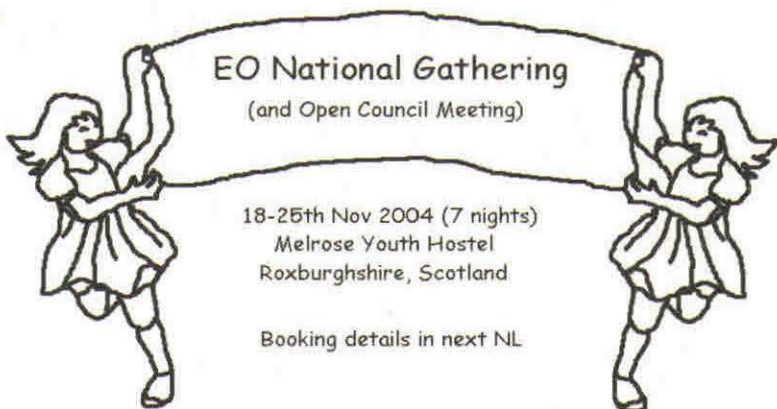
## NOTICES

### **RESOURCES: Learn.co.uk**

As many people will be aware, EO subscribed to this on behalf of members, and EO members were able to join for £15 per family.

As there are only a few months left covered by this arrangement, families wanting to join now will only be charged £10, which will cover from now until October 2004.

Further details can be found on the EO website at  
<http://www.education-otherwise.org/About%20EO/Joining/LearnCoUk.htm>



**EO National Gathering**  
(and Open Council Meeting)

18-25th Nov 2004 (7 nights)  
Melrose Youth Hostel  
Roxburghshire, Scotland

Booking details in next NL

**Council Meeting Sat  
20th**

**VOLUNTEERS PLEASE**

We Need a New Treasurer for the Trading Company. You do not need to be an accounts expert, you only need to be able to add and subtract using an Excel spreadsheet.

This is not a very time-consuming job as there are only a few transactions: paying for books, T-shirts etc. and for the hire of venues for Gatherings/Meetings, along with a few expenses cheques.

There is some extra work at the year end (30<sup>th</sup> June) chasing up information on the stock we hold. Lots of support will be given in the early stages.

If you would like to consider helping out please enquire about this from  
Helen Donaldson Tel: 01889 882 043 [serf@unappreciated.co.uk](mailto:serf@unappreciated.co.uk)  
or Priscilla Park Weir 01276 22735

**WARNING**

Michelle Crowley, of RDF Media, has been trying to get an HE family to appear on 'Wife Swap'. She approaches individual families after she has found out something about them, and discusses a topic she thinks will interest them, such as autonomous education, religion, etc. EO has refused her access to membership or email lists.

Please warn other home educators!

## MORE NOTICES

### Volunteers sought to update Information Leaflets

THANK YOU to those who have already volunteered to update our leaflets in this series - more volunteers are needed please. 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. Please do not be backward in coming forward and choosing a leaflet you would be interested in updating. The remaining leaflets are:

Choosing Your Approach to Home Education

Deregistration and LEA contact

Home Education Research

Flexi-Schooling

Dyslexia

Steiner

Resources

Contact Priscilla Park Weir - Surrey Tel: 01276 22735 priscilla@pwpw.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)

### 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.

### IF YOU CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, EMAIL OR OTHER DETAILS, OR IF YOUR NEWSLETTER DOES NOT ARRIVE

please contact the

**DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR**

(See inside back cover)

### On-line renewals

membership and renewals can now be processed on-line

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

## 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 addresses)

or by phone to Jo, 01392 438876

## ENGLAND

### 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 programme contact June McDonald on 01234 341375 or email info@Bedford-Home-Ed.org.uk

"Technology" theme for autumn. Lots of art and craft, plus visits to Cadbury World, The Science Museum including IMAX, London Eye, Leicester Space Centre, etc. Regular swimming, multi-sport, gym sessions, youth group & chess club, + Open afternoons, resource library and more Website: [www.Bedford-Home-Ed.org.uk](http://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](http://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

**Fridays 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. Fris termtime, organised sports session 5 yrs up, 11am-noon. Contact Muriel 01628 664939

**Windsor** Leisure Centre. Fris 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

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

### 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](http://www.bristolhomeeducation.org.uk)

### BUCKS

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

**Milton Keynes home educators network** extends a warm welcome to all (wherever you live) activities, socials and support. Local Contact Georgeanne Scott 01908 662256 or [www.mkhen.co.uk](http://www.mkhen.co.uk)

**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 SJLambert@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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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 768080

Anyone in **Church Gresley, Swadlincote** area interested in creating new local home ed. group for friendly get-togethers and activities, pls tel. Lucinda 01283 218948

## **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 Corrine 01626 368044

## **DEVON EAST/DORSET WEST**

Lyme Regis, Axminster, Bridport, 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

## **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 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, alt 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@ntlworld.com](mailto:openhorizons@ntlworld.com) Caroline 01242 890351 [camrose@ieee.org](mailto:camrose@ieee.org) Beverley 01242 524091 or Mhairi 01452 384104.

