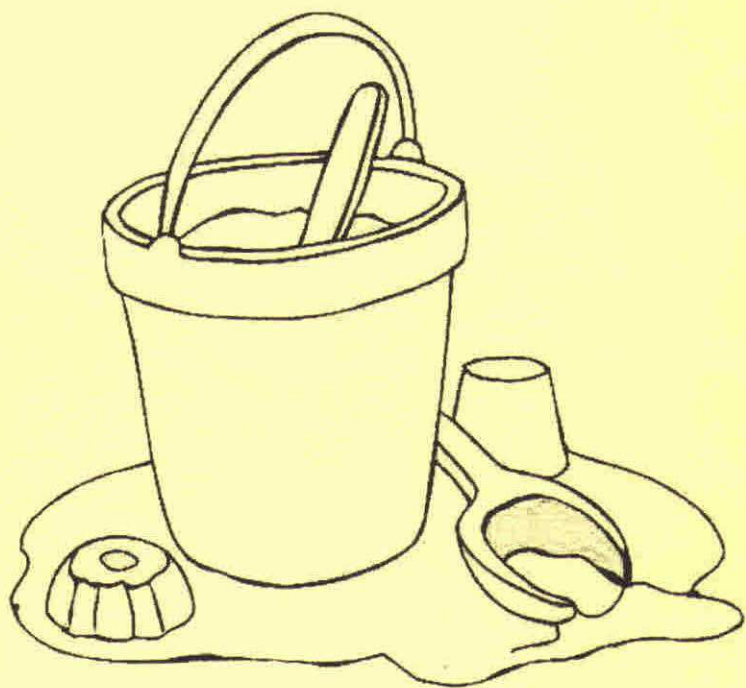


education otherwise



No. 164 - June 2005

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

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS 1st July 2005

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inside back cover)

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CHILDREN'S PAGES N.B. deadline 20th June 2005

Cloe Horne, 17 Briarwood Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 9EG
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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

'Flaming June'? - hope it's sunnier than last June anyway!
Impossible to say as I'm writing this in April and this is Britain (and technology doesn't seem to have made much impact on the accuracy of the met office's forecasts). I can't forecast who will be in government when you receive this newsletter either, I only hope that whichever government we have they will be committed to Democracy with a capital 'D' and to the rights of children to enjoy their childhood free from intimidation, in an environment that will nurture rather than crush their individuality and intelligence. I've collected a few of my

favourite 'educational' quotes here - I hope you enjoy them.

Reading and writing, arithmetic and grammar do not constitute education, any more than a knife, fork and spoon constitute a dinner.

John Lubbock

If education is always to be conceived along the same antiquated lines of a mere transmission of knowledge, there is little to be hoped from it. . . . For what is the use of transmitting knowledge if the individual's total development lags behind?

Maria Montessori

Education is a private matter between the person and the world of knowledge and experience, and has little to do with school or college.

Lilian Smith

I am beginning to suspect all elaborate and special systems of education. They seem to me to be built upon the supposition that every child is a kind of idiot who must be taught to think.

Anne Sullivan

Any sort of training which aims at acquiring wealth or bodily strength is not worthy to be called education at all.

Plato

Best wishes,

Edana Edwards 29/04/05

cover pic: © '99-'05 www.barrysclipart.com

Home education and the Common Assessment Framework

The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is 'a new, standardised approach to assessing children's needs for services'. It takes the form of a list of criteria which a professional should consider in order to determine whether there are grounds for concern about a child. A child who meets these criteria is a 'child with additional needs' (CWAN). The CAF covers all areas in which a child may have needs, including child protection, special needs, and criminal behaviour. Once the assessment process is started, all professionals involved with a family may be asked to fill in the same form. All local authorities will have to implement the scheme from April 2006. In the meantime, those authorities who wish to pilot it are being invited to do so by the DfES. Why is this relevant to home education? Because, for instance, anybody taking a distressed child out of school might fall within the CAF criteria. Indeed, being bullied is listed as one of the reasons for CAF, although it is acknowledged that 'the presence of one or more of these elements does not in itself mean that the child has additional needs'.

Suppose a professional invites a family to agree to the CAF assessment of a child. On the one hand, the grounds for concern may be obvious, and there may be established procedures for dealing with them. The family may already understand the issues – especially if the child has special needs – and if they need help, this could be a way to get it. But on the other hand, the family may be unsure of what the concerns about the child are, and they may need to take time to consider the proposal before agreeing to it. If the family are unclear about why the assessment is being made, they could simply ask to be given details of the concerns in writing. They might then arrange for an interview (accompanied by an appropriate support person) to discuss the concerns and reassure the professional. Alternatively, they might prefer to conduct the discussion in writing. In any case, it is usually better to be proactive and to respond firmly rather than simply to refuse to cooperate.

The professional should be open, and should encourage the parent to discuss the situation with friends and family members. (The existence of such a support network shows that the family and community are functioning well, and that professional input is less likely to be necessary – except with something clear such as a disability.) In any discussion the professional should be prepared to accept the presence of another person to support the parent. It is unreasonable to put pressure on a family to agree immediately to any proposal. If this happens, the parent might wish to make a note of the words used. They might ask the person to confirm that that was what they said. This will usually make them back off if they are exceeding their powers.

Experience shows that professionals may be so reassuring when persuading a parent to do something (e.g. agree to an education supervision order) that the parent is completely unaware that they have agreed to something significant. Alternatively, they may be so aggressive (e.g. truancy patrols demanding names and addresses) that the parent is pressured into agreeing, feeling they have no power to refuse.

If a competent child agreed to a CAF assessment, a parent's refusal could be ignored. If the family refused, the CAF form could still be filled in using whatever information was available, so that the practitioner could discuss the case with senior staff and consider whether there were grounds for concern for the child's welfare. But the information should not be shared with other groups of professionals unless it could be shown that the public interest overrides the lack of consent: 'children and their parents or carers have the right to refuse a common assessment, refuse any services on offer and refuse to consent to their information being shared. In these circumstances, their views must be respected.'

We would appreciate being told of cases where the CAF is used in connection with home education, so that we can monitor whether the scheme is being used appropriately. The CAF may be helpful where there is genuine need. But it is important that LEAs, perhaps feeling that their powers are unduly limited by the forthcoming DfES elective home education guidelines, are not allowed to use this as an excuse for monitoring our children merely because they are home educated. The EO DfES team is asking for the following to be included in the guidelines:

'Previous irregular attendance at school is not of itself a sufficient cause for concern. In many cases, parents and their children have reached a crisis point, for example with bullying, and children who are taken out of school in distress should be given time to recover and should not be subject to an investigation under the Common Assessment Framework.'

Anne & Rob Wade (LEA/EA group)
(anneandrob@onetel.com, or see contact list under London-Middlesex)

ELEMENTS OF THE COMMON ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

General health - How far the child or young person appears healthy and well, is growing and developing normally and is accessing health services (such as GP, dentist or optician) appropriate to their age.

Physical development - How far the child or young person's physical skills seem to be developing normally for their age, for example whether they are crawling, walking and running as expected and whether their vision and hearing seems normal.

Speech, language and communications development - How far for their age the child or young person seems able and willing to speak, communicate, read and write, and express their feelings.

Emotional and social development - How well the child or young person copes with everyday life, e.g. their disposition, attitudes and temperament, any phobias or psychological difficulties.

Behavioural development - How well behaved the child or young person is and, e.g. any anti-social or aggressive behaviour.

Self-esteem, self-image and identity - How far the child seems to be developing the right measure of confidence and self-assurance, and how far they have a sense of belonging.

Family and social relationships - How far the child is building stable and affectionate relationships with others, including family, peers and the wider community.

Self-care skills and independence - How independent the child or young person is for their age – how far they can do routine tasks for themselves and make their own decisions.

Understanding, reasoning and problem solving - How well for their age the child or young person is able to understand and organise information, reason and solve problems.

Participation in learning, education and employment - How far the child or young person is engaged in and attending learning appropriate to their age, whether through play, early years settings, school or college/employment.

Progress and achievement in learning - The child or young person's educational achievements and progress, including ability to read and write, compared with what would normally be expected from someone of their age.

Aspirations - The ambitions of the child or young person, whether their aspirations are realistic and whether they are able to plan how to meet them.

Basic care, ensuring safety and protection - How far the child or young person is safe from harm or sexual exploitation, well-fed and cared for, and living in a safe, warm and clean home.

Emotional warmth and stability - How far the child or young person is loved, in a stable environment, and in contact with those who are important to him/her.

Guidance, boundaries and stimulation - How far the child or young person is subject to and provided with appropriate guidance and discipline at home and elsewhere, and helped to learn.

Family history, functioning and well-being - Who lives in the household and how they relate to the child, including any changes since the child's birth; family routines; and anything about the family history, such as family breakdown, illnesses (physical or mental) or problems with alcohol or other substances that are having an impact on the child's development.

Wider family - Whether there is an appropriate level of help for the child, young person or parents/carers from relatives and others.

Housing, employment and financial considerations - Whether the accommodation has everything needed for living safely and healthily, and the effect on the child/young person of the work and financial situation of the family or household.

Social and community elements and resources, including education - Impact on the child/young person of local area, including crime levels, availability and quality of shops, schools/colleges etc. This includes how well the child/young person fits in with neighbours, friends and others.

For further details see:

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/childrens-trusts/integrated-processes/common-assessment-framework/>
(the document that kickstarted it all)

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/commoncore/docs/CAFQuickGuide.doc>
(very clear; gives the criteria at the end)

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/commoncore/docs/CAFQandA.doc>

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/commoncore/docs/CAFForm.doc>
(gives more detail of the criteria at the end)

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/commoncore/docs/CAFGuide.doc>
(more detail, including data protection requirements)

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/commoncore/docs/CAFIImplementationGuidance.doc>
(yet more detail)



Milk Tokens

At present, families with a disabled child aged 5-16, who does not attend school because of their disability, are entitled to receive a free milk token which can be exchanged for 7 free pints of milk per week (worth around £2.80 per week). This is not means tested at all.

This provision is shortly to be abolished, on July 23rd but anyone who is in receipt of a milk token at the date of abolition will be entitled to cash compensation. If you think you may be entitled, please call Contact a Family's free helpline on 0808 808 3555 or email helpline@cafamily.org.uk for details of how to make a claim. You should do this soon, so that you are entitled to compensation on or after July 23rd.

Milk tokens issued to pregnant women and families of children under 5yrs old, on means tested benefits are NOT being abolished.

Meeting with Midlands LEAs

I was fortunate to obtain an invitation to a conference of LEA representatives from around the Midlands on 3rd March 2005. This is the first time an EO representative has been present and I felt it was best to keep a low profile and mostly listen to what they had to say, so that future invitations may be forthcoming.

