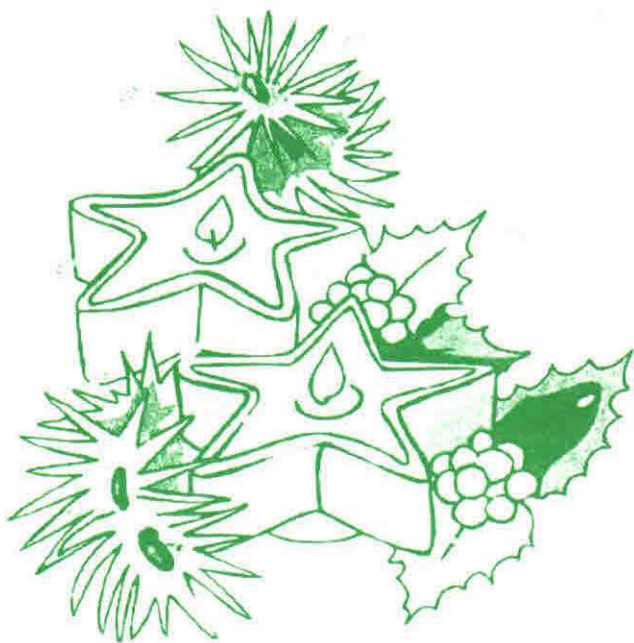


education otherwise



No. 161 - Dec 2004

**SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE EONL
TO THE FOLLOWING EDITORS:**

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS 1st January 2005

LETTERS AND ARTICLES

Sue White, 2 Pretoria Villas, Eye Road,
Brome, Eye, Suffolk IP23 8AL
01379 870036 sue_white@tiscali.co.uk

BOOK AND SOFTWARE REVIEWS

Sally Hall, Nant-y-Gareg Farm, Saron, Llandysul,
Carmarthenshire, SA44 5EJ
01559 370908 sally@aecb.net

HOME EDUCATION IN THE NEWS

Vacant - Volunteers Please !!!

ARCHIVE SELECTIONS

Sarah Guthrie 01379 783678
*(NLI for back copies of Nis - see Publications,
inside back cover)*

COMPETITION

Tracy Coates, 79 Cumberland Avenue,
Cleveleys, Lancs. FY5 2DS 01253 858840
tracysolooney@tiscali.co

CHILDREN'S PAGES *N.B. deadline 20th December*

Molly and Emma Whitehall, 28 Cozens-Hardy Road, Sprowston, Norwich NR7 8QF
tel: 01603 401020 email: simon.whitehall@tesco.net

ADVERTISEMENTS / FLYERS

Retiring - Volunteers Please !!!!!
(subject/envelope "EO Advertising" please)
Gita Prasad, 21 Cozens Road, Norwich
NR1 1JJ 01603 765 730
georgegita@fugue21.fsnet.co.uk

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vuipixie3@btinternet.com
or ring Jo Borthen on 01392 438876

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.

DISCLAIMER

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

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

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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CO-ORDINATORIAL

Hello and Welcome to December's newsletter.

Don't forget to check out the Seasonal Ads page for EO Christmas Cards – orders need to be placed **THIS WEEK** to get to you in time for Christmas postings!

The Avon Fundraiser is still running and is a good place to find any last minute gifts, with ALL of Katy's commission kindly being donated to EO. Last order date for Christmas delivery is 9th Dec., so don't delay!

Hope that those of you just back from the EO National Gathering enjoyed good weather and good company – Those of us unable to go would love to hear about your experiences in the February newsletter!

There are still **MANY** varied opportunities to get some voluntary work experience with EO – it adds another dimension to life, which I have found very stimulating, and there is plenty of support and advice available, so don't feel daunted by offering your time in this way – we really need you!!

And if you are new to home education, maybe feeling overwhelmed, then read on – Ross Mountney's 'Diary' this month was written to reassure anyone with doubts about marching to a different drummer.

Thanks again to everyone who has put time and effort into running EO and into producing this newsletter – And warmest wishes to all our members in this coldest season. Do we envy them the 'school run' in this weather? **NO!!**

Fiona Stewart 2/9/04

cover pic: © '99-'04 www.barrysclipart.com

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world, indeed it's the only thing that ever does.” *Margaret Mead*

!!! EO NATIONAL GATHERING IN EAST ANGLIA !!!

Thursday 24th to Monday 28th February 2005

Sheringham Youth Hostel, Norfolk

A large rambling, fully accessible, hostel in the heart of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, 5 mins walk from train and bus stations.

Sheringham is a Victorian seaside resort with beaches, a shellfishing industry, steam railway and heavy horse centre.

Come and meet other home educators from all over the country.

What happens depends on who comes and what they offer but there will definitely be lots of opportunity to talk and have fun together.

Costs will include all food and accommodation.

Day visitors' rates and family rooms available.

For booking form and information send stamped SAE or return label to
EO Gathering, 2 Wistow Road, Newton Harcourt, Leics. LE8 9FT

The Annual General Meeting of Education Otherwise Association Ltd
will be held at Sheringham Youth Hostel, Norfolk
on Saturday 26th February 2005 at 2pm.

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

The number of Council Members is set at between 14 and 19.

As at November 2004 there are 14 members in post (see inside back cover), five of whom must stand down, but may seek re-election.

The Council may recommend other candidates for election.

Signed-up members (ie. Guarantors) of EO may also propose candidates. In this case, written notice from the proposer and signed consent from the candidate (who must also be a guarantor) must both reach the **Company Secretary** no earlier than 24th January 2005 and no later than 22nd February 2005.

In the event of a vote at the AGM, guarantors present at the AGM are entitled to take part, provided that they have paid their EO membership fee.

If you wish to become a guarantor of EO, please complete the form on the last page of the May 2004 EO Handbook.

Company Secretary, 56 Beech Drive, Braunstone, Leicester, LE3 3DA

There will be an **Open Council Meeting** of Education Otherwise Association Ltd
On Saturday 26th February from 10am at Sheringham Youth Hostel, Norfolk.

All members of EO are welcome to attend.

For copies of or contributions to the agenda, please send a stamped SAE to:
The Chair, Julie Ridley, 32 Cheltenham Road, Chorlton, Manchester, M21 9QN

SCOTLAND

Scottish Executive Reminder to Education Authorities

EO received a copy of a letter, sent on the 23rd September '04 to all Scottish EA/LEAs (local education authorities), from the Scottish Executive.

This letter enclosed a further copy of the guidance and consultation report. Its purpose was to remind EAs of the guidance and the fact that, under sect 14, 2000 Act, they must "have regard to it".

Whilst it expresses understanding that implementation takes time, it also urges them towards "...that process of consideration and review so that your own authority's policies and practices in relation to these matters are aligned with and do have regard to the new guidance."

The letter was prompted by reports from home educators over the past months of EAs who are not embracing the guidance, or who are resisting fully embracing it. Notably e.g. Dumfries and Galloway, who have been tackled by all parties, I believe. Fiona Chaff has criticised them and I know Alison Sauer has too. No doubt others have as well, and certainly enough people have reported it to the Scottish Exec. This is therefore a good reinforcement of the guidance, which should hit the mark and hopefully assist the efforts of all those (individual HEers as well as HE organisations) pressing the authorities to be more effective.

I think this is encouraging and reinforces the feeling that the Executive are still reasonably supportive of, and responsive to, home education.

The Scottish Executive will not now be holding a conference on how the guidance is going this autumn. I understand they are going to wait until the two years review time is up, and then see what's needed. HEers in Scotland are reminded that they can feed back their experience of the guidance in action, or their comments on how it is working at any time - either to EO Scotland Group or to the Executive directly.

Ann Samuel Till ann.samuelstill@blueyonder.co.uk

VENUES FOR MEETINGS/GATHERINGS

(potential educational activity!)

Draw a sketch map of GB, with a line across it from the Bristol Channel to the Wash. Indicate Scotland and Wales. Put the following numbers on the map:

Scotland = 70; Wales = 168; England north of the Wash-Bristol line = 1096; south of it = 1868

Add (preferably coloured) dots for, Ambleside (Cumbs), Boston (Lincs), Beaumanor (Leics), Manorbier (SWWales), Sutton Coldfield (W Mids), Featherstone (Northumb), Coalbrookdale (Shrops), Leeds (W Yorks), Melrose (Scot Border), Sheringham (Norfolk), Johns Lee Wood (Leics), Featherstone (W Yorks)

What does it all mean?

The numbers are taken from the Contact List, and represent EO member families by county. (Gloucester and North Hants, which straddle the Wash-Bristol line, are counted above it; other marginals wherever most of their area falls).

The dots represent locations of Council meetings since January 2002 and proposed for the next year.

Maybe you live in Sussex, Surrey or Somerset. How do you feel? What to do about it?

I have tried to address this with other Council members by email, for some time; but since I haven't been able to get to many meetings it keeps getting lost. Here are some thoughts on the factors to consider:

Most people seem to agree that meetings should take place around the country, so that all members have a chance to attend a meeting within reasonable travelling distance from time to time. But there does not seem to be a commitment to ensure that these far-flung meetings are evenly spread between different areas. As well as location, we need to bear in mind the usual spacing of council meetings throughout the year, which is at about four monthly intervals. I have always felt that January was an inappropriate time of year for an AGM, given the possibility of weather interrupting travel.

My original suggestion, in line with the Articles of Association, was to delay the AGM from January to around Easter (i.e. within 15 months of the last one). This seems to have been accepted, as the AGM for 2005 is planned for the end of February. However, Sheringham (on the north coast of The Wash) is rather out of the way; perhaps AGMs should ideally be at a more central location to maximise attendance.

With a Spring AGM, we could have a gathering/meeting in the Summer somewhere wild and lovely ... and of course another in late Autumn as this year. I understand there's quite a cohort who like to go from gathering to gathering, so nearness to HESFES could be a roundabouts-and-swings thing and need not have much influence on our AGM date/location (though clearly we wouldn't want to clash).