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

## **HAMPSHIRE**

**ACTIVEO:** 5 events a week within 20 miles of

**Petersfield.** All welcome. 01428 712394

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

**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:email_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

**Bromley** Contact: Claire 0181 460 7347

[Claire@wadefamily99.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:Claire@wadefamily99.freeserve.co.uk)

**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

## **LANCASHIRE**

Fortnightly sessions at Botany Bay: contact Jacqueline 01204 361072 or Angela 01204 659634

Fortnightly badminton lesson followed by swim: contact Angela/Jacqueline

Crafts at St Paul's/Old Cobblers/pound dipping/kayacking/wall climbing etc. contact Pam 01706 215585 or [davidandpam@ntlworld.com](mailto: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** 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 free email newsletter of activities and local events  
contact:

Donna 01472 752507 Donna.Eures@ntlworld.com  
Helena 01724 720595, Tessa 01522 790452

### **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  
bettlelake@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.

### **N.B. THERE ARE 2 W. LONDON GROUPS AT PRESENT**

**(1) West London (and Middlesex)** Home Ed group  
meets every Tuesday for varied educational and social  
activities and visits. Contact Betsy 020 8993 0677 or  
betsyhomeed@yahoo.com. Also contact Betsy (EO West  
London Local Contact) to join WestLondonHomeEd  
yahoo group - shares  
information on these and other activities and items of  
interest to home educators.

Also 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  
kathrynvglynn@hotmail.com

**(2) West London** home education group now meeting  
every Tuesday in Chiswick. Outdoor activities  
throughout the Spring / Summer. Warmer/ dryer activities  
every Tuesday during the rest of the year. For full details  
and more information about winter activities, please  
contact Naomi 020 8567 7589 or  
naomisandler@yahoo.co.uk. Also contact for details of  
yahoo group membership.

### **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**

**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

### **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 / S. CHESHIRE / N. SALOP**

**Stafford** every 2nd and 4th Wednesday in village hall for  
games craft etc. 12-3.30 Contact Jane 01283 820642  
jane@jackslane62.freeserve.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 High/Scope 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** 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  
**ACTIVEO:** 5 events a week within 20 miles of Petersfield. All welcome. 01428 712394 www.activeo.co.uk

**TYNESIDE** Regular, frequent & varied activities. New members welcome. Email list:

http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/home\_ed\_tyneandwear  
Younger Group (under 8) - contact Becky 0191 478 5322 or becky.feeney@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

## **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.freeseerve.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/  
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.eldekvisit@btopenworld.com  
Jemima: 01380 727470 Helen: 01249 822958  
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 email 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## SCOTLAND

\*\*\*NEW\*\*\* **ARGYLL** Home-Ed Group - Monthly meetings and occasional outings/activities. All welcome. Contact Joanne 01866 822034 or Debra 01631 730469 email: [debra@celtic-soul-music.com](mailto:debra@celtic-soul-music.com)

**FIFE** Friday fortnightly meetings, activities and social get-togethers. All welcome. Contact: Nicola 01334 478530 [nicola.stubbs@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto:alison@sauer.demon.co.uk)

**LOTHIAN, CENTRAL & S.E. SCOTLAND** fortnightly group for meetings and outings. Ann 0131 556 6271 or [ann.samuel@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:<ann.samuel@blueyonder.co.uk>)  
or **Jane 01835 863 118.**

## 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](mailto:fran.kie@ntlworld.com) or Geraldine, 01792 405894 or email: [julafan1@ntlworld.com](mailto: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](mailto:gwastad@lycos.co.uk)

**Newtown area:** Mondays get-together, twice a month, in Newtown, for activities, play and socialisation. Contact Sue 01686 688748 or [smw5@tutor.open.ac.uk](mailto:smw5@tutor.open.ac.uk)

**N.E. 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](mailto:eo@7times7.freeserve.co.uk)

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## 2004 Contact List and Handbook

If you were late renewing your membership, you may have missed the contact list and handbook which were sent out with the June newsletter.

If you'd like a copy of these, please send an sae for 83p to the Database Administrator, address on inside back cover of newsletter.

**Lynda Hitchman** [database@education-otherwise.org](mailto:database@education-otherwise.org)

## **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 Fossey Avenue, Moreton in Marsh, GL56 0EA 01608 812411 martine-frampton@macunlimited.net

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

**Celia McDonagh**, 235 Coed-y-Gores, Llanedeyrn, Cardiff CF23 9NL celiamcdonagh@yahoo.co.uk 07763 729055

**Anne Rix** Hembury Orchard, Frithelstock, Torrington, EX38 8JT 01237 451535 anne@annerix.demon.co.uk

### **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

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

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

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

01535 274520 evaandmary@aol.com

**Midlands:** Helen Donaldson, Colwich, Staffs 01889 882043 serf@unappreciated.co.uk

**Wales:** Celia McDonagh, Cardiff, 07763 729055 celiamcdonagh@yahoo.co.uk

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

**South West:** Belinda Harris-Reid Buckfastleigh, Devon 01364 643343 bharrisreid@baselinedata.co.uk

**South East:** (acting): Claire Turnham, 6 The Butts, Aynho, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX17 3AN 01869-811099 Claire@birhandbeyond.co.uk

**London(1):** Linda Irene'schild, Stockwell, London SW9 020 7787 6692 lindaflorea2002@hotmail.com

**London(2):** (Acting) Kathleen Melaren, Walthamstow, 0208 527 3296 krmclaren1@tiscali.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:

**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.freereserve.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** (Lines) 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 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.freereserve.co.uk](mailto:sarah@croggies.freereserve.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, Weston St, Modbury, Devon PL21 0QR 01548 830716

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

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

**Treasurer: Martine Frampton**, 70 Fosseyway 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, Torrington, 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>

Education Otherwise Association Ltd., Registered Charity No. 1055120