The meeting was held in Stafford and those present included representatives from Birmingham, Cheshire, Coventry, Derbyshire, Essex, Lincolnshire, Stoke on Trent, Warwickshire, West Midlands, Wolverhampton and Bedfordshire. There were also three representatives from the Learning Services of Kingston Centre, where the previous meeting had been held.

They discussed autonomous education with reference to a piece in the book Free Range Education and many showed lots of interest in this subject. The conversation moved on to the use of the words "Inspectors" and "monitoring" which were recognised as words not everyone likes or necessarily uses, though an alternative word for "monitoring" was considered difficult to find! It was clear that most want to monitor families regularly either once a year or according to their own 'policies'.

They started going through the DfES draft LEA guidelines with a fine-tooth comb changing wording here and there. The issues of flexi-schooling and travelling families were also discussed and work experience was discussed at some length.

Many LEA representatives were very anxious about not having access to a child who is taken out of school and would like a change in the law to allow this. They feel generally that if a child is taken out of school they may be at risk, and nothing I said could alter this opinion.

I raised one or two points during the discussion, but kept things low key, as I wanted them to feel they could be honest in expressing their views in my presence. When I brought up the subject of bullying everyone was distinctly uneasy. In some areas I am told it definitely doesn't happen, and the reason children come out of school is because of other disruptive children!

Since the meeting I have contacted all the people I met in Stafford and am hoping to develop a relationship with them. I have already spoken to some EO local contacts and would like to liaise with anyone else working with LEAs in various ways in different parts of the country.

Mary Thompson Tel: 01942 795975 Email: kmusic59@yahoo.co.uk

OPEN COUNCIL MEETING

**of Education Otherwise Association Ltd on Saturday 4th June 2005
at John's Lee Wood Campsite, Leicestershire from 10am.**

All members of EO are welcome to attend.

DfES Draft LEA Guidelines on Elective Home Education

Two members of the DfES small group met with a member of the DfES on 10th Feb. to comment on the pre-release draft of the guidance which DfES are planning to issue to LEAs. It was found to be largely based on the Scottish guidance and is broadly supportive of home education. The DfES have now issued their Draft LEA Guidelines on Elective Home Education, for consultation.

These can be viewed on the EO website at
<http://www.education-otherwise.org/Legal/IndexToLegalBits.htm>.

Please read these draft guidelines and give your comments!

These guidelines will have a major influence on LEA's practices in future. Your input is valuable! An on-line debate about the guidance is taking place on the EO-Members list, which you can join at <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/EO-Members/> or send your comments to Julie Ridley, Phil Hicks or Jill Fisher (contact details back page).

2005 Confidential Contact List

The new contact list is in this mailing. Please take the time to check your entry and make sure all details are correct and that you're listed in the right area. For any problems or changes, contact Lynda Hitchman database@education-otherwise.org (see Membership inside back cover for address/phone no)



IMPORTANT - *This contact list is confidential and for the sole and personal use of members. In no circumstances can it be used for any purpose other than to facilitate social contact between members. It is **NOT** to be used to prepare circular letters/emails or mailing lists for advertising, research, marketing, resources or any other purpose. Anyone found misusing the contact list or divulging any of its content to non-members will have their EO membership terminated. Please contact Lynda or any Council Member with any concerns.*

Gwersyll Dewi Sant EO - St Davids EO Camp

Education Otherwise Family Camp Sat 25th June to Sat 2nd July 2005

The 11th EO Camp (10th anniversary) in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Campsite has excellent facilities and is surrounded by fabulous coastal scenery.

THE NUMBER OF EO FAMILIES AT THIS CAMPSITE IS **RESTRICTED TO 30**

**** | Bookings MUST be made in advance | ****

We anticipate that the camp will be fully booked by the end of May.

Booking form and further information send SAE to:

GDS, 3 Riverside Mews, Lower St. Mary Street, Cardigan, Ceredigion, SA43 1DH

GWERSYLL DEWI SANT EO ~~ ST DAVIDS EO CAMP NEW FOR 2005 GDS SONGBOOK

Because the campsite owners have severely limited the numbers at the EO camp this year, the camp fund of £5 per person no longer allows us to hire the large dome as in previous years. We are considering the alternatives of increasing the camp fund contributions, or hiring a smaller communal dome (which might not have much elbow room in emergency weather).

We are also attempting to raise funds to cover any shortfall, so the GDS Songbook is now available to buy, with the lyrics to more than 40 songs (including all the GDS favourites) on floppy disc for £5 inc P&P or on A4 paper (in large print for those campfire evenings) for £10 inc P&P
send cheque made out to GDS to:

GDS Songbook, 17 Maes Ingli, Newport, Pembs, SA42 0TE



EO National Gathering

(and Open Council Meeting) 2nd to 9th June, 2005

John's Lee Wood, Leicestershire

Camping in clearings in woodland within the National Forest, 30 minutes from Leicester city centre by bus and 5 minutes from the M1. Situated in the countryside close to Bradgate Park, Beacon Hill and other public woodlands. For further information and booking forms send a stamped SAE to Jill Fisher at 54 Ratcliffe Rd, Leicester LE2 3TD or e-mail jill.fisher.eo@ntworld.com The campsite can be viewed at www.jlw.me.uk

For information on disabled access, phone Pam on 0116 282 7929

PEAK CAMP 2005

Thursday 7th July - Thursday 14th July

Open to all EO members, and those interested in Home Education

The site is the usual one: Barracks Farm, Beresford Dale, near Hartington
(grid reference 123 586)

Two large fields for tents and touring caravans; showers, toilets, wash basins.

Charges: per night

Adults: 2.00

Children: 0.80

Cars: 1.50

There is no need to book - families can make their stay as long or as short as they wish. Fees are payable direct to the farm, not to EO. However, it would be useful if I had an indication of the number of families coming that I could pass on to the farm. There are no pre-organised activities. In the past, however, walks, cycle rides, rock climbing, circle dancing and shared meals have all been popular activities. There are cycle hire centres and cycle tracks nearby as well as riverside walks. Offers of shared activities or workshops are always welcome.

There is plenty of time to share experiences of home educating with other families and for families and children to socialise freely.

As most Peak Camp regulars will be aware, the farm's situation has changed following Rosemary's death. It is now available to us again, although there won't be a camp shop this year. However, provisions are easily available elsewhere. We need to organize a cleaning rota for the toilet, shower, and wash-up facilities. It would help if people volunteered to me beforehand so that we can make things run smoothly.

Hartington is approached by the A515 either from the north, via Buxton, or from the south, via Ashbourne. From the A515 take the B5054, signed to Hartington. Follow the road through and out of the village. Just under two miles out of the village, and shortly after entering Staffordshire, turn left, following signs for Beresford Dale. Keep following Beresford Dale signs until you near the end of the road; Barracks Farm is on the left.

For more details contact: Gary Podmore, 52 Rupert Road, Sheffield S7 1RP
Tel : (0114 2585702)



EO NATIONAL GATHERING

Thursday 29th September – Thursday 6th October 2005

Featherstone Castle, Northumberland

Set in acres of beautiful parkland in the valley of the river South Tyne.

For information and booking form send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

EO Gathering, 2 Wistow Road, Newton Harcourt, Leics. LE8 9FT

or email: kcharlton@btopenworld.com

Consultancy on Draft DfES Guidance for LEAs on Home Education

The DfES released on the 18th February a draft of the guidance they plan to send to all LEAs in England. At first glance to my inexperienced eye it was a positive document that was largely based on the Scottish guidance. It included information about home visits not being compulsory and that LEAs need not actively investigate home education, but I could see one or two areas that were not accurate.

Soon there were emails flying on many lists about all sorts of problems with the document. The DfES had said that they did not want to spread the consultation too widely and only invited a few groups to give comment. Phil Hicks thought it would be much easier for the EO DfES small group if all the comments came in to one place and set up a fresh email list to deal with this consultation and invited all interested parties to participate. This list opened on the 12th March and soon there were numerous comments from many parts of the home education community.

It was a delight and a privilege to see this debate with clear minds coming together to work out the best strategy. Time was soon rolling on and the DfES wanted replies by the end of April. Barbara Stark took on the enormous task of co-ordinating the opinions that flowed and produced comments on each section of the guidance that were then uploaded into the files section for all to see and make further comments on. Jill Fisher was able to access this to compare with EO's response which was being developed by the DfES team and others, and Mike Fortune-Wood, who had a version with comments on his web site, could also contribute. I always enjoyed Neil Taylor Moore's comments which helped to bring us back to the basic rights which the law gives us.

Towards the end people were working till all hours to make comments or draw together threads and there was a desperate hunt for SEN expertise to ensure the SEN section was the best within the law. Finally Christine Waterman was able to join in the debate and we managed to get a week's extension from the DfES. Christine could only use the computer sporadically as it is her son's main tool, but whenever she could she was adding another point.

All the contributions were appreciated and many more people than I have mentioned here put in long hours on all our behalf – thank you. Finally EO's comments were ready and sent off. They can now be viewed on the EO web site under Legal Information – England and Wales. Mike Fortune-Wood submitted the version from his web site and it was decided that the Consultancy list should send the DfES Barbara's final version with a briefing document that had been initiated by Martin Wise. These three submissions are more different in their style than the content and it is hoped that each will influence the DfES in their own way.

Many of these people are not members of EO and it was a delight to see everyone pulling together to get the best result for home educators.

Priscilla Park Weir



S.E.N. Contacts Wanted

If you home educate and have knowledge and/or experience of special needs of any kind, an email address, and would like to help and advise others please look at the EO website <http://www.education-otherwise.org/About%20EO/About%20EO/LocalGroupsList.htm> Only your first name, email address, county, and area of special needs experience need be included in the website's contact list, as this is public domain.

Please contact the webmaster if you are interested.

VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

GET INVOLVED WITH EO!!

!! URGENT !! LOCAL CONTACTS CO-ORDINATOR

Volunteers are urgently needed to take over from Lize Stevens, who is resigning from end May (two or more volunteers would help to split the work). Sarah Cook is helping out in the meantime, and anyone interested should contact Sarah, tel: 01768 896019 email: sarah@croggies.freeserve.co.uk

!! URGENT !! MEDIA CONTACTS

We urgently need more media volunteers, especially in the London area (or home counties willing to cover London). There is now much more support available for this important role. It is the main way that we educate the public about home education, so if you know anyone in your local group who might be willing to put in a little time for EO, please encourage them to ask about the role.