But what proportion of members go to gatherings, and is it appropriate to consider only those when deciding on the best venue and time for an AGM (or indeed any meeting)? If anything, 'gatherings' people have more chance to take part simply because they do meet up with others informally in at gatherings – even where there is no meeting. As a 'non-gatherings' person I have often felt somewhat disenfranchised because of the distance and timing of AGMs (and indeed distance for other meetings, but if at reasonable times of year at least that would be more feasible)

Naturally, members local to the area, and those who are into gatherings in general, will attend a gathering and will probably go to a meeting if there's one in conjunction – so that's a good way of getting more people to attend. But it's likely to have a stronger local bias the more far-flung it is (since those from the furthest corners will be less likely to attend than if it were central). However, we also should avoid too much centralisation!

There should be a balance between it being somewhere people want to go, and how easy it is to get to. Could people who go with cars offer to meet others from trains? If that were set up as a fairly organised system, it could cope with the problem of distance for gatherings (though I don't think it would work so well for one-day meetings).

People seem to be split between wanting meetings with gatherings (to make the journey worthwhile and I assume, less pressured, as the meeting can be spread out a bit) and one-day meetings because they can't take much time off from the rest of their commitments. Personally I like one-day meetings, but see no reason why they shouldn't be within a 'gathering'.

The question is, how can we ensure that the maximum number of CMs, members from other areas and those who, for whatever reason don't 'do' gatherings, can make it to the AGM and other meetings?

Some factors that came up were:

- Central Location with good public transport
- Saturday meeting (because of wkend trains)
- Meeting on one day for people who can only attend one day
- Not held in the middle of winter
- Not held in high season due to cost of accomm. (though people might camp in the summer?)
- Combined with a gathering to attract more members

There was a suggestion of having an AGM in Reading at Easter, but that seems to have fallen by the wayside.

So come on, you 60 percent of members in the South, Southwest and Southeast - let's have some suggestions. Gatherings seem to need somewhere with around 60 beds, with catering facilities and rooms for activities, preferably within easy reach of public transport, and inexpensive. Youth Hostels are much used (they are cheap out of season) and University halls of residence have been suggested but I don't think we've ever tried this. If there's a meeting at the gathering, a good size meeting room is needed. For stand-alone meetings the priorities are a suitable meeting room, somewhere close for children to use safely, and definitely accessible by public transport. All venues must conform to equality of access regulations. Please have a good look around and see what you can find – bring Council Meetings to a Venue Near You!

Anne Rix, Devon

PROPOSED INFORMATION PACK FOR LEAs

LEA/EA Group Report

The LEA/EA group was set up by council to look at ways of improving the relationship we have with LEAs in England and Wales and EAs in Scotland. The group comprises both council and non-council members.

The group has thought about ways in which information can be presented to LEAs/EAs and about the continuing relationship we need to have with them as an organisation.

The following is the report that went to council at the November meeting at Melrose.

LEA/EA Contact Group Report for Council meeting November 2004

Current Members

Sarah Cook, Lize Stevens, Anne Wade, Rob Wade, Ann Samuel Till, Priscilla Park Weir. Keith Charlton and Gary Podmore have both resigned from the group for personal reasons. Priscilla Park Weir has joined the group.

Consultants to the Group

Jill Fisher, Alison Sauer, Sauer Consultancy.

Sauer Consultancy

Gwen Baldock does not currently have time to take on LEA training but Alison Sauer of Sauer Consultancy is already providing training for Scottish EAs and is developing training courses for LEAs.

Alison Sauer has discussed the training she has done with EAs in Scotland and her proposals for doing LEA training with the group. She has circulated copies of her presentation for EAs. The group agreed that it looked good and Alison agreed to liaise with EO over her training sessions so that EO is aware which LEAs she is working with.

LEA/EA Information Pack

Ann Samuel Till will report to council on the progress of the EA packs for Scotland.

Sarah Cook will bring a final draft pack for LEAs in England and Wales to the council meeting.

The group would like council to advise on what consultation they would like with other agencies and in what form they would like this consultation to be.

The group would also like council to advise on what further consultation they would like within EO.

Funding/Costings

Funding is being sought from a number of different sources. Sarah Cook will bring any likely sources of funding and any request for top up funding to the meeting for approval.

Sarah will also report to the meeting on any funding being offered by the NEC.

A breakdown of costs follows:

Paula Rothermel's Research Paper	50p per copy
Summary of the Law per 1000	£238.00 approx. 24p per copy
Trifold per 1000	£90.00 approx. 10p each

Customised 4 ring binders with 100 sheets of double sided printed material (this would incorporate the above)

100	£1223.00
500	£3734.00

Note: No application for funding will be made without council approval.

Distribution of LEA Pack

The group's view is that the packs will carry more weight if they come from the national organisation directly to LEAs/EAs. LEA Contacts and Local Contacts will be informed in advance of the date the packs will be sent out, the content, and provided with a sample letter so they can co-ordinate a local approach.

The group also thinks that a letter giving advance notice should be sent to LEAs. This information can also be posted on to relevant email lists. At this time, and for the foreseeable future there are not enough LEA contact people to distribute the packs on a local level. The group believe this is the most cost effective way to distribute the pack and would tie in with proposed press releases and media coverage.

Alison Sauer has produced an updated list of contacts responsible for home education within LEAs. She is happy to share this information with EO.

Alison is also in the process of contacting every Local Contact to clarify which LEA/EA they have contact with and what their relationship is like. So far the response has been very mixed. Many cover more than one LEA and deal with only one. Others don't deal with their LEA at all and some have no wish to have any dealings with their LEA.

Alison expects this part of the work to be completed by Christmas. The group would like to thank Alison for her work.

Contents of Pack

1. The A4 sheet on de-registration
2. The Summary of the Law
3. The summary chapter of Alan Thomas's book – permission has been received.
4. Sample letters for LEA use
5. Stories/Case studies
6. School Anxieties Leaflet & Other updated leaflets (dyslexia, flexischooling)
7. Excerpts from the Truancy Pack
8. Courses and Qualifications Leaflet
9. NEC Home Matters newsletter
10. NEC postcard if the NEC will help fund the pack
11. Flowcharts from Sauer Consultancy on home ed procedures for LEA/EAs ?
12. Leaflet on LEA/EA training from Sauer Consultancy
13. Summary of Paula Rothermel's research
14. Summary of Anne Gillipsie's research
15. Home Education – a real option trifolds
16. Copies of the DfES guidelines/ Scottish Guidance
17. Reading list including a links list AEWM best practice (if available)
18. Re-order form for information pack

Reading list to include

- Educating Children at Home – Thomas
- Free Range Education – Dowty

- School is not Compulsory
- Natural Learning, Natural Curriculum – Meighan
- Troubled Children – a fresh look at school phobia – Knox
- EO video

Links to include

- EO
- HEAS
- PEN
- travellers-school.org.uk
- Muslim
- Christian
- UK home Ed

Pack Design: Binders will feature logos of sponsors.

We would like feedback from as many members as possible. We would like to know, for example, what you think of the pack, if there is anything else you feel it should contain. If you are working with your LEA/EA do you think this resource pack would help or hinder your work? These are only some of the questions that you can help to answer; all your feedback is useful and will be used to make the decisions needed.

We are also aware that you as EO members are also members of other home Ed support groups.

We hope that this resource pack for LEAs will benefit the home educating community as a whole. The pack aims to enable LEAs to discover how home education is different from education in school and to provide information about different approaches and outcomes, as well as some legal and general information.

Consultation with other home Ed organisations is important and we would welcome offers from members to liaise with these groups.

*Feedback can be sent to Lize Stevens, 96 Ivanhoe Street, Leicester. LE3 9GW
or email kissit@yawot.me.uk*

*Sarah Cook (council Member) The Old Cottage, Croglin, Carlisle, CA4 9RZ
or email sarah@croggies.freeseve.co.uk*

EO would like to see open dialogue via the newsletter (contributions can be sent direct to Fiona, NL Co-ord,) and EO business list (see NL, foot of p.40). Or if you would prefer to telephone or email one of the following people, we will be pleased to collate your comments and if requested put them on the business list.

Anne Rix (CM) <anne@annerix.demon.co.uk> 01237 451535

Louise Murray (Wales, Glam) <leueeze@aol.com> 01443 231362

Jacqui Houlding (CM) <jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk> 01925 654856

**INFORMATION FOR LOCAL CONTACTS, ANYONE WISHING TO FIND OUT
MORE ABOUT WHAT THE ROLE MEANS,
AND HOW YOU CAN ASSIST YOUR LOCAL CONTACT**

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

EO's Local Contacts (LCs) do an essential job. They form the front line of information and support for families choosing or considering home education.

Part of the role of the Local Contact Co-ordinator is to support, encourage and appreciate LCs and the work that they do. The number of LCs means that it's impossible to have one-to-one contact with them all on a regular basis.

This Series of one-day workshops for LCs in particular geographical regions will enable LCs to get to know each other, share information about what works well, have an opportunity to say where they struggle with the work and think together about how to make it easier, more efficient and enjoyable. The following series of workshops are also open to EO members who may be considering becoming LCs and to those with an interest in finding out what the role means and how they can assist their LC. LCs are free to attend as many workshops as they like but can claim travel expenses only for the workshop in their own region.

THE SCHEDULE

22nd January 2005:

LONDON

12th February 2005:

NORTH WEST ENGLAND, NORTH WALES (Cheshire, Lancashire, Manchester, Merseyside, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Wrexham County, Gwynedd, Powys)

26th March 2005:

SOUTH OF ENGLAND (Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Avon, Bristol)

23rd April 2005:

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE

28th May 2005:

SOUTH WALES (Glamorganshire, Ceredigion, Gwent, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire)

20th August 2005:

SOUTH WEST (Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset)

24th September 2005:

SOUTH EAST (Sussex, Surrey, Kent, Isle of Wight, Channel Islands)

22nd October 2005:

NORTH (Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Durham, Cleveland, Isle of Man)

26th November 2005:

EAST (Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex)

PLEASE NOTE: The LC for Northern Ireland will be contacted to discuss which venue would be the most convenient for them to attend. If you live in Ireland and wish to attend one of the above workshops please contact the local contact co-ordinator (inside back page of newsletter) to discuss these arrangements.

Lize Stevens

VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

MAKE IT YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO GET INVOLVED WITH EO!

ADVERTISING CO-ORD

Working with the Newsletter Editor, Treasurer and Advertisers, this is a great role for getting stuck into and for raising funds for EO. No cold calling involved, and, in fact, many advertisers regularly book with EO. For more information please contact Gita Prasad on 01603 765 730 or e-mail with subject "Eo Advertising" to: georgegita@fugue21.fsnet.co.uk

MEDIA CO-ORDINATORS

Agree to be contacted for interview or give support and advice to other EO members who have agreed to be interviewed by the media. For more information contact Belinda Harris-Reid.