MEDIA CONTACT CO-ORDINATORS

As an area media co-ord, you will 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 Claire Turnham, new media co-ord (details back pages) We currently need media co-ords for:

Scotland

Northern Ireland

Northwest England

Southwest England

ADVERTISING CO-ORD

Working with the newsletter editor, treasurer and advertisers this is an interesting job which helps to finance EO. No cold calling involved – many advertisers regularly book space with EO. For more information please contact Anne Rix (inside front page for contact details)

ENQUIRIES HELPLINE

We are looking for people who have been home educating for at least 2 years. An ability to talk objectively but sympathetically about home ed and problems caused by LEAs etc is necessary. You would be required to answer the phone calls redirected to your home for one week in every 4 weeks, send out information packs, pass on information and help people to be able to help themselves. You can claim expenses for postage. If you are interested call Jo: 01392 438876

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

We are looking for someone who is happy to chat on the phone and support some of the people in EO who do remote jobs and do not have a co-ordinator. It would be your job to contact these people twice a year, find out if they are still happy doing their job, and whether there might be ways of improving things for them. It would mean less than one phone call a week, to slowly build up some knowledge of the people involved and their work. For further details, please contact Priscilla Park Weir Tel: 0845 458 3085 Email: priscilla@pvpw.fsnet.co.uk . She can answer your questions and will provide information and support for the job.

FUND RAISER

Pamela Walker has resigned and has material to pass over, but we need a volunteer to take this on. Anyone interested please contact Julie Ridley (chairperson – see back page for contact details)

LOCAL CONTACTS

Informing, welcoming and supporting families new to home ed, or those experiencing difficulty.

Contact Sarah Cook, tel: 01768 896019 email: sarah@croggies.freeserve.co.uk

Areas currently needing a Local Contact:

ENGLAND

Dorset East

Dorset West

Durham

Gloucestershire North

Herefordshire

Hertfordshire

London - South West

Somerset

West Midlands (Birmingham, Solihull,

Walsall, Wolverhampton)

Rotherham South Yorkshire

Sheffield South Yorkshire

SCOTLAND

Angus, Dundee, Perth &

Kinross

Argyll & Bute

Clackmannanshire, Falkirk,

N. Lanarkshire & Stirling

Edinburgh & Lothians

Fife

Glasgow

Inverclyde and The Ayrshires

WALES

Anglesey

Denbighshire North Wales

Mid Glamorgan

Vale of Glamorgan

West Glamorgan

Gwent

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@ntlworld.com tel: 0113 2172795. Emma will add you to our volunteer database and contact you with information when help is needed.



LOCAL CONTACT UPDATE

New Acting Local Contacts

June Booker	Warwickshire
Sarah Cowley-Catchpole	Coventry
Lesley Kilbride	Highlands & Isles (Scotland)
Maria Harkin	Flintshire (North Wales)
Aida Stephens	West Sussex
Ruth Gray	Hull
Sharon Hiscock	North Dorset
Caroline Shevelan	Manchester West (Warrington, Wigan)

Resigning Local Contacts

Lisa Herbert	Powys South
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Areas Needing a Local Contact

See above.

NEWSLETTER ON-LINE

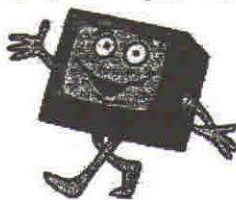
EO Council is looking for a way to reduce regular costs to the charity. One possible way to do this is to reduce the print run of the newsletter.

Would people who are willing and able to receive electronic copies of the newsletter and/or access the newsletter from a secure section of the EO website please contact Jacqui Houlding at jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk or on 01925 654856. Please indicate if you WOULD be happy to, in effect, donate a little extra to EO without it costing you anything more.

At this point in time, we are not looking for specific names, but looking to see whether it is something which is a viable option for members.

New Media Co-ordinator ...

After much deliberation I have decided it would be best for me to stand down as Media Co-ordinator for EO. I am receiving sometimes as many as two/three enquiries a day from newspapers, radio stations, TV companies etc., this involves talking to researchers, sending out information, stats, and research findings, a follow up chat after the researcher's initial foray into the 'life of HE' and also finding families for them to interview. Jacqui Houlding, Brilliant-Jacqui (those two words should go together) compiles a database of families (currently 400+ by county) that are willing to talk to the press. It has been great fun but I am currently applying for a PhD in Performance Practice at Exeter University and completing my MA (in Devised Theatre) - which of course has opened up all sorts of paid workshop-ing/performance work - I am also a director of a Theatre Company and Oh yes, I also home-educate - better described as 'living my life with my children who just so happen not to go to-school' - I cannot possibly carry on doing it all. In the new year I was in hospital with a kidney infection. Supposedly kidneys represent the 'excess' of life, of course that is a 'non-allopathic' take on it but there probably is some validity in it. Hey Ho - So I am passing this post on to a very able and enthusiastic Claire Turnham (who is currently media contact for South East).



Over the 17 or so years we have been members, we have been in all the national 'broadsheets', (Oh, and the Daily Mail!), local newspapers, radio and TV. Barnaby (my youngest son) was on Newsround, brilliant stuff, sliding across the bottom of the screen was - 'Barnaby has never had a formal lesson in his life'. It was fabulous. Sometimes the media have misquoted me, printed the antithesis of what I actually meant, printed photographs that make me look 150 years old - but tra la la... it's all good (big smile).



I have really enjoyed spreading the word of HE and the wonderful stories that underpin its greatness but sadly it is just taking up too much time. Many home-educators call themselves 'radical un-schoolers' - I feel this is indicative of how parents who home-educate view themselves. The face of school-from-home/class-room-in-the-kitchen is frequently portrayed as the norm, this is far from how the majority home-educate. The freedom that home-



education can engender is what we should be promoting. The mainstream state schooling system is quite obviously failing (and breaking the law), as 33% of 11yr old children leaving primary school are not able to read or write adequately (statistic from Teresa May MP shadow secretary for 'the State of the Family'), 40,000 teenagers leave school with no GCSEs. This year it was possible to obtain a C grade at Maths GCSE with a 16% mark (farical); a staggering 50,000 children miss school in Britain every day due to truanting; 11% of 16 year old leaving school have difficulty reading and writing etc.. If young people are in school for 15,000 hours and are leaving without basic literacy skills one wonders how the teaching profession can, with any authority, criticise home-educators. We not only give our children a more rounded and holistic education, but also, with 150,000 young people country-wide being home educated there is a huge net-work of young people and adults from all sorts of walks of life and religions to share fabulous HE life experience with.

"Enough!" I hear you shout. I know I am preaching to the converted (grin). I welcome Claire into her new post... High Kick!!!

If you would like your named added to the media database please contact Jacqui Houlding (Council Member, Web-mistress and Administrator) - jacqui@crystalball.org.uk (01925 654856)

Claire Turnham (New Media Co-ordinator) - Claire@birthandbeyond.co.uk (01869-811099)

© 2005 Belinda R. Harris-Reid, Devon - bharrisreid@baselinedata.co.uk (01364 643343)

LETTERS

EXCHANGE WANTED

Is anyone out there interested in cultivating an exchange with my daughter aged 10? From September 2005 to May 2006 we are travelling in the United States and South America. Rosanna will be following (very roughly) the Scottish curriculum guidelines so that on return she can slip into secondary school at the normal age. . . or at least that is the idea at the moment. Travel may broaden her mind to other options, we'll see!

I am a teacher but plan to share her education by having a couple of tutors back here, whom Rosanna can email and perhaps some people her own age too. She is already building her own web site at think.com but I thought perhaps if we made contact with a home educating, Scotland-based family before we left, we could build up something challenging and profitable to both parties.

The point of the trip is not only to see a bit more of the world than our own small village (1038 souls) but also to trial various software and at least one of the new handhelds, to see how they can be used best for people of this age group.

Please phone 07790 691584 email franklin@cecilia.demon.co.uk if you think you may be interested.

Name and address supplied

DISCOUNT NEGOTIATED

A while ago I negotiated a discount for <http://www.primaryschoolscience.com/> Instead of the usual £49 for teachers and £25 for students, Home Educators can subscribe for £10 per annum. Previously there was an option on the joining form for us but it has been removed as teachers and students were abusing it and pretending to be HEers to get the reduced rate! Anyone now wishing to get the discount needs to email Andrew from Primary School Science. He will arrange it for you. ajlturner@btinternet.com,

I have also recently negotiated a discount with www.educationcity.com. If you input 'school' at the checkout you will receive £10 off the total price. I hope these are useful.

June Wilson-Billing bugchick@mac.com

HOME EDUCATING TEENAGERS??

My daughter is 11 and a half and I am reaching out for support to those who have experience that I lack. How do you home educate a teenager?

The unstructured approach we have adopted so far of 'Life as Education' does not seem sufficient at this stage. I fear she is under-stimulated. She reads voraciously, and, like most home educated kids, is emotionally and verbally very mature and able. However, because she has not had to do writing as a daily task, she is reluctant to write - it is too much effort and the results are deemed (by her) as being not good enough. So we have a capability gap which I don't know how to bridge.

We live in a rural location so I am concerned about how she satisfy her need for peer communication in the coming years.

And I am just worried, full stop. Most people here in NZ seem to cave in at this stage and send their kids to school, or else they have been following very structured programmes all the way through so just keep upping the ante. I would love to hear from other families how you coped with this transition and how your kids came through the other side as skilled and knowledgeable young adults.

I look forward to hearing from you!
Lori Forsyth, Waiheke Island, New Zealand Email: lori@quest13.co.nz

BBC MATERIAL

Some while ago it was mentioned in the newsletter that home educators were unable to buy materials from the BBC

Schools Service. I think it was suggested that EO could approach the BBC with a view to individuals buying via EO. Did anything come of this? Or has anyone found any other way of accessing BBC material?

Rebecca Kail, 3 Culblair Cottages,
Dalcross IV2 7JJ

NOTICES

EO STATIONERY

Gail Borrows has taken over the stationery distribution job from Ali Willer. Trifold information leaflets, EO posters, letter headed paper etc. can all be ordered from Gail by any member of EO.

Please send clear details of quantity needed etc. and be aware that Gail is new to the job – please be patient! Gail prefers to receive orders by email on gail@borrows.plus.com Also tel: 01628 483895 or write to 48 Marlow Bottom, Marlow, Bucks SL7 3NB

AFFILIATION TO THE PHONE CO-OP FOR CHEAP PHONE CALLS

EO has been given some new deals for phone calls and this info is towards the bottom on the home page on the EO web site. If you do not have web access, please phone Priscilla on 0845 458 3085 and she will post you the information. The 1p Anytime rate is unchanged.