Tel: 01364 643 343 bharrisreid@baselinedata.co.uk We currently need media co-ords for:

Northern Ireland

North West England

Midlands

EDITOR FOR HOME ED IN THE NEWS

Find interesting, current, news stories related to home education, for inclusion in the newsletter

MEDIA DATABASE

EO maintains a database of people who are willing to speak with the media. Currently only new members are being placed on this database as the renewal form does not ask this question. If you are an existing EO member and would be willing to speak with the media at some time, please contact Jacqui Houlding at: jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk or 01925 654858. See pg. 30 of the handbook for guidelines.

STATIONERY PERSON

Volunteer required to store and send out EO stationery. For more information please contact Ali Willer on 01603 401020 or: simon.whitehall@tesco.net

LOCAL CONTACTS

Informing, welcoming and supporting families new to home ed, or those experiencing difficulty. If you want to volunteer or would like to know more about being a local contact please contact Lize Stevens 0116 2425802 or email Kissit@yawot.me.uk Or see page 33 of your handbook.

Areas currently needing a Local Contact:

Coventry City

Carmarthenshire

Central Scotland

Dorset East

Dorset West

Durham

Fife

Gloucestershire

Local Contacts Needing More Help

Hazel Croft - **Merseyside**

Herefordshire

Hertfordshire

Highlands & Islands

Humberside

Isle of Man

Kent

Manchester North

Northamptonshire

Strathclyde

Somerset

Tayside

West Midlands: (Birmingham,

Solihull, Walsall, Wolverhampton)

Yorkshire South

INFORMATION LEAFLETS UPDATER

Checking references and researching information to update various EO leaflets – see Notices page 39 of the newsletter.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council must be staffed by a minimum of 14, under EO's Articles of Association.

Could you consider becoming a CM? The formal requirements for being a Council Member and an indication of what is involved, is given in the Handbook on pg. 16/17 and you can contact current CMs if you have further queries or to discuss the job.

In NL 155 Ann Samuel Till reflected on Becoming a Council Member:

'The main thing to consider about it is taking a share in the legal responsibility for decision making in EO. Some council members also do a lot of actual EO jobs, others just meet the above responsibility - which is fine. The qualities you need are a commitment to the freedom to home educate, honesty, the capacity for clear thinking and hearing different views (including those of young people!) and it helps if you have the knack of making a molehill out of a mountain!'

GENERAL VOLUNTEER DATABASE

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

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-ord (see inside back cover) or see pg. 33 of your handbook.

New Acting Local Contacts

Carol Chadwick
Louise Murray
Dawn Waddington

Staffordshire South
Gwent
Conwy

Resigning LC

Nicola Haxell

Coventry City

Areas Needing a Local Contact

Coventry City
Carmarthenshire
Central Scotland
Dorset East
Dorset West
Durham
Fife
Gloucestershire
Herefordshire
Hertfordshire
Highlands & Islands

Humberside
Isle of Man
Kent
Manchester North
Northamptonshire
Strathclyde
Somerset
Tayside
West Midlands: (Birmingham,
Solihull, Walsall, Wolverhampton)
Yorkshire South

LEA Work e-mail list

A new yahoo group has been set up at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LEAwork/>
You are invited to join if you feel it would be useful to you or you could be useful to others.

It is a discussion group for home educators who are working to improve LEA policies, services and attitudes towards home educators. Also for those who would like to work with their LEA or who have done so successfully in the past.

In the files area we can share details of policies, letters, changes achieved, ongoing problems etc. and place drafts to have them checked over. A place to 'join up' the work of many individuals, organisations and groups and so lessen the risk of duplication, complication and undermining the work of others when we are not aware of work already being done.

Membership needs approval and is open only to home educators known within the community (local groups, home education lists, organisations etc). It is hoped that this will be an opportunity to improve trust and communication with regard to the huge amounts of work being done in many quarters of the community.

Please note - this group is not aimed at replacing anyone's work in any way whatsoever, but intends to provide an opportunity to maximise the effects of everyone's efforts and offer as much support as possible to anyone attempting to get an LEA to see sense!

***** EO Seasonal Greetings Cards *****

ORDER BY 15th DEC. FOR CHRISTMAS 2004

blank inside and have the message 'School is optional' on the back.

All profits to Education Otherwise, charity no. 1055120.

Packs of 10 with envelopes. @ £3.99 per pack (inc. p&p)

Send cheques payable to 'Education Otherwise' to Martine Frampton,
70, Fossey Avenue, Moreton in Marsh GL56 0EA

Please state which design you would prefer

'Robins and Penguins' or 'Snow Walk'

Also available to view and purchase via EO website:

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



***** AVON FUNDRAISER *****

Christmas Orders must be received by 9th Dec

Katy Wildgoose, who home-educates in Derbyshire, has kindly offered to organise a fundraiser for Education Otherwise, using her experience as an Avon sales leader.

Katy can send you an Avon catalogue on request. All goods carry a money-back guarantee, and there is lots to choose from - not just cosmetics but clothing, toys, jewellery and many other items. Katy's webpage gives more details, at:

<http://beta.hometown.aol.co.uk/katarinawild/myhomepage/refpage.html>

There is also a Yahoo group where you will be able to check up on your order's progress at:
<http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/Avon-EOFundraiser/>

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Katy can be contacted at 152 King Sreet, Alfreton, Derbyshire DE55 7DF
Phone or text 07754465712 (mobile) email Katarinawild@aol.com



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Educating Archie BY SEE

Christmas Greetings



RIP JOHN PEEL (his grandson's called Archie)

Diary of a Home Educating Nobody.

By Ross Mountney

How will it all end? How will it all turn out?

This Home Educating business; what will become of our children whom we have removed from a way of educating that millions of others think is right?

How many times do we ask ourselves that unnerving question when we're having a down day or the neighbours have just flashed another load of their children's fantastic exam results in our faces! If only we had the security and comfort of knowing the answer to that! Of course, we'd be asking the same question if our children were in school. But we'd have security and comfort from knowing that the path we follow had already been trampled smooth by thousands of others and they'd turned out okay, well, some of them did anyway!

But where do we as HEers find confidence and comfort? When we've decided to follow a route so rarely taken there is no clear path at all, which so few have trodden before, we've no idea if it will turn out okay. A route where each individual has more or less to forge their own path. This is the biggest hurdle HEers have to face - finding the confidence to forge a path of one's own, when we've really no idea where it's going to end!

We are starting our sixth year of HEing (and I know that's not nearly as long as some of you) and I don't know how we ever had the confidence to carry on through the past five years without knowing where it will all end. And as I write these diaries, hopefully to give everyone out there support and encouragement to do what they instinctively feel is right for their children when school clearly is not right, I wonder what stories I can tell you that will help. What stories would have helped me, I wonder, when I was so lacking in confidence?

It would have helped me so much if families who had been through stages I hadn't reached had written in and shared their experiences. How they got into the world of work or further education, particularly if they decided not to do standard qualifications. (Just like Amie did in the last issue - thanks for that Amie, it was great). If families whose children had reached adulthood told us how they got there and if it turned out okay. But meanwhile, what can I tell you to help you have confidence in the fact that everything will be okay?

It might help you to know that like many others we tried several ways of running our days. We remain flexible, changing often.

It might help you to know that we constantly reassess our objectives for our children. For example; what balance do we want between skills practice, qualification-getting, or educating for a happy fulfilled lifestyle, both in the future

and now while our children are children? We regularly ask ourselves these questions and review our overall objectives.

It might help you to know that we've gradually changed our belief that education can only take place in schools; can only happen if one is taught, and ends at eighteen. We now know that none of that is true! We now know that education takes place all the time, in a variety of places, during contact with a variety of people.

It might also help you to know that during the past five years our children have resisted writing, resisted teaching, looked at the telly and other screens a lot, spent a lot of time playing or doing what they pleased, and there was never a time when we formally taught like they do in schools.

BUT they can now read and write and understand numbers. And at the risk of boasting I would say they are articulate, intelligent and sociable, just like all the other HEing children we meet. They can be self-motivated and directed, focussed and hardworking at times, but they definitely aren't all the time and it would be ridiculous to expect it anyway. Children in schools spend very little of their school day paying attention!

Our eldest who sobbed desperately over her maths when she first came out of school now wants to do a GCSE course and admits she likes it. What did we do? I don't know - I think we kept out of it! Except for boosting personal confidence.

Our youngest, who resisted reading because it was so painful, can now read. What did we do? I kept a lid on my anxiety (well - I did barrage friends with it - I think they'd testify to that!), stopped forcing her to read as schools make us think we have to, and allowed her to come to it in her own time and way. In small drops, by magazines, computer games, stories and all the normal interaction with words any family has in their day.

My children are no angels or saints. They balked and argued and fell out and lazed and resisted in between doing things. Probably more than doing things!

But now, five years on, wherever that 'end' is, I know we'll get there. For once I stop panicking about what might be going on along that other route forged by millions, (which we're not following), and keep an eye on our path I can see it happening. I know that HEing cannot fail. It cannot fail because our children are bound to become educated, because it's already happening, all of the time. As we interact with them and others, converse with them and others, go places, do things, stimulate and encourage activity, and set an example we wish them to follow. Like being interested in everything - which most of them just can't help - they do this naturally. It's part of the make up of children.

So the answer to the question - where will it all end?

It will end wherever you and your family want it to go. And maybe it doesn't have to have an end anyway. It is certainly not a race or a competition to get to a finishing line at eighteen. Just trust. Have faith. Don't let the fact that just because millions of others choose to follow a well-trodden route it is going to end in tears if you don't go that way too.

Many of us have a gut feeling that schools aren't good for our kids - I would guess that actually millions of parents whose kids are in school have that gut feeling too. It's just that they're not as brave as you are - they're not prepared to tread a new path! Keep thinking about your objectives. Keep thinking what you want for your children in terms of their health and happiness as well as their education and it'll be okay! Remain flexible. And watch. Your children are becoming educated before your very eyes - they just can't help it!

RE: Real Life (Issue 160)...and what we do.