INSURANCE FOR LOCAL GROUPS

Following various enquiries concerning the insurance cover for local groups, I feel I need to clarify the nature of the cover offered. According to the definition which I gave to the insurance company, a "local group" consists of families, i.e. parents and their children, meeting for social and educational purposes.

EO cannot offer cover for ANY situation where parents leave their children in the care of another person.

I currently have a list of over 50 groups covered by the insurance. You can check if your group is included by visiting the web site or by phoning me. Following discussion at the council meeting, a group of interested people will be looking at the general situation regarding local groups, and we hope to develop some helpful guidelines in the next few months. Input from anyone interested is welcome.

Martine Frampton (Treasurer)
01608 812411

SECURITY OF INFORMATION

Please remember that non-members often see the main newsletter, so restrict your published contact details to those you feel comfortable with having in the public domain. When giving details of venues, remember that this may be sensitive information for some.

The Children's Pages and the Contact list are for members only. Please be careful of how you dispose of these, so that information isn't misused.

INFORMATION LEAFLETS

All those that have been updated are now available on the EO web site at <http://www.education-otherwise.org/Publications%20Files/Leaflets/NdxLfit.htm> Also from our bookshop with June Wilson-Billing (contact details back page)

AMAZON.CO.UK ORDERS

If you are buying books or software from Amazon, Education Otherwise receives a small percentage for everything purchased through the link from the EO website. The link can be found at the top of the publications pages.



Learn Premium Website

Learn.co.uk, an online educational service run by the Guardian, has offered EO members a joint, low cost subscription to Learn Premium, a digital subscription service aimed at primary and secondary age children and their teachers. EO has agreed to pay Learn.co a lump sum and is making a small charge to each user to cover this cost.

Access to the service from now until **October 2005** will cost EO members £25 per family. There are about 35,000 pages of online lessons, tests and topic based information on a whole range of subjects. Due to our agreement with Learn.co we can only offer this service to members of Education Otherwise.

Please note that membership lasts until October only

Their web address has more details of the services available. If you would like to subscribe, please send your email address to Sue Radford sradford4@aol.com for details of how to pay your £25 and of how to log on to the service.

"Home Education" (working title)

Special edition (March '05) edited by Paula Rothermel, of academic journal "Evaluation and Research in Education". This publication provides a round up of the research on home ed globally. Its compilation led to the new academic email list through which home ed researchers all over the world are talking on a daily basis.

EO special discount price £7.50 incl. p&p (full cover price £16)

Cheques/postal orders payable to EO Trading Ltd
from June Wilson-Billing, Wychwood, 17 Woodland Close,

Verwood, Dorset BH31 7PN Tel: 01202 827945

educationotherwise@mac.com.



Academy of Circus Arts and Physical Theatre

Britannia Rd, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 8DB

Now auditioning for the Autumn 2005 intake of students for their BTEC National Diploma in Performance (accredited through City of Bristol College)

Based in Bristol since 1993, Circomedia has an international reputation for its work and prides itself on a family atmosphere. **The two year course will be FREE for 16-18 year olds** and will provide a broad introduction and foundation in performing arts including physical theatre and circus skills. Areas of study will include the history of theatre, physical theatre, dance and fitness as well as circus arts (trapeze and rope, acrobatics and juggling). Students will be able to use this qualification to gain university entrance in a related subject such as drama, dance, sports and teaching, or continue to train in circus. The training is also an excellent means of building confidence and life skills which are easily transferable to work environments.

The tutors will be experts in their field with a background in performance and a wealth of experience in theatre and circus skills. There may also be opportunities for lectures and demonstrations by visiting artists from professional circus or theatre companies.

Although the course is practical all training will be underpinned with academic study and key skills. For further information about the BTEC course please contact course director, Kate Webb on 0117 947 7288 or kate@circomedia.com

EDUCATION OTHERWISE MERCHANDISE

Resource Texts

Based on National Curriculum materials. Covering all primary levels and some secondary.

Most useful to parents looking for a structured, curriculum approach.

Available **FREE** from
henrietta.turnbull@btinternet.com
(rtf or wpd or doc file);

or please send a stamped SAE
plus £1 for printing costs to

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

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.freemove.co.uk

EO Car Stickers

Help spread the word.

Please send a reasonably large SAE to:
Gail Borrows, 48 Marlow Bottom,
Marlow, Bucks SL7 3NB

EO Hoodies - hooded sweatshirts

with the triangle logo and the
letters SINC - Now available in
navy blue and black - children's
and adult sizes - £15 children's
and £20 for adults' size
(including postage and packaging)
For further details please contact
alex.caldwell@tiscali.co.uk
tel: 0116 2720209

EO Cotton T-shirts

Good quality - choice of 2 designs:

a) white shirt with red, triangular
'school patrol' EO logo.

b) 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, More
than 7 shirts, p+p £4

Cheques to E.O.Trading Ltd.
Lucinda Smart, 4 Chester Gardens,
Church Gresley, Swadlincote,
Derbyshire, DE11 9PU.

Educating Archie

♥ I love predictive text?
or "I have productive tics"?

Mrs G and Archie are busy weighing the cat when

/// PING PING! ///

A TEXT MESSAGE FROM THE INSPECTOR!

instead of a visit?

DOING NE NMBR WORK? ☺ LEA

RU EDUC 8 ED?

ICUR STILL EO

must reply - this phone's USELESS by the way

here's mine - but can you do predictive text MUM?

of course - "Archie is doing WEIGHTS and MEASURES Please DONOT TEXT AGAIN"

there! It was just lucky we were doing something for once

PING!

remote control

meanwhile at the LEA ..

What?

/// PING PING ///

the poor lad! Waiting for the measles to end. But how can I possibly text them a doughnut and a GIN?

measles

Aargh doing waits end measles. PLS DONUT TXT A GIN

measles

[no animals were hurt in the making of this cartoon]

Diary of a Home Educating Nobody

by Ross Mauntney

There's a fight going on in the kitchen! So I've come out of the way. It's not a physical fight. Yet! Only very unpleasant accusations and name-calling as my two children fall out over something trivial - as usual - So I've buried my head in some papers pretending it doesn't bother me, when of course it does. And I can't even not listen because I need to make sure, for my own peace of mind, that there's not going to be bullying, abuse, or bloodshed!

I don't know about you but for me sibling conflict is one of the most wearing things we have to deal with - our children being at home and under one another's feet all the time. It stresses me out, churns my stomach, and gets me to boiling point, especially when I get involved.

So I've come out of the way, trying not to get involved, because I've found that getting involved actually tends to make it a whole lot worse.

Not getting involved is as hard as having chocolate in the house and not eating it. It's very tricky! But there's no doubt that the less fuss I make the better it will be for everyone. Better for me because getting involved is going to mean being torn in two and inevitably raising my blood pressure - probably by screaming! And better for them, as the last thing they need is another shrieking and irrational participant to fan the flames.

But another reason I don't get involved is because I think the children have to learn to close these disputes themselves. To be able to take themselves forward from being stuck in a bog of conflict; to be able to compromise; to be able to deal with unpleasant feelings associated with not getting their own way, and to be able to see that there are ways of living together satisfactorily even when they don't get their own way. And if they can do that themselves, rather than have me sort it out for them, then they have a valuable life-skill for their future.

Now, there's no way an infant can do this. Children have to be at a certain stage before they can understand the idea of non-ego-led behaviour and be able to see beyond always getting their own way and having control over others. Because that's what most disputes are about - someone wanting control over someone else. And, if I'm honest, that's probably the only reason I want to get involved; because I want control too! (It's gone suspiciously quiet in the kitchen. At the moment I can't tell if it's a sinister quiet or an amicable quiet! I'll go and have a look in a minute.)

Wanting control is usually why kids fall out. And that's why I often fall out with them too! That's probably why all parents fall out with their kids. Simply over control issues.

Parents want kids to do things the kids don't want to do. Or kids want to do things their parents don't want them to do. Or children want their parents to do things that they don't want to! And often, when we look honestly at our reasons for requiring things of our children, they are more about us just wanting our own way than other issues! Obviously there are always health, safety and sanity issues! But I think many of us parents actually use those issues as an excuse just to have that bit of extra control. And we sometimes use education as an excuse too - just as schools do!

Schools, and some parents, sometimes use education as a way of keeping control over children. Education can be used as a dire threat. E.g. 'do your writing or you'll never get anywhere in life'. A statement which is just not valid! Adults, especially those in schools, assume a position of superiority and control by making out that education is some mysterious thing that only they can possibly know anything about! Which is simply not the case.

Children in school have the minimum amount of say (if any) in anything. They must feel so completely at the mercy of everyone else, and there's nothing worse than that for making you feel angry and frustrated. It's no wonder that some of today's teenagers do some of the things they do.

Obviously some characters like to be controlled. They like to have others lead the way. That's part of some peoples' make-up. But I would guess many don't. And it's no wonder that trouble arises; that children vent these feelings of pent-up frustration on whoever's available and easiest to bully. With the pressures of control from parents, teachers, schools, an over-prescriptive education, and an exam system that threatens children with written-off life should they fail, it's no wonder children either get into trouble or crumple from it all.

I'm not saying we shouldn't care for, attend to, or have input into our children's lives. What I'm trying to say is that under the guise of caring for and educating them - and as HEers we do care in such a big way - we perhaps don't need to have as much control as we think we do. Even over the content of their education. I believe that most children are intelligent enough to understand that sometimes parents have good reasons for wanting them to do what we ask of them. That is of course if we DO have good reasons, and don't just want our way because it's easier for us! And children also have good reasons for wanting to do what they do. And as long as they feel listened to and have opportunities to have their say over their own activities, they are willing to compromise and to allow others to be in control of them.

And sometimes the children even manage to practise compromise on each other - although right now, in the kitchen, might not be a good example of one of them!

Actually, now that I'm listening, they've stopped falling out and have moved onto working together. Every now and then there's a squeal - this time of laughter! I'm quite sure that if I'd gone in there, out of my need to control the situation, this wouldn't have been the outcome. Bedrooms might have been the outcome (and that's just me bossing them around again!) And there would have been sulking - not only from the children!
It is a good job I kept out of it. And as far as I can tell, no one's bleeding!

Thank-you...

Wow... thank-you so much from Gus and myself to all the folk that have written, emailed and phoned me regarding the article that was printed in the last EO newsletter. So many kind words and thoughts. I raise my glass to you - here's to pushing the frontiers of HE forward. Everyone keep writing; the tales and heart-felt stories are what underpins the greatness of HE. Some of these lovely people asked me "Who are you? - tell us more" - so for you, here is a little more.

I am interested in the concept of democratic and self-directed life-long learning. It is paramount that we support children's equality - it is vital that we take heed of their needs and honour their choices and trajectories. We must give consideration to the historical silencing and marginalisation of children in language, discourse, society and culture. So what does home-education mean to us? Free to choose; following no fixed preordained structure, setting one's own self-chosen agenda, following one's own dynamic course or even choosing to follow a very rigid structure. But the choosing of one's *own* guiding principle is what is essential; doing what one wants, when and how and with whom and how much and with what and what for and if at all. The powers-that-be have falsified and manipulated us to believe that if we do not control our children's minds they will be; bright-as-a-button live-wires dominating us or the opposing view, complete idiots with little or no real education. This is a lie.

As we enter the twenty-first century, humans are beginning to see the need for a broader way to understand the complexities of human cognition and experience. No longer can we hinge on the notion that we exist because we think, that our mind is the owner of our experiences, and that all we know is located in the cerebral cortex. As earth begins to warm, no longer can we claim to dominate nature and pretend that mechanisation of the 'organic' is the perfect solution. We are not in charge and no matter what we create; we cannot raise our mental existence above it. We live in bodies that are entwined in a complex relationship with all our organs, tissues, bones, and energies, including our brain as well as other organisms/ecosystems. The knowledge and emotion embedded in our flesh reminds us to tingle, cry, to perspire, shake, to fear. Experience is not embedded in language; it exists as we have it, as we put our whole selves into it, and as we recall it through our distributed systems of memory. We know because of our body and mind and with our body and mind. This is true for people. This is true for children - because they are people too. This is personal. We can't know what our children think, we can't know what they should think, we can't know what they know - they are complicated dynamic beings thinking their own thoughts - we should not intrude, unless asked. To believe we can is hubris. Most people are mirrors, reflecting the moods and emotions of the times; few are windows, bringing light to bear on the dark corners where 'troubles' fester. I believe that providence gives us our children, to support them and treat them with the utmost integrity, respect and love, and support them in being 'windows'.



An Appeal to all who support Home Education

Over the last few years, the EO website, www.education-otherwise.org, has become one of the most important means of fulfilling our aims - in particular that of promoting knowledge, understanding and acceptance of education otherwise than at school in the world at large. It is also increasingly being used as a resource for EO members and other home educators, both as a source of inspiration for their own educational provision and for support in their dealings with LEAs and other authorities.

The development of these invaluable functions has now generated a volume of work that is impossible to continue to service on a voluntary basis, and it was decided at the last Education Otherwise Council Meeting that we need to contract out the maintenance of the website and email lists, with all the associated virtual administration, in order to ensure continued smooth operation.

EO's funds come mainly from membership subscriptions, which are employed not only in providing services for members but in expenses for volunteers doing outreach charitable work via the helpline (see overleaf), local contact network, and numerous individuals in supporting families new to home education. In addition, we are involved in meetings and consultation with LEAs and the DfES in order to improve government understanding of home education. We have only one paid administrator, whose services are contracted for the maintenance of the database and the managing of memberships. Our funds simply will not stretch to cover any further regular expenditure.

This letter is therefore an appeal to all who support the right of parents to educate their children outside the school system, and the right of children to have full consideration given to their wishes and feelings about their education, to help us continue to provide this essential service. Can you pledge a small amount per month by Standing Order (with Gift Aid if you are a tax payer) using the forms overleaf, so that we can ensure that funds are available on an ongoing basis? Even a small amount would be valuable, if regular - for example, 100 people pledging £5 per month would provide £500 per month, which would go a long way towards the funds needed. We are opening a new account for this purpose, so that you may be sure your support goes to this particular fund.

It is essential that we have something in place by June, even if it is on a limited basis to start with. Please pass copies of this letter and forms to anyone else you think may be willing to support us. And please act soon!

Yours sincerely, and with many thanks,

Julie Ridley (Chair) and EO Council Members, April 2005

What is Education Otherwise?

Education Otherwise (EO) 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. Most of our work is carried out by a team of members who volunteer their services free to support other members and to promote home education. Membership fees do little more than cover our routine administration and minimal expenses for volunteers.

Our website receives 21,000 hits per month on average (peaking at 24,000 in 2004), and calls to the Helpline are running at up to 700 calls per month – many of these lasting 45 minutes or more. These calls include referrals from both Childline and the Department of Education; yet our helpline is run entirely on a voluntary basis.

EO is a limited company with charitable status. There is a council consisting of 14 to 19 members who are legally responsible for what the organisation does, and a network of voluntary Local Contacts and administrative volunteers as well as contacts for special concerns.

The new Gift Aid rules make tax efficient giving easier. If you are a tax payer, please consider filling in the Gift Aid Form attached; this allows EO to reclaim 28p in the £1.

1. You can cancel the Gift Aid declaration at any time by notifying Education Otherwise.
2. In the future, if your circumstances change and you no longer pay income tax, you can cancel your declaration.
3. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.

Your Standing Order can be cancelled at any time by notifying your bank. We would ask that you also inform Education Otherwise of cancellation, via our PO Box address or email EO Database <database@education-otherwise.org>

If you are unable to commit a regular amount by standing order at this time, could you consider a one-off donation to support the work of Education Otherwise?

We are opening a separate account specifically for developing EO's outreach work via the website, helpline etc., into which Donations and Standing Orders will be paid. The account number is not yet known, but will be inserted on the forms by hand when finalised.

Education Otherwise Association Ltd, PO Box 7420, London N9 9SG

Web site: www.education-otherwise.org

A company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales No. 01917107
Charity Registration No 1055120 – Helpline 0870 7300074

Yes - I would like to help EO's work of supporting families providing education from home and in spreading the word that home education is an effective option ...

SIGNED: DATE:

YOUR NAME (please print):

ADDRESS:

.....

..... POST CODE:

TEL: EMAIL:

[OFFICE USE - Ref. No. DF ___ / _____]

BANKERS STANDING ORDER
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Customer Name A/c no.

Bank Name Sort code

.....

Bank's Address

.....

Please pay Education Otherwise Association Ltd., Triodos Bank, Brunel House, 11 The Promenade, Clifton, Bristol BS8 3NN, Account No.# Code 16-58-10 the sum of £2 / £5 / £10 / £20 / (other) on the 1st of 20.....

and on the same date in each following month until cancelled.

Signature * Date:

NOTE TO BANK: when making payments please quote EO Reference DF ___ / _____

*If you are a taxpayer please complete gift aid form overleaf

Please leave blank - to be inserted by treasurer when known (dedicated new account being opened)
(see overleaf for one-off donations)

FOR ONE-OFF DONATIONS : PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Amount of Donation* £

(Cheques payable to **Education Otherwise**, or complete card authorisation below)

CREDIT/DEBIT CARD PAYMENT AUTHORISATION

Card Type (please tick):

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Solo Switch (Maestro) Issue No. (Switch/Maestro) _____

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Address on Statement

Home telephone no. (in case of queries)

Signature Date:

*If you are a taxpayer please complete gift aid form below

GIFT AID

If you are a tax payer, please complete the statement below with your name and date; this allows EO to reclaim 28p in the £1.

"I wish any payment or donation I make to Education Otherwise Association Ltd., both now and in the future, to be treated as Gift Aid." (there is no need to sign, just write the name of the taxpayer.)

Your Name: _____

Date: _____

1. You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying Education Otherwise.
2. In the future, if your circumstances change and you no longer pay income tax, you can cancel your declaration.
3. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.

Education Otherwise Association Ltd. is a Charity, registration number 1055120

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otherwise**

Please return
completed form to:

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P.O. Box 7420
London N9 9SG**

We should cherish our children's freedom to play. I realise now what a short time our children have to *be* children; watching my two sons grow into manhood, looking back; the enchanting time of heffalump pits and magic potions, 'sneaks and cheeks', endless Lego strewn across the landing, the volcanoes made with bicarbonate of soda and vinegar, the colossal piles of books that got read, the dressing up as pirates, the sticky pictures with so, so much glitter, the sweetie stores and treasure hunts; all this goes by in a flash... This freedom to play, do and be is a transient moment; there is such a small time for children to be children before they have to engage in adult responsibilities. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children Article 31 states; *that children have the right to play.* And Article 12 states; *the child's right to express an opinion in matters affecting them and to have that opinion heard.* Let's not forget this. Let's listen to the children. Let's have faith. Our children's lives are private and illogical and inexplicably mysterious and chaotic and sometimes even dull – all of their lives should belong to themselves. We have no automatic right to control their lives because we are older, stronger and financially better off than our children. What we do have is a duty to share our lives with them, to support them in their schemes and imaginings. Someone said to me they thought our life sounded like one long holiday. Yes, I think it probably does and at the same time, no, we have the usual stresses and strains of life – juggling; earning and spending, being sociable and retreating into our family unit, doing and doing nothing, being well and ill, being happy and sad, loving and fighting and hating. The usual...

The struggle has always been inner, and is played out in the outer terrains. Awareness of our situation must come before inner changes, which in turn come before changes in society. Nothing happens in the "real" world unless it first happens in the images in our heads. - (Anzaldua)

Let's leave the school mindset behind. Let's imagine... Thank you for listening.

©2005 Belinda R. Harris-Reid, Buckfastleigh, Devon, bharrisreid@baselinedata.co.uk (01364 643343)

HARRIS-REID FAMILY 2005



BELINDA: woman, mother, wife. BA Hons. in Jazz History and Jazz Vocal Performance. Studying for a MA in *Devised Theatre* at Dartington College of Arts (Devon), looking at *feminist performance theory/women's corporeal bodies/jazz in theatre*. In the throes of applying for a PhD in Performance Practice. Director of *Heart's Tongue Theatre Company*. Administrator for *Headbangers Theatre Company* (Theatre in Education and Forum Theatre) and *Head Start* (Creative Training in Business), a division of Headbangers. Performance/slam poet. Loves fresh flowers and watching old BBC dramatisations of Dickens, Brontë, Hardy, and old musicals. Buys lots of clothes (most of which are returned). Wears lots of make-up. Reads a lot - science fiction, graphic novels, feminist literature, radical education. Loves organic food and eats meat.



ALAN: man, father, husband. BSc Hons. in Maths and Electronics. Runs his own software company. A programmer, analyst and consultant who works from home. Chairman/player of a local badminton club. Runs and cycles. Plays the drums. Listens to music and talk-radio a great deal, always looking for opportunities to email or phone in to spread the word about home-education. Strong defender of children's rights. Vegan for 7 years.