I thought I'd write and let you know how much I enjoyed Janine Blecker Davis' piece in the last issue. It's always interesting to read about what others are doing and I felt inspired to write a piece of my own!

My children are only 6 and 2 and my eldest attended school for 6 months. We were told at the end of this time that she was 'average' except for her art work which the teacher told us was 'very good'. Fifteen months later and average is not a word I would use to describe anything she does. She does not read and write fluently but she is not illiterate.

I don't believe it's just a case of reading, or not being able to read. I think there are several stages in between which often aren't given enough time to develop. Instead they are hurried past, missed or disregarded in the rush to have a fluent reader.

And there is so much more to life at 6 years old! She loves art and is a fantastic artist. We recently discovered origami (highly recommended to all) and have had a great time with that. We cook, clean (occasionally!), garden, bake, go for walks, go swimming, dress up, dance, read, listen to audio books and lots more. We enjoy choosing a theme and then doing mini projects - heading off in all directions wherever our interests lead. A recent project has been 'Autumn' which included reading and writing autumn poems, taking leaf and bark rubbings, making a picture using things from nature, general chatting about the seasons and visiting a tree as it loses more and more of its leaves - just 3 left now! We use tons of books - fiction, non-fiction, activity, workbooks, bits of different curriculum - some from the internet (mostly free) and eBay is also a good place to source things. I also have some favourite links which have lots of information and printables on a variety of topics: www.muddlepuddle.co.uk www.activityvillage.co.uk and www.enchantedlearning.com - I'd also recommend the BBC's website.

If you're wondering what my 2 year old is up to all this time he's usually joining in, sometimes sleeping and occasionally disrupting everything! I have found if he's given a version of what his sister is doing he's usually happy.

On a completely different topic we are thinking of buying and living on a narrowboat in the very near future. Contact from anyone who has or does live on one would be much appreciated.

Emma Sibley, Herts, HP3
emma@sibley-morgan.freemove.co.uk

FURTHER EDUCATION

I know that the area of GCSEs and Further Education can become a hotbed of debate, but I am sending this just in case anyone is interested. My 16 year old daughter is now in her GCSE year and living in rural Norfolk. I have found the process of letting her do the GCSEs that she wishes to, to be filled with dilemmas. Firstly the cost, secondly the lack of examination centres, time etc. etc... I have three children and there is lots of juggling involved. However, I work as a part time teacher at a FE college teaching E2E students, so felt that I could use this to my advantage. With the full knowledge of EO, and representing myself only, as an individual with a foot in both camps, I managed to obtain a meeting with the Head of Faculty. I wanted to discuss setting standards by which we could home educate our children, so that they could gain entry to do AS levels even if unable to gain access to GCSEs.

The college itself can't allow entrance to GCSE courses for under 16s for a variety of reasons.

1/ Child safety issues.

2/ Staff qualification issues; the majority of staff being qualified and specialising in post-compulsory education.

However, we did draw up an agreement which I feel is fair in light of how other students enrol.

It sets the goal posts, and ensures we are not setting our children up for failure.

We agreed that:

a) Each individual learner completes a successful interview with a member of the college AS personal tutorial team. (All state educated children generally have to also have an interview).

b) Each individual provides a portfolio of work that meets entry standards for each subject to be studied. This ensures that the students have enough background knowledge to be able to succeed in the AS of their choice, without having to sit preliminary exams. It is possible to download exam syllabuses which would provide the background knowledge and work needed.

c) Each individual applicant undertakes the National test in both literacy and numeracy. This is commonplace now for all courses, including vocational ones. Although I teach there, when I furthered my 'professional development' I had to sit the literacy and numeracy tests despite all my qualifications.

These are not meant to be obstacles; they are realistic goals which hopefully ensure that our children have the skills necessary to go on to do whatever they wish to do within the college framework. This is also NOT meant to trigger a debate! How we educate our children is down to personal choice, but after dealing with queries from other mums, and with my own daughter wanting to go on to do A Levels, I felt some clear guidelines might help.

Gaynor French, Norfolk PE38 Tel: 01366 377109

FURTHER LETTER TO 'OPEN' UNIVERSITY

After a confusing and non committal response to my enquiries about Open University's admissions policy for under 18s – sometimes they can do courses and sometimes they can't, depending on who you ask – I wrote to them again. Their response was vague, and suprisingly non committal.....

I feel they are being ageist and elitist. This is the 2nd letter:

'.....I wrote to you some time ago about access to level one Open University courses for home-educated children. Enclosed is a copy of the article which appeared in the Education Otherwise newsletter this month. I have since learned that adults, with no previous qualifications, are NOT required to 'prove' themselves by gaining a GCSE before being allowed to enrol on OU courses,

and an advert on the television yesterday said enthusiastically that no entry qualifications were required for the Open University.

As children are allowed to leave formal education at 16; get married; take up a career and maybe soon will be allowed to vote at 16, I wonder if the Open University could change its policy from one which discriminates against this age group, to one which welcomes and encourages access for them?

I do hope you will reconsider the policy which prevents this, perfectly able, age group from accessing your excellent courses. A policy of allowing only 10 point, level one courses to be studied at this age would be fairer and beneficial, and I really cannot see why the 'Open' University should have to adhere to same 'admission by age' policy that the conventional universities traditionally do. Since your 10 point, level one courses are specifically designed to bring uneducated adults up to university standard, surely they are within the grasp of children who would be studying 'A' level if they were in school?

I am sure that not only the home educating community would welcome this opportunity, as many school children between the ages of 16 and 18 lose interest in education altogether due to difficulties with the school environment.

My son is 10 years old now and I sincerely hope that when he is 16 he will be allowed to undertake a 10 point, level one course with the Open University, without lying about his age.

Yours sincerely, F Stewart.....'

(EOnl co-ord)



The Alternative to the Alternative

I have been a member of EO for 18 years and am currently on the helpline.

Talking to prospective or new Home Edders, it occurred to me how home education can take on many, many forms. One of the often overlooked ways is the quiet, contented way of family life, which may not necessarily involve all sorts of social activity groups. Whereas some families really like the alternative gatherings, which they do tell me help us *Homo sapiens* to socialise, equally there are some of us who are happy enough in our own sleepy backwaters.

I would hate to think that families new to home education feel they have to attend these groups in order for their kids to grow, learn, live etc....It's all a matter of choices and what works for the individual.

As a long term home edder, I have seen many families come and go, along with many theories on the right and wrong ways to home educate. With these thoughts in mind, I am going to put my head above the parapet, and would like to include my contact details as an alternative to the Hastings Hedge Group, not because I feel there is anything wrong with Hedge - they do a wonderful job! But for folk who are daunted by large groups and find it easier to make friends on a smaller scale, there are quite a few of us dormice tucked away, who would be happy to chat over an informal cuppa.

We are Jenny (that's me), husband Jim, wonderful son Tim (who's 24 now, been home educated since he was 6, now works and lives in London) and last but by no means least, equally wonderful daughter, Robbie (nearly 10).

Jenny Brockhurst (was Blower), East Sussex TN3 Tel: (01424) 434953

jim.brockhurst@cooptel.net

NEW WORLD ORDER ?

It crosses my mind that the perceived success of home education is that of the usual assessment of the educational fraternity, i.e: university entrance qualifications - 'A' levels etc. What about the other skills areas, such as those required by the trades - oops sorry, 'dirty' work = 'dirty' word?

As part of the hierarchical process of filtering out those who do not fit in, which is seen as necessary for maintaining the status quo in society, one specific type of intelligence - academic intelligence - and one learning style has for generations been valued and relentlessly pursued. Academic intelligence has been elevated in standing to the detriment of all other areas of intelligence, aptitude and learning. These other areas have been demeaned - and indeed despised - to the point where there are now major skills gaps in many vital practical areas of life and industry.

After decades of following this overtly academic model of education, with its current dependence on electronic technology, the controlling elite have got richer and even more powerful, whilst the physical and psychological health, emotional balance and social well-being of a significant proportion of the population has declined dramatically. This has created a situation of increasing inequality here in Britain, and in other countries emulating the current American model of development. If this were not bad enough, and despite all the scientific and technological knowledge available to us, the Earth's ecosystem is teetering on the verge of collapse.

Not very clever, but hardly the fault of the less well educated; after all they are not the policy setters, nor do they generally have the financial freedom that the highly educated, well paid, small percentage of the world's population have to consume and pollute. Consumption is addictive, and the uneducated do not have a monopoly on ignorance. Those in high academic and political positions are often blinkered, and as a result do not see or understand the whole picture.

With regard to ideas based around a flexi schooling, community based approach to home education, is the industry which will have to develop around this new educational doctrine going to improve matters; provide a truly broad range of educational options and encourage the development of a clear thinking, proactive population? Or will it result in the closure of yet one more door to free thinking and personal choice - Home Education?

Certain questions should be raised when considering these proposals, such as:

a) The potential negative effects of continuous family monitoring and assessment - a situation which home-educators in New Zealand, who are incidentally funded with the princely sum of £220/year, already endure through their 'Exemption and Review' process.

b) How the community library service would deliver a range of services suitable for multiple intelligences - at least seven types: analytical, pattern, musical, physical, practical, intra-personal, and inter-personal - and thirty different learning styles.

By accepting this new educational alternative without question, it is possible that we may be playing into the hands of both the global masters of commerce and the political and academic pawns of 'New World Order'.

If we choose, as seems to be the norm in Britain, to take the line of least resistance: ("Quiet please, this is a library, I'm working on my computer; learning how to ride my bike and swim from my Internet-download or CD ROM and I don't have time to talk, or to play silly, childish, old fashioned, outdoor games with you, and I'm just too busy with my work to be bothered by conspiracy theories"), we risk giving up, by default, to what blinkered and biased 'experts' tell us is best for us.

More discussion is needed in this newsletter and elsewhere, about this issue and other matters relating to personal liberty and responsibility, especially in the light of what is happening in the fields of education, training and qualifications elsewhere in the world.

Maria Montessori, Rudolf Steiner, John Holt, John Taylor Gatto and Ivan Illich are no longer physically with us, but their spirit lives on in those true radicals who, whilst raising their heads above the parapet, are also able to critically examine their own beloved theories as well as those of others.

As an aside, taking the research findings of another educational academic, Cambridge Professor of Education, Robin Alexander, I suggest that readers check up on the Ofsted report, July 22nd, 2003, reported in the Daily Telegraph July 23rd 2003, entitled 'Ofsted raises doubts on early education'.