GUS: big teenager (18yrs old), brother, son. Has never been to school. Plays *Warhammer*, a strategic miniature army game. Creates hybrid conversions for his 3 armies: *Dark Eldar*, *Necrons* and *Chaos*. Plays *Inquisitor* and *Necromunda* - variations of *Warhammer*. A member of *South Devon Games Club*. A 'Techie' (sound/lighting/backstage crew) for the *Young People's Company* at the Theatre Royal in Plymouth. Has been involved with numerous shows in a technical capacity (local and national). Attends a fencing class. Has a blue-belt in Aikido. In 2002 took Maths GCSE (A) and Physics GCSE (A), studied for by himself, and English GCSE, which he studied for at an Adult Education Centre (B). Loves films, everything from *Gladiator* and *The Matrix* to BBC dramatisations and old musicals. Passionate about reading - he believes that everyone should read the classics eg Homer's *Iliad*, Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Dickens, Hardy, Austin, Shelley, Shakespeare, etc.; has a pile of books waiting to be read. Plays *Star Wars Trivial Pursuit* with us and wins every time - he knows every answer! A great philosopher who entertains and enlightens family and friends with fantastical thoughts on the world and cosmos. He and his cousin won a Disney script-writing competition when they were 13yrs old. He decided to attend college in 2003, taking 4 AS levels: English Lit. (A), Psychology (A), Physics (B) and History (B) - now into his final year. In September 2004 he changed History for Maths. Going to University in 2006 to study Mechanical Engineering after working for a YINI (Year in Industry).



BARNABY: teenager (nearly 14yrs old), brother, son. Has never been to school. Very groovy. A fabulous dancer - belongs to 2 dance troupes. Attends a street dance and a break dance class once a week. Performed at numerous prestigious venues and events - the London Palladium, the Queen's Jubilee, Edinburgh Festival, as well as local Devon theatres. Attends *Stage by Stage* (a theatre group). He is either in the throes of rehearsals or in a show. At present he is rehearsing for *Les Miserables* and a new adaptation of *Othello*. He is taking a production of *Alice in Wonderland* to the Edinburgh Festival this year -

he will be the youngest member of the cast, playing the part of the Duchess (in drag!). He can work lighting and soundboards and is often asked to be a 'Techie' for local shows. A member of the Devon Youth Dance (DYD) Boys Company. Plays/hangs out with his friends (he has masses!) Plays chess and *Simpsons' Cluedo*. Chats on MSN. Reads Surf or Skateboarding magazines and his scripts before he goes to bed. Listens to and downloads a lot of music. Surfs and Stunt-bikes. Cooks delicious food.

Looking for Funds?

If you are looking for funding for your local group or for a project within EO, here are some ideas of possible sources. Some of these organisations are only giving money to charities, but even if the money is for a local group project, there is no reason why a local group cannot apply as an EO group and have the money paid to EO (having arranged for it to be paid out again to the local group) providing that the group takes care of all the paperwork involved and any follow-up requirements.

The phone numbers given are for regional offices, so you will need to ask for the office in your region:

Lloyds TSB Foundation: Support underfunded charities, particularly in areas like education where access might not otherwise be available; support for physical and mental health needs etc. and supporting new schemes for voluntary and public agencies working together. Tel: 01284 750168 www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk

Young People's Fund: Will fund projects to benefit 11-18 age group, for projects lasting up to 3 years (minimum application is £5,000). This is part of the Lottery Scheme, but it says it has made the application process easier. Tel: 01223 449018
www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Charles Heywood Foundation: Give Community Grants covering various areas, including services to families, support for parenting etc. Tel: 020 7370 7063
www.charleshaywardfoundation.org.uk

The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation: Gives grants from their Social Development Programme to improve the lives of people and/or communities facing disadvantage. In their Education Programme, grants are available for new approaches to education that are unlikely to be funded through statutory education sources. Tel: 020 7297 4722
www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk

A Silly Letter

(or How to Cope in a Malfunction Home Ed. Dept. If You Like Home Educators!!)

.....Dear Home Educating Parent

I am very sorry that we found you. We understand that you have been home educating for a number of years without any input from us. However, we now have to give you lots of forms to fill in so that we can tick a few boxes.

We understand from our initial phone call that you are using an autonomous approach. However, all our forms are based on the National Curriculum – we may only make informal enquiries but our forms all state that you have to do Maths, English and ICT and that we must visit you to inspect and monitor. This is untrue but we have not had the budget to rewrite our documents and with a strict policy on paper waste we have to use up all our old forms. Although you answered our informal enquiries over the phone, I have a very scary Principal EWO that I work under and I have to provide evidence that I am doing my job, otherwise the word "sue" gets sent to me in memos. You made comments that our website is out-of-date. To be perfectly honest, the infrastructure of the LEA diagram that we use is so impossible to understand that I do not even know who is responsible for updating the website. As soon as I find out I will try and get it changed. However, please understand there is a general conspiracy because it is felt that much of the population would not be responsible enough to ensure their children's educational welfare, which is why we tend to hide the "education otherwise" part of Section 7 of the Education Act 1996.

I apologise for my hassling you and realise that we cannot provide you with any resources other than paperwork which so far you have not had to do but now you can expect mounds of it. Please return this within 3 working days. I realise that it will probably take us at least a month to address your complaints but we try and have one rule for home educators and another rule for ourselves - the law rarely comes into it. I have slipped this into the envelope - please do not put this into the recycling - one home educator did but thought better about it - one never knows when an Inspector may be snooping through your bins in order to issue a SAO).
Yours faithfully

A very apologetic LEA Home Visitor
(Inspector is my real title but I deem it too politically incorrect)

Name and Address Supplied

'If only they could say what they mean' – Local Education Authority letter to the extreme (but not far off the mark)

To the Home Educator

Re: Policing and Monitoring Inspections.

You have recently come to our attention as evading our policing and monitoring which we see as part of our informal enquiries. We will be inspecting you at your home on Friday so ensure you are in. If you are not we will immediately issue a School Attendance Order. I should point out that as a home educator you are seen as an anti-social degenerate and a danger to your children and society. We have already searched through your recycling dustbins and found little in the way of educational packaging material in there. You may have used it in the pursuit of crafts and activities but note that this is not acceptable evidence of an education taking place. Happiness is not something that is measured – and we demand empirical evidence.

We expect English, Maths and ICT to be on your curriculum. We will demand evidence in the form of portfolios on Friday. Please ensure your children are standing in a line at the bottom of the stairs upon our arrival; preferably of neat and orderly appearance and with clean hands – we will be looking at their fingernails. We will be checking all over the house and garden. I have a dust allergy so would appreciate it if your loft is vacuumed out beforehand.

Please note we will be checking your bookshelves – the camera on your street will be observing you 24 hours per day, so do not try to get rid of any inappropriate items. If you are discovered to have any non-mainstream political affiliations then we may deem you as a terrorist and report you to the Home Secretary. Any books by John Holt will see you attending a gulag. We will be taking bacterial and chemical swabs from all over your house. Environmental or science lessons will not count as a valid excuse in this case.

There will be an on-the-spot spelling and numeracy test for your children and for yourselves. We are making arrangements for you to sit an exam at a local examination centre. You will be expected to pay the bill, as you may note the LEA does not provide any resources for home educators. Because you have opted for home education we intend to make your financial life as difficult as possible. We also wish to see your Curriculum Vitae and will be taking up the references on it.

If you should pass the tests on Friday without us issuing a SAO then please note, we will be visiting you every last Friday of the month thereafter. We will also demand weekly reports – we do not believe in letting home educators get on with home educating as we think their time is much better spent filling in our forms. Please do not attempt to report us to an outside party as we can guarantee you will be ignored. We relish our position of power, intimidation and superiority. The DfES is only there to advise, not to enforce. The local government ombudsman will only be interested if you have exhausted all internal ports of call and that will probably take at least 6 months. By that time, we can ensure your children will be back in the hands of a school. Telling your local council members will achieve little as we are currently blackmailing them over postal votes.

Yours menacingly

The Despotic LEA

(Contributor's name and address supplied)

PAYMENT FOR EO ADMIN?

(response to Jo Borthen and Sue White in last newsletter)

In response to the discussion about formalising the administrative base of EO, and paying the people who work for the organisation voluntarily at the moment, I don't think it is a bad idea, and may even be a necessary evil, but I don't think EO has the right administrative structure to do this at the moment. All the large charitable organisations have a mixture of voluntary and paid workers – Oxfam for instance will pay its admin staff, but staffs its shops with volunteers, presumably because it recognises that some jobs require a greater level of skill, experience and commitment than others. How it is decided which category a job falls into I'm not sure – traditionally, shop staff are classed as low skills and easily replaceable, whereas admin staff with a knowledge base and paper qualifications are less easily replaced – but there must be a woolly area of in between, where staff are undervalued for their experience....

In addition, once staff within an organisation become paid for their work, an element of idealism has to be sacrificed in the name of good economics and service to the financial contributors to that charity – for instance, incompetent staff cannot be retained out of a sentimental feeling of loyalty, when it is not also economically viable to employ them. Once money is involved, so too is an element of competition – and it's not always the best candidate that wins – references from acquaintances already at the top of an organisation's admin can override this, and often do, even within the government of our own country. In short, it all gets a bit nasty and a bit dirty once money is involved. Instead of slightly bored people wondering if they can help with something interesting, giving it a go and finding to their astonishment that they enjoy it (which is how I became co-ord), we would maybe have people sucking up to admin staff in an attempt to get well paid positions, egos clashing over money and many bruised and unappreciated people falling by the way...sounds horrible! But maybe I'm too idealistic? I tend to interpret the word 'charity' to mean 'not for financial gain' – but clearly in a large national organisation with links to government bodies, expertise is needed, and would be sorely missed if it was withdrawn.

What a dilemma – should members of EO vote on whom they think qualifies for pay, and how much it should be monthly? I wonder what the original founders of Oxfam did?

Edana Edwards (newsletter co-ord)

A VIEW FROM OPEN COUNCIL MEETING

The question of why we pay for some things but not others has been a bone of contention for some time, and was raised at the Sheringham Open Council meeting in February. The answer (given by Jill Fisher) was that payment should only be made where 'jobs' cannot be further subdivided but take up too much time for one person to do on a volunteer basis, and without which EO could not function. The meeting, which was well attended by both Council and other Members, all approved of this definition, although unfortunately Jill didn't record it in the minutes! In the voluntary sector in general, one day a week is considered an appropriate commitment – the website and associated administration has been taking several hours a day, seven days a week. Clearly that is unsustainable on a voluntary basis, and the Sheringham meeting resolved to fund virtual admin, in order to ensure that this essential part of EO's operation can continue efficiently – hence the appeal in the center of this newsletter and on the separate flyer for passing to friends and relations. Therefore in effect, EO members have already voted that virtual admin should be paid for, so that part of the discussion is at an end. However, members might like to consider their priorities for future spending.