The report highlights different approaches to early state education between Britain, with its emphasis on literacy and numeracy tests, and Denmark and Finland, where the emphasis is on socialisation and play.

British children of 6 years old were far advanced with literacy and numeracy skills, compared to their Scandinavian counterparts. However, the Scandinavian system, which concentrated on play and co-operation in the early years, produced teenagers who were way in advance with these skills, when compared to British teenagers.

This creates a very different and, to my mind, much more positive impression of early childhood education, as experienced in Denmark and Finland. In measuring its present day effects against subsequent effects over time, on the individuals involved and on society, this report appears to indicate that, in Britain, radical change in educational thinking is long overdue. However, I believe that we, as individuals and as an organisation supporting the right to home educate, need to use our critical faculties regarding ANY proposal, no matter how beguiling the theory, or who is its originator, and beware.

Keith Haworth, Ceredigion, W Wales

New Approach to Home Ed in Bedfordshire

Here in Bedfordshire I have persuaded a local secondary school, where the Head is sympathetic to the needs of home-educated children, to register 15 children interested in doing GCSEs.

Why should children, whose parents pay their taxes in the usual way, be denied access to the same sort of funding as other children their age, simply because their parents choose to educate them at home?

The children do not attend the school but I have been appointed as Home-Based Learning Co-ordinator, with a small salary, which means I liaise with the families and try to sort out any difficulties as they arise. I manage the remaining budget in conjunction with the school and the parents (the money of course remains at the school and I authorise expenditure from it). We (parents) have used part of our funding to purchase the NEC packs and will use more to pay for regular tutorials in each subject, marking of assignments, marking of mocks, exam fees, etc. So far, I have ordered and distributed 52 NEC packs to the children. We are covering five GCSEs: Art, Biology, Chemistry, Maths and English. It is up to me, in collaboration with the parents, to decide how best to use the funding. I am also co-ordinating workshop-style tuition for them. The link with the school is important in order to ensure that the tuition the children receive is relevant to the examination and assessments necessary to achieve the qualifications they want in their chosen subjects.

I am not entirely sure how we shall fare as the children progress through their NEC packs, as inevitably there is variation in ability, application, motivation, interest etc. However, part of my role will be to figure out ways (within budget) of ensuring that the needs of each child are met such that they achieve the best outcome I can get for them. The backgrounds of the children are varied too. Some have had problems with school-type learning. We may need to pay for individual help for some children, particularly at a later stage in the courses. Obviously, this will put extra strain on the budget and I have to ensure that we stay within budget whilst at the same time trying to meet the needs of ALL the children. I need to try to get round their difficulties and keep everyone enjoying the contact the GCSE group is bringing.

If anyone would like further advice on how to set up something similar, you would be welcome to contact me. June McDonald info@Bedford-Home-Ed.org.uk



Archives



Compiled by Sarah Guthrie

Christmas Editorials Down The Ages.....

'Only by growing can we hope to establish a real basis for effective local activity and mutual support. In addition our increasing membership (now well over 400) of families joined together to assert their personal responsibilities for their children's welfare enables us to make our views heard more effectively...'

(EO editorial group, writing in December 1979 issue no 12!)

'A picture is gradually building up of a particular kind of candidate for EO. There have been many enquiries this year with the same kind of problem. It concerns, typically, a 13 year old boy who goes to a state school. Usually, the child is intelligent, sensitive, perfectly normally behaved at home. His unhappiness at school, however, causes him to react in various ways. He may find it hard to fit in, hard to concentrate, work, get on with the teachers. Or he may be bullied by other children, either because he is different or because he wants to work, or just because he is there.....the educational psychologist will label such a child.....with any label currently in vogue.....But the parent - usually the mother - knows it boils down to being unhappy at school, and withdraws the child.'

(Dick Kitto, December 1980)

'1981 has been a remarkable year for EO. There has been a marked quickening of pace, and upsurge of interest and enthusiasm. This seems largely to stem from the incoming tide of public opinion in our favour. Discontent with state schools has become endemic, egged on by the closure of village schools, the disastrous results of the large comprehensives, the disintegration of school discipline and the continued bickering of educational theorists. The public and the media have become increasingly interested in the alternatives, almost any alternative, and have discovered that home education is not the preserve of cranks but a perfectly rational, responsible and workable way for ordinary people to save their families from School.'

(David Bethell, December 1981)

'I must admit that as I sat down with the increasing pile of members letters and only our 'Raymond Chandler' style typewriter plus right-hand index finger (aided occasionally by the left-hand one) to assist me - I did wonder for a moment or two what I had let myself in for...'

(Lisa Hall Davey, December 1988)

'It seems strange to be wishing you all Happy Christmas and a Joyful New Year whilst watching the Berlin Wall being dismantled; to have to read the horror stories of home educators.

C'est la vie!'

(Kevin Fleisch, December 1989)

'Support in doing home education is a perennial problem. Not only sympathetic grandparents, but other relatives, friends and local EO households are a vital help. However, we have always taken the view that co-operation with the LEA should be another means of finding support. In Bradford, advisors have usually been a model of encouragement for us. Whatever other dilemmas they are in, each contact they have with non-adversarial EOers makes things better for others.'

(Sue Lyon, December 1990)



CHRISTMAS PUZZLE

Hi all, well it's nearly that time of year again!.....closing date 31st December 2004
I thought we would go with a festive theme in the form of a very easy crossword.

This month's prize is a subscription to Learn Premium until the end of October 2005 worth £25!! If you don't win but would still like to subscribe to Learn Premium then contact Jill Fisher. The competition is not open to members or family of the EO council or the puzzle compiler.

The winner of last edition's quiz is: Roisin Dalton from Dagenham, who wins a pair of EO 25th Anniversary mugs.

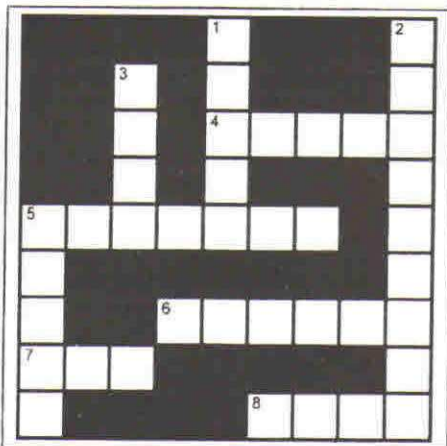
Answers to the last issues puzzle are: READ
EASE
ASKS
DESK

ACROSS

4. These are exchanged at Christmas.
5. One of Santa's reindeer.
6. The period leading up to Christmas.
7. Climbing plant used for decorations.
8. A tradition introduced by Prince Albert.

DOWN

1. Sometimes on top of the tree.
2. Steal a kiss under this.
3. _ _ _ _ , frankincense and myrrh.
5. Small brown bird with a red chest.



Season's Greetings

LETTERS

NEW GROUP, THANET

A new Home Educating support group has been set up in the Thanet area. Families from Thanet and surrounding area will be warmly welcomed. The group has links with local community groups to provide family fun activities and is able to organise something for all age groups and abilities. For further information please contact Mrs Vanda Alexander 01843 842629

NEW SEN MEETINGS, GLOUCES.

Several families home-educating their SEN children, have recently started meeting at the Spring Centre in Gloucester. The centre has a soft ball room, sensory room, toys, books, art equipment etc. and is open to all SEN children and their siblings. Children are of mixed ages. The sessions are free. For more information, please contact Tina Creed 01452 307667 or email: tinacreed@btinternet.com

OPEN UNIVERSITY UNDER 18

With reference to 'Exam-Free Alternatives to GCSE' by Fiona Stewart, (EO no160, October '04), I wonder how typical her experience has been of The Open University. I am a student there, aged 13, as well as carrying on with the rest of my home education. I do not know anything about the YASS short courses as I am doing a regular undergraduate course. I have just taken the final 3-hour exam at the end of my first year. I too am computer literate - and teachers sometimes called me 'autistic' (which was not true in my case, it was just their way of bottling out of giving me an education at the level I needed). I had no difficulty in applying to OU for the course I wanted to do, despite the fact that I had no 'A' levels at the time. (I did have a few GCSEs and equivalent

on my CV, though.) An exception had to be made to their normal rules regarding admissions, and my file went to no fewer than three senior members of staff. This was not, however, a hassle for me: the admissions advisor handled it all. In my experience nobody in The Open University has thought that all school-age children are - or should be - in school. I have found them very 'open' and I am very glad they let me in. Michael Brooker, Oxford

OPEN UNIVERSITY UNDER 18

I was interested to read Fiona Stewart's article. I asked OU if my daughter could do a course at the age of 17 and was told that only 18 year olds could apply. However, in their newsletter they had an article about a 17 year old who was the youngest person to do a degree with the OU. My daughter studied and passed a course with the OU at the age of 16. She did the course in my name as she was interested in doing a course and it seemed a shame to wait for 2 years. We weren't bothered about the piece of paper at the end of it. I originally assumed that she would need my help with it and we could do the course together. The only question she needed my help with was the one she got the worst marks for! She has since done another OU course at the age of 18 and passed that as well. It may be that the pass rate of OU courses is already unnaturally inflated by 'mere' children. I have read in the general information about OU that they do not discriminate against people on age. I hope they don't get funding on those terms. Fiona Chaff, Shetland



LEARNING NETWORKS ?

Hi my name's Joolz. I am new to HE yet in a way it's all we've ever done. Our 2 girls are 4 and nearly 2 so the issue of 'proper' school has only just raised its head. The eldest has attended pre-school for the last year; she loves it and thrives there. She would be starting full time at the local school in January, if I had put her name down, but I didn't. For the first year at least she is not going to school. I have several reasons, as I'm sure most of us do - and it's a relief not to have to go into them here! At first family and friends seemed supportive, but more recently everyone seems horrified that I am actually intending to go through with it. Hubby is dubiously supportive, but my parents have offered to pay for the kids to 'go private' rather than expose them to the 'hippy horrors' of HE. Most of my friends think I am insane to turn down their offer. They just don't seem to 'get it'!

So when the last edition of the EO newsletter dropped through my door, I gave it a hug before reading it! It's so good to read about the stuff other home edding families get up to and to know that there are other people out there who see this path as an option.