Anne Rix (Publications Secretary) for EO Council

Archives

compiled by Sarah Guthrie

10 Years Ago - Looking Back at 1995

"My ten year old daughter Zoraya learned much at school....about how I should wear skirts and make-up and am not like other mums because I don't shout at her a lot. She worried about her Dad because he doesn't like football and was very concerned for her little brother because he can't fight and stick up for himself yet. She did however learn that she was careless, clumsy and stupid....she rarely wrote anything and didn't do much maths because you shouldn't ask stupid questions....Since leaving school her self-confidence has returned and she sleeps at nights. She is visibly happier and daily is growing in self esteem....her literacy and numeracy skills have improved beyond recognition. Indeed, all things considered, presently she is much better educated, otherwise."

Roella Davenport, April 95

"Felix refused to write in school and the head told the teacher to leave it and let him do it at home. He could do it to a high standard with our support, but he hated it and we felt he was simply not ready for it. If nothing else, he had always seemed to need an interval between learning to do something and deciding to do it, as if he's weighing up what he'll be letting himself in for, and also making it plain that it's his decision to do it. It is essential to respect such individual needs if learning is to proceed smoothly. "

Anne Wade, June 95

"When Yolanda started school at age ten and a half, she said 'Shall I take a book?' I said 'I don't think they'll let you read and if they do you'll have to read when they want and stop when they say so.' It is a very interesting exercise trying to explain school logic to a ten year old who's not experienced it."

Yvonne Muckle, August 95

"Parents think that making their children count tortoises makes (maths) 'interesting' and part of the real world but they always get it wrong and ruin it for their unfortunate pupils....I never had a single formal lesson in my home education and I was never forced to do anything nor 'taught' anything. I just got a prize at college for being the best student....children will choose to learn things even if their parents don't force them to - and indeed forcing them may make them react against learning things."

*16 yr old Robbie Hornby writing on the home-ed list,
reprinted in Dec n/1*

"My son recently went to the village school for a week and wanted to know if he could go back occasionally, say - once or twice a week. Sadly, the headteacher said no, partly because of the need to fulfill the whole curriculum. 'Although,' she said 'I hear from the inspector that you have an excellent curriculum at home.' (Exit stage right cartwheeling across playground to loud applause and cheering.!!!)"

Marit Tamliitt writing in February 95



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JUNE COMPETITION

Closing date: June 30th

Hi all, well camping season is well and truly upon us so this is the theme for our next word search! Remember this competition is open to all ages but NOT to council members the puzzle compiler and/or their families.

Please send all entries to: EO Competition, 79 Cumberland Avenue, Cleveleys, Lancashire. FY5 2DS - remembering to include your name, address, telephone number and email address if you have one.

Last months winner was Mrs Hallows from Stockport, Cheshire - her prize was a copy of 'Educating Your Child at Home'.

This issue's prize has been very kindly donated by Search Press and is a set of 3 books from the 1-2-3 Draw (how to draw cartoons series) details of which can be found at www.searchpress.com These are very good prizes, so to be in with a chance of winning you have to take part!

Good Luck!

ADVENTURES
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BUGS
COMPASS
DAWNCHORUS
FIRE
FRIENDS
HAT
LOGS
MUD
SLEEPINGBAG
SPADE
STOVE
STREAM
SUNBLOCK
TENT
TREES
WELLIES

P	R	J	S	I	A	T	T	M	M	S	U	F	Y	H
J	J	U	T	I	L	A	X	E	L	Y	K	I	K	O
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S	V	B	E	A	C	H	E	V	O	T	O	E	X	M
R	E	H	A	W	W	P	A	G	A	N	L	S	L	W
D	O	R	M	X	I	G	S	S	W	B	B	X	M	Q
C	F	O	U	N	S	U	R	O	H	C	N	W	A	D
E	L	R	G	T	E	A	S	F	O	O	U	V	Q	S
Z	V	B	I	D	N	S	S	I	L	X	S	A	J	E
D	A	O	A	E	A	E	W	E	L	L	I	E	S	E
G	U	P	T	P	N	W	V	T	E	K	C	U	B	R
J	S	M	M	S	T	D	B	D	J	M	X	O	G	T
X	S	O	E	J	P	P	S	T	A	F	U	I	C	B
B	C	I	W	P	X	J	U	R	M	O	U	G	J	H
Q	S	Z	S	G	U	B	T	W	E	V	O	T	S	K

VISUALLY IMPAIRED

If you have difficulty with reading small print in the newsletter, please contact the NL co-ordinator (back page) to discuss alternative access options.

Advertisements

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

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

Sixth Studland Bay Camp, Dorset

Friday 15th to Saturday 23rd July
Christyia and Keith warmly welcome all home educating families.

Area of great natural beauty - pine forests, lowland heath, 4 miles from sea, nature reserve, bird sanctuary, Dorset steam railway nearby - to beach at Swanage. Free outings to Corfe Castle. Cycleways and paths through woods and to the sea. Camping in large field backed by pine woods, stream, access to full facilities at adjoining Burnbake campsite.

We provide canoes, cargo net, rope swings, craft materials, marquee or bender, fire barrels off the ground. Bring bikes, drums, other instruments. Some acapella/gospel singing and peace dancing.

Cost for whole camp £100 a family (concessions and a half-camp rate available).

Teenagers welcome, with families only.

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

OXBRIDGE ENTRANCE: THE REAL RULES

A family guide which addresses fears and requirements, focuses academic interests and explains the interview.

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FANCY THE LAKE DISTRICT IN SEPTEMBER?

Cumbria Home Educators Camp

7th to 14th September 2005

This is a week camping for Home Educating families, on a lakeside site in our own separate camping field with toilet and shower block.

Launching is available free for sailing, rowing boats or canoes, so bring them if you have them.

Water activities on Windermere evokes ideas of "Swallows and Amazons", whilst the surroundings reflect the stories and paintings of Beatrix Potter who was home educated and farmed not far away.

It was glorious weather last year, but no guarantees it will be the same this year.

Bookings must be made in advance.

Tents and camper vans only. Fees per night:

Adults £4.50 Children £1.50

Vehicles £2.50 Dogs £1.00

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REVIEWS

e.encyclopedia Science DK Google

We love this book. Think of a subject about science and you will find it in here, That's what we did, we challenged each other and couldn't come up with a subject that wasn't in this book. From absorption to zero gravity and everything in between. There is just enough information on each subject to explain it basically to you and there are cross references throughout the book. But the best thing about it is the extra online information that it introduces you to. We have both found sites that are appropriate for our ages and there have even been things suitable for our five year old brother. We both think that we have learned a lot by having this book and would recommend it to anyone who wants to learn anything about science. It would be ok to have, even if you don't have access to the internet as the information in it is good but having the online extras is brilliant. Our Mum likes this book too as it has warnings about internet safety and because we have spent days sat quietly learning about science.

Jake (11) and George (9)

£25 ISBN 0-4053-0304-2 Dorling Kindersley

The Merrybegot by Julie Hearn

This book is about the persecution of people accused of witchcraft during the 17th century. What sticks out most in my mind is the main character, Nell, and her pet chicken because they are funny and realistic. Nell's grandmother, the local 'cunning' woman and healer, is suffering from memory loss and has to teach Nell everything she knows before she forgets herself. She has nearly completed this when she is accused of witchcraft, leaving Nell to fend for herself. A mysterious secret is revealed at the end of the story. The book is very gripping and well written. It is intended for teenagers but I really enjoyed it very much.

Alexander (9)

£4.99 ISBN 0-19-2791575-5 Oxford University Press

Ballet Shoes by Noel Streatfeild

Both myself and Chloe were very much taken with this beautifully illustrated (by Ruth Gervis), hard backed copy of *Ballet Shoes*. I had enjoyed this book as a child and it was lovely to share it with my own daughter. Although some of the language and views in it are old fashioned and needed explaining to Chloe she really enjoyed reading about the Fossil sisters and their adventures at Madame Fidolia's Dance Academy. The only thing we didn't like were the few instances of name-calling between the children. A lovely book which I'm sure Chloe will get even more out of when she is older. We'd recommend it for children aged 7+.

Emma with Chloe (7)

£9.00 ISBN 1-84255-247-3 Orion Books

Mathematical Origami by David Mitchell

This book includes lots of examples of origami models, but origami with a difference. I just love origami and I am always folding paper but this is the first book I have seen that is about mathematical origami and it is brilliant. You use fairly straightforward folds to make modules, which you assemble to create geometrical shapes. My favourite one was the outline dodecahedron and we hung this model from the ceiling as a kind of interesting mobile, as I had cleverly inserted a smaller solid dodecahedron inside it! I have learnt a lot from this book and had great fun making the models.

Keith (11)

£4.95 ISBN 1-899618-18-X Tarquin

Singing French

by Helen MacGregor and Stephen Chadwick

This pack is a book of 22 songs with a CD. Topics cover basic vocabulary: weather, clothes, saying hello, how are you and goodbye, counting, the alphabet, shopping, football etc. The songs are catchy and fun and there are tracks without words for the listener to make up their own song. On each page of the book there are the words for the song, a good vocabulary list, teaching ideas and follow up work. At the end of the book is the music for all the songs too. The book is photocopiable. We liked it very much and it is worth its price.

Clare with Natasha (10) and Anthea (8)

£19.99 ISBN 0-7136-6898-9 A & C Black

Freddy and the Space Ship by Walter R. Brooks

This book is another in the Freddy series. If you liked *Freddy the Detective*, then you'll love this one! Mr. Bean has made a space ship, but Mr. Bismuth tries to wangle some money for phoney tickets. Eventually, after a little while and a bit of sorting out, Freddy the pig, Jinx the cat, Cousin Augustus the rat, Charles the cockerel, Uncle Ben and Mrs. Peppercorn set out in the rocket for Mars. They have a slightly amusing trip, but it is even more amusing when they get there.

Oliver (9)

£12.99 ISBN 0-7156-3363-5 Overlook Press

It's True- The Romans Were The Real Gangsters by John and Joshua Wright

I thought that this book about the Romans was very interesting and I really enjoyed reading it. It gave a mixture of facts; some were very funny and some were horrid and disgusting! There was a lot of killing and madness. The illustrations made the book even more fun to read and some of them made me laugh a lot. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes war, funny facts and the Romans.

JJ (9)

ISBN 1-74114-300-4 Ullen & Urwin

The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World

by *Mary Hoffman & M.P. Robertson*

This book is written from the point of view of Librarian Callimachus' young apprentice and it takes the reader on a journey visiting each of the Seven Wonders in turn and offering a brief, yet succinct account of the things they encounter. We have always liked Mary Hoffman's storytelling and this is no exception as the tale weaves around the Mediterranean. Finn listened intently to the whole book and asked pertinent questions at the end, so clearly it stirred his interest. Alex was only half listening, but later read the book himself and said it was 'quite good' - high praise from him!