I would be very interested to hear from anyone who has managed to establish a learning network where a group of qualified (either by experience or on paper) parents take it in turns to guide/teach small groups of their own children in their 'specialist' subject. For example: 'Tracey's mum teaches maths on a Monday morning; Mark's grandad teaches woodwork on a Friday.' etc. I realise this semi-formal structure is not everyone's cup of tea (not sure it's mine yet) but I would love to know if anyone has had success in organising something like this in their area. We certainly haven't decided what 'methods' will work best for the kiddies and us yet. Trial and error will no doubt show us the way forward. In January we'll start going to some of the Home Ed meetings near us; we are lucky to have several in the area. If you live near me I would really like to meet you, so please get in touch.

Joolz Saville-Hippely, Beckenham, Kent
tel: 0208 289 5026
email: jugglejoolz@hotmail.com

CHRONIC ILL HEALTH and HE

I am just launching (rather nervously!) myself and my 4 yr old son on the EO route. My son has suffered from chronic eczema since birth and now also has asthma. He has a very hungry mind but we are constantly forced to concentrate on his health. His conditions make him very challenging (i.e. cross!) It can also mean that we become rather isolated when he is having a particularly bad attack. I wondered if there were any other EO parents who have home educated children with allergies or other chronic conditions and whether they have any advice for juggling healthcare and home education.

Susan Mortimer, Hastings, E Sussex
email: SSusanMortimer@aol.com

SUCCESS STORY

Wanted to write and share my experience of home ed with everyone.

It all started 8 months ago. Both our kids Samantha (13) and Daryn (11) were unhappy at school and Daryn was refusing to go at all. The Education Welfare Dept were less than understanding and we were very worried about their education.

We were introduced to EO by a very unusual source - Daryn's Head Teacher. We checked out the EO website and decided that this was the right way to go.

We wrote out de-registration letters and took them out of school immediately. We now have 2 very happy, very confident kids, happier than they have ever been.

We do maths games, quizzes, crosswords and word games, cooking and gardening.

Our kids are now happy, well balanced children and it is all down to home ed.

Thank you Education Otherwise!

Dave and Angie Osborne, Cumbria CA7

POST-16 CHILD BENEFIT

My son is 16 in April. We've done HE since he was 11, and we want to continue with home ed. As I am unwell at the moment we are dependant on DSS benefits and I'd like to find out what to expect from the family allowance department. If you have experience or advice about this please write to me.

Hazel Croft, 49 Macdonald St.,
Wavertree, Liverpool L15 1EJ

EAST LONDON LEA PROBLEMS

For some time now people have been contacting me with problems concerning over-zealous LEAs and I would be grateful if someone from each borough: (Waltham Forest, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets, Newham and Hackney) would e-mail me with any feed-back following the meetings they have been summoned to. This will help in advising the next person along.

DYSLEXIA GROUP LONDON

Also, I am hearing of a new Dyslexia group, meeting in Leytonstone, but not solely for Home Edders. If anyone is interested please contact me.

LOCAL CONTACT WORK LONDON

I myself, will be looking to hand over the role of East London Local Contact during 2005 and if anybody is interested in the position and wishes to discuss the work that is involved again, I look forward to hearing from you.

Wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Jackie.Goldsworthy@ntlworld.com
tel: 020 8529 8962

EO CAREERS ADVICE

The Enquiries Team often get queries from young people and their parents asking about particular career avenues. We would like to be able to put them in touch with an experienced person who is also sympathetic to home education.

Would anyone who is prepared to go on a database and talk to a young person or their parent about a job/career, please contact me with details of what job you do and what sort of information you can pass on (i.e: first hand experience of doing the job and/or explaining the qualifications or avenue to do the job.) Also of course your contact details. Many thanks.

Jacqui Houlding tel: 01925 654856
eo_webmaster@yahoo.com

CRIMINALISING HOME ED

We enjoy unparalleled liberty to home educate in the UK, although some of us have to deal with hostility from LEA officials. Imagine being fined and imprisoned because you home educate, and consider the plight of a group of parents in Bavaria, who are being persecuted because they wish to educate their children within their religious community, rather than by sending them to state schools. The fathers of these families have already spent time in prison for non payment of coercive fines levied on them. Details of the case can be found at www.zwoelfstaemme.de/chronologie/chronology.htm - There are links from here if you wish to write to government ministers in Germany in protest at the treatment of these people and their children.

F Stewart, for Tim Yeadell, Orkney

KIDS PLEASE WRITE

My family have recently moved to Anglesey, North Wales. My 10 year old son, Tristan, is very keen to have some penfriends from any area, but he's missed the deadline for this edition's Children's Pages. If your child would like to write to Tristan it would be much appreciated. He's interested in exploring, climbing and den-making, archery, swimming, Lego and model-making and of course his PS2 - and has a pet guinea pig called Vegetables! Please write to Tristan, c/o Liz Stewart, 7 Maes Meathlu, Llanfaethlu, Holyhead, Anglesey, N Wales, LL65 4NU



Changing Brooms by Sue Purkiss

Jessica Frasar is an apprentice witch to Madam Moonthistle who is a rubbishy weatherwitch. So when the chance to go to Colledgeium Witchorum arises she grabs it. She needs her friend Grin's design skills to make a broom for the Changing Brooms competition because the prize is £10,000. But she ends up giving all the money to her family. Jess fears she will be stuck in the village forever but the headmistress praises her skill and lets her into college. I found the book a light read and a light-hearted story aimed at 8-10 year olds. I enjoyed it. Katherine La Fleur (12)
£4.99 ISBN 0-7136-6858 A & C Black

Little Foxes by Michael Morpurgo

This is a story that, when you read one chapter you just have to continue. The main character, Billy, finds himself the mother of four orphaned fox cubs. He is not a happy boy before he meets the foxes. He has a stutter, he doesn't like his teacher, the frog-eyed Mr Brownlow, and lives on an estate with a woman called Auntie May, who smokes a lot. He is in care because, when he was a baby, he was found abandoned on the doorstep of a police station by a policeman named William Fazackerley. When three of the foxes are gassed he goes on the run with the fourth fox. Eventually he finds happiness. We liked this story because it's one with feelings and is created so you want to keep reading. We liked all the stuff about nature - and we liked it when Billy ran away with Auntie May trailing behind! A real 5 star book!

Alfie (10) and Henry (8)

£4.99 ISBN 1-40520-1908 Egmont

Ollie's Ski Trip by Elsa Beskow

Ollie has an adventure in the snowy forest on his skis meeting Jack Frost and King Winter, who shows Ollie his Ice Palace where all the Christmas presents are made. On Christmas morning he finds a present from King Winter; a toboggan that Ollie and his brother play on until Mrs Thaw comes with her broom, to sweep away the snow and make way for Spring to come, on her chariot pulled by butterflies. A beautiful, seasonal tale suitable for 3-7 years.

Hilary Woolf with Isaac (4)

£9.99 ISBN 0-86315-091-8 Floris

Brundibar by Maurice Sendak & Tony Kushner

Based on a children's opera (written by Hoffmeister and Krasa for children in the Terezin concentration camp in 1938) this book has a particular Eastern European flavour. Some of characters of adults are gruesome, grotesque and scary; the story is tragic, (two small children set out with no money to find milk for their sick, widowed mother, encountering hostility from the adults, especially Brundibar) despite being resolved by three talking animals and a band of children; and some of the text reads awkwardly. However, Finn enjoyed it, especially

the songs - the tunes of which I made up as I went along - and wanted to revel in some of the rather nasty pictures. I was surprised to find this book is quite unlike other Sendak books we know and it may not be suitable for all children.

Tina Burnett-Pope with Finn (4)

£12.99 ISBN 1-84428-028-4 Walker

Peter and Lotta's Christmas by Elsa Beskow

A beautifully illustrated book with plenty of text. Peter and Lotta prepare for Christmas in Victorian Sweden in the days before Father Christmas, when the Christmas Goat brought gifts. It's full of adventures. They look after twins, cut down a Christmas tree, get lost in the forest, meet a charcoal burner whom they think is an enchanted Prince, and make Christmas presents for their adopted uncle and aunts. A great Christmas read for 4-8 year olds.

Hilary Woolf with Isaac (4)

£9.99 ISBN 0-86315-372-0 Floris

Britannia - 100 Great Stories from British History by Geraldine McCaughrean and Richard Brassey

100 ghost, murder, love, smuggler, spy, outlaw, royal and heroic stories in chronological order. Each is clearly and engagingly told, with facts about the time and circumstances alongside and plenty of illustrations. A big, fat book; a wonderful read and enjoyed by us all - from 4 upwards. A mythological history of Britain. Excellent.

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

Jonathan Swift's 'Gulliver' retold by Martin Jenkins

I was enjoying the original book but was finding it a bit hard to read because of the language used so when this book came along I was really pleased. It is brilliant and it is written in an easier to understand way than the original. I really like the excellent illustrations on every page too - they bring the story to life in a very bold way. It is a really exciting and unusual story and one that I will read again & again.

Keith Hall (10)

£14.99 ISBN 0-7445-8642-9

Sensational - Poems inspired by the five senses and chosen by Roger McGough

We have really enjoyed the book and sampler CD. It was hard to judge it from just the CD because there were not enough poems to cover everyone's tastes. We liked the glittery texture and colour of the book cover. There are some good poems too, with something for everyone. The poems are divided into six sections; the five senses and a general section. They represented a good blend of modern and traditional poetry. Matt would rate it 9 out of 10 and it would make an excellent Christmas present.

Anne Longmuir with Matt (15)

£9.99 Macmillan

NB 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) 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). Post/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 Sally for more information.
Send in your reviews to Sally Hall, Nant-y-garreg, Saron, Llandysul SA44 5EJ email sally@aecb.net

CONTACTS

A & C Black 01480 212666
 Andersen Press 020 7840 8701
www.andersenpress.co.uk
 Book Guild 01273 472534
www.thebookguild.co.uk
 Continuum Books
www.continuumbooks.com
 Dolphin (Orion) 0207 520 4318
www.orionbooks.co.uk
 Egmont 020 7761 3696
www.egmont.co.uk
 Floris (BookSource) 0870 240 2182
www.florisbooks.co.uk
 Francis Lincoln 020 7284 4009
www.francislincoln.com
 Macmillan 020 7014 6000
www.macmillan.com
 Rabbit Press 01580 830134
www.rabbitpress.com
 Search Press 01892 510850
www.searchpress.com
 Tamarind 020 8866 8808
www.tamarindbooks.co.uk
 Usborne 020 7430 2800
www.usborne.com
 Walker Books 01256 302692



© '99-'04 www.barryscipart.com

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.

£15 including p&p for the reader and exercise pack.

Cheques payable to 'Education Otherwise' to:

M. Frampton, 70 Fossey Avenue, Moreton in Marsh, Glos. GL56 0EA

THE SPACE CENTRE

LEICESTER

Lynda Rowe has negotiated a discount entrance rate to this amazing venue!

During Leicestershire school term times, all members of your family will qualify for the discounted school's admission price of £5.50 per person.

You will need to show your Education Otherwise membership card but there is no need to book in advance. This special rate was negotiated with their Education and Public Programmes Manager, Gareth James.

Their website is at www.spacecentre.co.uk



GCSE EXAM CENTRES

EO has received the following invitation:

"Christian Education in Deeside have decided to set up a centre in Rochdale which will allow home educators to sit International O levels, GCSEs and International A levels. It will be possible to sit exams from Summer 2005, but the agreement we have with Cambridge will be that candidates will become members and will therefore be able to sit exams at our centre. They will not in effect be classed as private candidates.

Candidates will still be responsible for preparing themselves for the exam. The centre is being run on a non profit making basis and anyone will be able to use the centre. The centre will be located in Rochdale and it is hoped that costs will come down as more parents use the centre.

We are a group of home educators who feel this will provide an invaluable service to the Home Education community. It has grown out of our own need to access a centre for our own children.

If anyone is interested please e-mail me: deevilla1@aol.com

If anyone is interested in sitting exams in 2005, you need to be registering as soon as possible."

In addition to the above, the GCSE page on the EO website has been updated with additional venues for sitting the IGCSE examinations run by EdExcel.

These can be seen at:

<http://www.education-otherwise.org/Links/Resources-Qualifications/GCSEs.htm>

If anyone knows of any other venues where this examination can be sat, please advise Geraldine Adams or Sarah Cook (back page GCSE contacts) or Jacqui Houlding so that the website can be updated. Thank you!

WEST LODGE RURAL CENTRE

Kettering, Northants

Melissa Hoang of Northants has negotiated for EO members a concessionary admission rate for West Lodge, who are a leading member of the National Association of Farms for Schools. Your EO membership card will give you a 10% discount during school term time hours. West Lodge are committed to educating children about the countryside, they also have play areas and a petting zoo. Their website is at www.westlodgeruralcentre.co.uk. They are located on Back Lane, Desborough, Kettering Northants tel: 01536 760552

NB: The Centre is CLOSED Christmas Eve UNTIL Feb 24th



ONLINE TEACHING RESOURCE

June Wilson-Billing has negotiated a discount for home educators wishing to take out an annual subscription with the educational website

www.primaryschoolsscience.com

HErs can now have a year's access to the site for just £10.

They are continually monitoring and updating their material, the content of which is aimed at providing teaching resources for science at around KS 2 in the form of worksheets quizzes and puzzles. There is a clip art section with many illustrations and diagrams for enhancing work, and the inclusion of forums on site for discussion and feedback is hoped to lead to improved services.

If there is sufficient interest they hope to offer a dedicated site for home educators, covering other curriculum areas.



CONCESSIONS

Please would all members look out for places of educational interest around them that may be willing to offer concessionary access to EO members. Please contact me with their details so that I can send them a letter of request, or let me know of existing concessions to include in EO's concessions list. Many thanks for your help!

Write to - Dawn Waddington, Ty y Llyfrau, Bangor Rd,
Penmaenmawr, Conwy, LL34 6AF. Phone - 01492 622063.
Email - dawn@home2school.co.uk

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 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 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

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 2nd class stamp

for each card required.

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.freeseerve.co.uk

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:

FIONA STEWART, (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

BERKSHIRE

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

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

****NEW**** Camp Mohawk Home Education Centre - 4 days per week - workshops, lessons, other activities; also for

Local NL/What's on Contact: Dawn 01628 783107
thirdEye1@compuserve.com Or New Web Site for Berkshire www.homeeducators.co.uk

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@ntworld.com for more information

Caversham Fridays 12 - 5pm social, all ages, sep. rm 4 teens in hall with park outside and woods. £2/ family.

Pangbourne (near) Monthly, 2nd Tuesday, 11am - 6pm chat and play, Adventure playground, animals. £3/family Also activities 4 teens. Contact Lynda 0118 961 4466 or

Gail 01628 483895 or email hitchmans@ntworld.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)

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

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

(and another Milton Keynes HE group ...)

MKHE - Milton Keynes Home Educators, friendly group welcomes all, lots going on, arts + crafts, socials, outings, chess club, sports, open afternoons, themed activities etc, monthly newsletter + online discussion room contact

Georgina 01908 371945

www.miltonkeyneshomeeducation.co.uk

South Bucks: 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@ntworld.com

Alconbury monthly activities run by Chnstan group All

welcome Contact: Audrey Hull 01480 219881

Peterborough weekly meetings for art, craft, science,

swimming, sports, play and visits Contact: Sarah 01733

265043 sarah.lambert7@ntworld.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 Carre: 01782

786 720. Email: home.ed@ntworld.com

CLEVELAND AND DURHAM (see also DURHAM)

Tel: Lynsey Hutchby 01642 800940 l.hutchby@tesco.net

CORNWALL

Free events sheets every two months via Email or SAEs.

Contact: Anna Wheeler, Cambrose Farm, Redruth, TR16

4HT 01209 890378 Email:

Annawheeler@cambrose.fsnet.co.uk

Local information on our local home ed website:

Homeedinkernow.tripod.com

CUMBRIA

Informal gatherings for socialising, support and activities.

Cumbria Otherwise Newsletter, for full details of events

throughout the county contact Martin, 01539 732918 or

email cumbria.otherwise@dsl.pipex.com

Kendal alternate Mondays Endmoor Village Hall

1-4pm, Contact Jo Collier 01539 567005.

Penrith alternate Tuesdays Castletown Community

Centre 1.30-3.30 Contact: Sarah Cook 01768 896019

DERBYSHIRE

Chesterfield group meets every Wed. morning.

Contact: Kaz 01246 205463 or Yvonne 01246 555645

****NEW**** Derby Group, 4th Thurs of month.

Contact Andy 01332 752998 or andy@derbyhe.co.uk

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

regular meetings, socialising and days out.

Contact: Julie 01283 760800

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
Thursdays, fortnightly EO social meetings, 2-4pm, Exeter, outings on alternate weeks, contact Louise on 07745 461317
Creditor, meetings, contact Kathy 01363 82401
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 or Amanda (above)

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 Corinne 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
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.
Contact Schuyler Waynforth 01740 622499 or s.waynforth@btopenworld.com
Durham based weekly meeting contact Juliet 01207 544473 or Beth 07719530472

ESSEXNEW**

Chelmsford meetings - monthly, third Thursday 1-4pm, various activities. Sally@brisley.freeseve.co.uk
Chelmsford ice skating - Riverside, Fridays 3.30 - 5pm
Colchester - Bowling and swimming monthly - also informal meetings fortnightly. debbie-m@lineone.net or 07786570870

Southend - informal meetings monthly, first Mondays. paul.nadine@blueyonder.co.uk 01702 319682

Tiptree - Meetings monthly - last Tuesday of. Contact Julie on julie.ashton@ntworld.com
New Teens Group - meeting monthly - various venues

across Essex. Sally@brisley.freeseve.co.uk
Around Essex Educational visits twice monthly, Thursday. Full details of all Essex groups and visits in *Epicycle* available at meetings - or for more info contact Corinne epicycle@wavy.org or 07802 630696.
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> also Email list for events and forum for discussions, information and virtual activities. Contact Rob and Fiona 01684 290087 openhorizons@ntworld.com Caroline 01242 890351 cambrose@iee.org Beverley 01242 524091 or Mhairi 01452 384104.

Gloucester meetings & swimming. Contact Dawn 01452 540019 dawnandmike@blueyonder.co.uk or Tracy 01941 612092

HAMPSHIRE

ACTIVEO: 5 events a week within 20 miles of Petersfield. All welcome. 01428 712394 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

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

Farnham/Aldershot Friendly group for under 10s, weekly meetings/outings/activities. Contact Emma 01483 426277 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
St Albans, Social group meeting at Sandridge village hall, 1-3pm, 2nd and 4th Thurs. Contact: Carolyn 01727 851073

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 and email group: wealdenhomeeducatorsnetwork@yahoo.com
****NEW** East Kent** including Dover, Canterbury and all surrounding areas - East Blean HE Group. Meets alternate Thursdays for education and activities, £2.50 per family. Contact Wendy 01227 463077 or Heather at he@simonandheather.fsnet.co.uk
****NEW** Ash, Sandwich, Dover, Canterbury, Ramsgate** and all surrounding areas Contact Leanne 01304 814498

****NEW** Isle of Thanet** Contact: Vanda 01843 842629

Medway towns Contact: Bridget 01634 234938

Bromley Contact: Claire 0181 460 7347

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

French for beginners through songs and games. Yoga for children. Contact: Katherine 01892 863958

****NEW** Edenbridge:** Family Learning every Tues 11-1pm

Group meet fortnightly afterwards. Swimming,

workshops, museums etc on other Tuesdays.

Contact Tracey for details on 01732 700477

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, pond dipping /

kayaking/wall climbing etc. contact Pam 01706 215585

or davidandpam@ntworld.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

****NEW** Pendle and Craven** Group

Meet once a month in Carleton (near Skipton) for music

and dance etc. For info call Judith on 01756 791356

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@ntworld.com

Helena 01724 720595, Tessa 01522 790452

Variety of informal events and get-togethers. Contact

Christine 01507 338070, christinehaise1@yahoo.co.uk

****NEW** S Lincs** Regular meetings & activities,

swimming etc. Contact Lorraine 0845 458 3004

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.co.uk

Clissold Park Tuesdays. All welcome.

Contact: Charlotte 0207 254 0419

SE London Wednesdays Honor Oak playground

Contact: Steve 8680 2933

****NEW** Grove Park** group meets every other Friday

music group, archery, crafts, volleyball, football, table

tennis and open to any ideas.

Contact: Beverly Meekings 0208 312 2160

Lewisham Thursdays 11-1 then to park afterwards

Contact: ****NEW**** Jemima 0208 2975672

jemimacornish@tiscali.co.uk

Kidbrooke rollerblading Contact: Fiona 020 8852 9756

bettleslake@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 020 8969

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.

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

kathrynvlynn@hotmail.com

West London (Chiswick & Ealing) home education

group now meeting every Tuesday. 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, contact

Naomi 020 8567 7589 or naomisandler@yahoo.co.uk

Also contact for details of yahoo group membership for

discussion and information about events throughout area

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 newssheet, 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

Free e-mail listing of events for Norfolk available from

Alli Willer at simon.whitehall@tesco.net or ring 01603

401020. If you would be interested in theme-based

sessions for the over 11s please contact Liz Stirling,

01760 725388 starling@starling.screaming.net (or Ali.)

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

****NEW** NORTHUMBERLAND/NORTH EAST**

http://groups.msn.com/EducationOtherwise

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

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

OXFORDSHIRE

Group meets alternate Thursdays for structured timetable of activities. Children split into 3 age groups 0 - 4, 5 - 7 and 8+. Workshops include - singing, cooking, crafts, science, history, literacy, sport, watercolour painting and lots more. Regular visitors to the group bring subjects we can't cover as individuals and we go on lots of trips. 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.freemove.co.uk or Theresa 01889 563052

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

SUFFOLK

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

Karen 01394 279117 kjc88@whsmithnet.co.uk

North Suffolk nr Lowestoft - Weds pm - £2.50 per family. Christine 01502 519649 or Jackie 566266

Woodbridge, Foxburrow Farm, 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

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 emmajevans@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 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. ****NEW**** Avis 01273 542589 or 0770 3647954

Forest Row Area. Winnie 01342 826087

Petersfield ACTIVE0: 5 events a week within 20 miles, All welcome. 01428 712394 www.active0.co.uk

****NEW**** St Leonards/Hastings call Jenny 01424 434953 for an informal chat/meeting

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.freemove.co.uk

WILTSHIRE contact: Beccy 01985 840174

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

Salisbury meeting every Tuesday afternoon, for details contact Vicky 01722 324863

Swindon Swimming every Monday term time 1.30 onwards phone Susan: 01666 510217 07801734044 or Mandy 01793 644472

Ice Skating 2nd and 4th Wednesday 10am-12pm, optional lesson. phone Susan.
Swindon meeting: informal get together 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 2pm-4pm phone Shena: 01793 334673 or Mandy. 2nd Friday of the month 12.30-2.30 phone Eleanor: 01793 616854
Pottery 1st Friday of the month 11am-2pm in Lamborne. Phone Jane: 01380 860969
Join email list at: http://groups.yahoo.com/NWlits_HE/Devizes: Last Thursday of the month 11.30-14.30 games, activities, support and socialising. Phone Janet 01249 818672 email: janet.eidekvist@btopenworld.com or Jane: 01380 860969

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 Tess 01947 825 772 or email at chris.geall@btinternet.com

****NEW* Pendle and Craven Group**

Meet once a month in Carleton (near Skipton) for music and dance etc. For info call Judith on 01756 791356

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. Contact Sarah (01484) 361206. Ice Skating. Contact Anne Edwards (01274) 875357.

Leeds: Ten-pin bowling. Contact Sarah (01484) 361206.

Gymnastics lesson. Contact Sarah (01484) 361206.

Wednesday Club. Contact Sarah (01484) 361206.

Monthly Meeting. Contact Sarah (01484) 361206.

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

****NEW* Pendle and Craven Group**

Meet once a month in Carleton (near Skipton) for music and dance etc. For info call Judith on 01756 791356

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

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

****NEW* DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY** home ed group planning monthly meetings. Contact: Jean 01387 820374 or Debbie 01848 600348

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

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

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

LOTHIAN, CENTRAL & S.E. SCOTLAND fortnightly group for meetings and outings. Ann 0131 556 6271 or ann.samuelhill@blueyonder.co.uk or Jane 01835 863 118.

WALES

SOUTH WALES

South Wales Home Educators Network
Weekly meetings in Llantrisant and Swansea, Home Learner's days at local museums, e-mail support list, plus trips, parties and get-togethers. For information and support e-mail: contactSWHEN@aol.com or bev1.french@btinternet.com or contact Louise 01443 231362 (Llantrisant), Bev 02920 797628 (Cardiff), Juliet 01639 760987 (Port Talbot), Amanda 01792 862305 (Swansea) or see www.swhen.netfirms.com

PEMBROKESHIRE EO swim & sauna: Haverfordwest pool, Dew St. 3pm at main reception, fortnightly. Call to check dates. Contact: Yvette 0845 458 9251

CARDIGAN area social meetings and outings on Mondays - Contact: Yvette 0845 458 9251

GWYNEDD Mondays swimming at Bangor
Contact: Louisa 01248 361254

Friday swimming at Porth Madog Weekly meetings at

Tremadog Thursdays. Contact Jo 01766 512330

POWYS Weekly swimming/Tumble Towers in

Welshpool on Fridays (term time only). Monthly workshops, outings, skateboarding and events in Welshpool and surrounding area. Contact: Julia Phillips 01691 648152 gwastad@lycos.co.uk

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

N.E. WALES / BORDERS weekly gym/trampolining in Wrexham (Thurs) various meetings in Oswestry,

W. Cheshire/NE Wales. Also sports and ice skating at

Deeside Leisure Centre. Contact: Genny 01978 757489
49 Westminster rd, Moss Valley, Wrexham LL11 6DH -

£2 for a year's listing. eo@7times7.freereserve.co.uk
****NEW*Wrexham** regular themed craft sessions run by a professional artist, with parental help. Contact: Marie 01978 362436

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Please look out for places around you that might be willing to offer concessionary access to EO members. Contact me with their details & I can send them a letter of request, or let me know of existing offers to include in EO's concessions list. Thanks!
Dawn Waddington, Ty y Llyfrau, Bangor Rd, Penmaenmawr, Conwy, LL34 6AF.
Phone - 01492 622063. Email - dawn@home2school.co.uk

MORE NOTICES

VOLUNTEERS 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
Special Educational Needs
Flexi Schooling**

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

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

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

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

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

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***

Do you pay your Membership Renewal by Bankers Order?

We are very grateful for the continuing and valuable support of those members who pay their subscription by bankers order. However, the subscription rate is now £20 per annum, (concessionary rate £15 per annum).

I am encouraging all members who pay their membership fees in this way to check that they are paying the current rate. If you need to change your subscription the easiest way to do this is to telephone or write to your bank and ask them to increase your annual Banker's order to the new rate.

If you prefer to set up a new banker's order then contact me and I'll send you a form. Should you have any queries, contact me, Lynda Hitchman at 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.

Small Groups:

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

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

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

DFES Team: Ann Samuel Till, Gary Podmore,
Phil Hicks

LEA/EA Group: Anne Wade, Sarah Cook, Ann
Samuel Till, Lize Stevens, Rob Wade, Priscilla
Park-Weir

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, 169 Habershon Street, Splott,
Cardiff, CF24 2LA 07763 729055

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

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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, Barnoldswick.

Tel: 01282 854721 Fax: 01282 854722

Mob: 07949 445 165 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: (VACANT) *Volunteers please!!*

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@birthandbeyond.co.uk

London(1): Linda Irene'schild, Stockwell, London
SW9 020 7787 6692
lindaflora2002@hotmail.com

London(2): (Acting) Kathleen McLaren,
Walthamstow. 0208 527 3296
krmlaren1@tiscali.co.uk

EO Email Lists

The EO general list, where general HE
discussion can take place, can be accessed via
the website at www.education-otherwise.org

The EO Business list discusses the organis-
ation 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.

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)

Sarah Cook (Cumbria) 01768 896019

sarah@croggies.freeseve.co.uk

Martine Frampton (Gloucs) 01608 812411

martine-frampton@maculimited.net

(Treasurer)

****NEW*** Phil Hicks (London Central)

0207 2294385 phil@hickslondon.com

Jacqui Houlding (Cheshire) 01925 654856

jacqui@thecrystalball.org.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@annex.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

Stationery

Leaflets, posters, membership forms, car stickers

Ali Willer, 28 Cozens Hardy Rd., Spruonston,

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 (please ring to

check availability of items before ordering)

Website and email lists: Jacqui Houlding,

01925 654856 jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk

****NEW***

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, Llanycol, B.A.L.A., 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.freeseve.co.uk

School Phobia: Mary Thompson (acting)

01942 795975 ktmusic59@yahoo.co.uk

College Contact: (Acting) Lianne Smith Ivy Mount,

Canny Hill, Newby Bridge, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12

SNU Tel: 015395 30716 (07717 301 887)

Autonomous Education Support: Sammy and Nick

Vidal-Hall, Home Croft, Brownston St, Modbury, Devon

PL21 0QR 01548 830716

Research Contact: Pam Vickers 25 Boxley Rd,

Walderslade, Chatham, Kent Home: 01634 671507

Work: 01227 712206 pjvickerssean@aol.com

Company Secretary: Pam Bellinger 56 Beech Drive,

Braunstone, Leicester LE3 3DA 0116 282 7929

Treasurer: Martine Frampton, 70 Fossey Avenue,

Moreton in Marsh, GL56 0EA

01608 812411 martine-frampton@maculimited.net

EO Stalls: Lucy Charlton, 2 Wistow Rd, Newton

Harcourt, Leics LE8 0FT 0116 2592118

Coordinator for Local Contacts: (Acting): Lize Stevens

96 Ivanhoe Street, Leicester LE3 9GW 0116 2425802

kissit@yawot.me.uk

Coordinator for Enquiries Secretaries: Iris Harrison

(Assistant) Jo Borthen 01392 438876 jo4eo@aol.com

Newsletter Coordinator (Acting) Fiona Stewart,

7 Firvale, Harthill, Sheffield, S26 7XP

01909 774811 vulpixie3@btinternet.com

(Retiring) Anne Rix, Hembury Orchard, Frithelstock,

Torrington, EX38 8JT 01237 451535

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education otherwise

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

Our principal aims are to:

- encourage learning outside the school system;
- reaffirm that parents have 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:

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