Tina with Finn (5) and Alex (10)

£5.99 ISBN 0-7112-1986-9 Francis Lincoln

The Dream Merchant by Isabel Hoving

First impression - this is a wonderful, jewelled hardback book with 638 pages! I thought it looked interesting. *The Dream Merchant* is an unusual and weird adventure story about an 'average' boy who becomes an 'Associate' in an international trading company, via a midnight telephone call only children can hear. Gippard sells unheard of inventions like pens that translate your writing into other languages and shoes that let you walk on water. Josh and his friends get caught up in the middle of dreamworld. Umayya may be made out of other people's dreams, but that includes very real nightmares that can hurt you. The three 'Associates' have to solve the mystery and curse of Siparti to get home, which involves meeting different tribes of thieves and greedy merchants as well as time travel. Along the way they each discover their own special talents. My favourite character was Baz, who was employed just because he was Josh's friend, but he turns out to be vital to the quest and it's success. I enjoyed this book.

Renate (11)

£14.99 ISBN 0-7445-8335-7 Walker

Stellaluna by Janeil Cannon

This is a book about Stellaluna a little fruit bat who loses her mum when an owl tried to get them. She ends up in a bird's nest. She had to adopt bird habits and even sleep the right way up! On their first flying trip Stellaluna goes right away from the nest and finds her mum. Then she finds out she's a bat after all. I like the bit when Stellaluna teaches the birds to hang up side down. There are two pages of fascinating bat facts at the back. Illustrations are fantastically life-like and are attractive. The book is suitable for ages 3-8 years.

Jessye (9)

£4.99 ISBN 1-85602-272-2 David Bennett Books

The Boy with the Bronze Axe

by *Kathleen Fidler*

Set in the Stone Age village of Skara Brae on Orkney, a boy called Tenko from a different village arrives following the massacre of his people and brings different ideas and skills. He helps save the people of the village when the "Day of Doom" arrives. A brilliant story, especially for history lovers.

Jack (8)

£4.99 ISBN 0-86315-488-3 Floris Books

Warlands by Rachel Anderson

Amy's Uncle Ho was an orphan who was adopted into the family as a child - no one is sure of his age as he was found by the side of the road in war-torn Vietnam. The story of his childhood and adoption is told from the points of view of different members of his family and each time, more information is revealed. As he was so damaged and traumatised by the war, his memories have given him nightmares and he takes a long time to settle into his British family. Some of the book tells of the horrible children's homes and how badly the children are treated so I would recommend it for 9-12 year olds.

Alexander (10)

£5.99 ISBN 0 19 271817 7 OUP

Masks Around the World by Meryl Doney

This is an interesting book for families who enjoy crafts. It is aimed at children, but does warn that children will need parental help. Most of the equipment needed is household recycling (eg: tin cans, cardboard, paper) but some of the required tools may not be so readily to hand (eg: tenon saw, coping saw, needle-nosed pliers). The ability to use these tools adequately makes these projects OK for an older child (who may find the masks childish?), but for a younger child the level of supervision could be frustrating. I do have some doubts about making a mask out of a tin can (sharp edges) and about children putting plaster of Paris on their faces... but I did feel there were many quite inspirational masks included in the book. My children, surprisingly, were totally uninterested! Karen without Holly and Hamish!

£5.99 ISBN 0-4964547-4 Franklin Watts

Sula by Lavinia Derwent

Sula is the story of life on the tiny island of Sula and particularly about the adventures of Magnus Macduff. He is often missing from school to roam on the hills of the island. However, when a new teacher arrives on the island he is afraid that he will spoil his fun... I thought this book gave a good idea about life on the island. A good read for 10 - 13 year olds.

Kit (12)

£4.99 ISBN 0-86315-487-5 Floris Books

Frogs are Cannibals by Michael Tyler

This book is one in a series called the 'It's True' series. Did you know that a captive common toad can live up to 36 years? Can you believe that some frogs sunbathe? Can you get your head round the fact that some frogs have anti-freeze in their blood? This book is full of TOAD-ily!! unbelievable facts about frogs and toads. Michael Tyler, the author, has put his FROGLIGHTS!! on to find out all about these amazing amphibians. He is renowned around the world as "The Frogman", knows amazing facts about frogs and toads, and thinks tinned frog legs taste like wet rope. This is an amazing book. You'll be HOPPING!! mad if you've not READIT!!

Oliver (9)

£4.99 ISBN 1-74114-271-7 Allen & Unwin

The Iliad and The Odyssey

retold by Marcia Williams

If you are a grown up who wants to get your kids into Ancient Greek literature this is a great book for bedtime stories. The tales are told succinctly and in 'Asterix' cartoon style with humorous little comments from the major characters. Homer never mentioned the oranges Thetis stuffed down the front of Achilles dress to disguise him as a maiden but Williams goes on to hypothesise that Achilles might have preferred melons. The result: the kids love it, learn and remember it and you the parent have the delight of hearing your child ask for the Iliad as a bedtime story - fantastic in the presence of anti-home-educators. The only fault, commented on by all, is that the two stories are not divided so a child reading this book for the first time would have to work out where the Odyssey begins for themselves. The illustrations are cartoons but cleverly adapted from the style of ancient Greek pottery and murals to provide children with knowledge of Greek art without them noticing. The perfect way to learn.

Ian with Ben 5 and George 9

£5.99 ISBN 0-7445-5430-6 Walker

Cry In the Dark by Dee Shulman

This was the best book I have read this year. There are so many 'best bits' it is difficult to choose which ones to write about. But my favourite bit was how Ben helps Mary and Jimmy in the end. I would love to tell you what happens but it would spoil the surprise! The writing on the back cover was "When Ben stumbles across a starving boy trapped in the derelict house next door, he finds himself caught up in a desperate race against time....". This encouraged me to read it, so I did. I liked the front cover too with the girl in the window - I wondered who she was. I am going out to get another book by the same author straight away if I can find any.

Renate Brown (11)

£4.99 ISBN 0-7136-7250-1 A & C Black

Jammy Dodgers on the Run by Bowering Silvers

The more you read, the better it gets. This book is about Jem, Ned and Billy, three brothers living in London in Victorian times. They get mixed up with criminals, and end up getting kidnapped. The story is very fast moving and the children have lots of exciting adventures. There is a glossary of Victorian slang and phrases at the back which I wish I'd found earlier! I think that this book is for 9-12 year olds.

Alexander (9)

£9.99 ISBN 1-405-04577-9 MacMillan

Cinderella by Susanna Davison

Romy really enjoyed this book and thinks it would make a really good birthday present for a little girl aged four to eight. The cover is certainly impressive; all pink and sparkly! The illustrations are lovely, as you would expect from an Usborne book. There is nothing in this re-telling that we haven't seen before, but there are a few humorous parts. If there had been more it would have been lifted above other books in its genre. This is just a nice, very attractive Cinderella story book. Perfect as a gift! Recommended.

Hazel with Romy (6)

£4.99 ISBN 0-7460-6417-9 Usborne

Elizabeth 1 Usborne Beginners

This was really good. It was easy to read because the words were big enough and clear enough. Elizabeth was an interesting person - I didn't know she ate so many sweet things that her teeth rotted. I liked the idea of the websites, especially the jousting game mentioned in the book because most books don't have them. I liked the pictures; they helped me to understand the subject. I would read this book again. I would like it to be a bit longer so there is more to read. I could read it very quickly because it is quite short. I shall look for other books in the series like Trucks, Castles and Romans as I would like to read them.

Galen (6)

£3.99 ISBN 0-7460-62478 Usborne

Vampirates - Demons of the Ocean

by Justin Somper

Set in 2505 this is the story of twins, Connor and Grace Tempest, who are separated at sea in a storm. They are picked up by two pirate ships and have to try to get back together again. The captain of the ship Grace is on always wears a mask and talks in a disembodied whisper. He seems to know what is going on in other places. He reminds me a bit of the role Darth Vader plays in Star Wars because I think he is the twins' father. I enjoyed this book and would recommend it to children aged 9-12.

Alexander (10)

£5.99 ISBN 0-689-87263-1 Simon & Schuster

The Magic of Flexagons

This is a book of 15 different models to cut out and glue together. Each forms a different type of 'flexagon'. A flexagon is a pretty, curious object that is made by folding paper in a special way so that you can flex it when it is finished to reveal different or hidden faces. It is quite easy to become good at flexing and then you can make the procedure seem like magic. All the models are brightly coloured; some had numbers, some patterns etc. The instructions were very clear and easy to follow with the 'solutions' to each included. I really enjoyed this book and would recommend it to anyone who likes making shapes, folding and manipulating paper.

Keith (11)

£3.95 ISBN 1-899618-28-7 Tarquin

Tamar by Mal Peet

This book is about the Dutch Resistance in World War II. One of the spies' codenames is Tamar, named after the river in Devon. The story is the personal journey of the spy's granddaughter, also called Tamar, as she discovers the truth about the contents of the box she inherits from her grandfather, and learns what happened to him and his friends during the war. This book is a bit slow and rather long (over 430 pages). I would recommend it for children over 12 and give it a score of 6 out of 10.

Alexander (10)

£7.99 ISBN 0-7445-6570-7 Walker Books

A Haunt of Ghosts

by Geoffrey Palmer and Noel Lloyd

This is a decent collection of ghost stories by two talented writers. This book includes titles such as: *Corpse-Candle, The Haunting Skull and The Obstinate Ghost*, along with fifteen others. All are very easy to read as they are contained within about ten pages, which is just enough to make you feel uneasy for the rest of the day. Some of the stories in this book are amusing, some are horrific and some are sad but unnerving tragedies. This is an excellent book that I'd recommend to both boys and girls between ages eleven and fourteen who enjoy scaring themselves with books like this one.

James (13)

£14.95 ISBN 85776-819 The Book Guild

In the Land of Elves by Daniela Drescher

A gentle story following the lives of elves through the seasons. The illustrations are particularly bright, beautiful and very eye-catching. The story is about their daily activities and preparations for winter and it is written in rhyming verse. Great attention has been paid to the detail of the natural world with very accurate water colours of beetles, birds and plant life. A lovely book for babies too.

Hilary with Isaac (5)

£6.99 ISBN 0-86315-484-0 Floris Books

Making Flower Children by Sybille Adolphe

A step-by-step book showing beautifully made flower children, many recognisable characters from the *root children* or the Elsa Beskow books. The instructions are very easy to follow, for adults who like making things or for older children with a little help. These small figures would make a great addition to seasonal tables and would appeal to people interested in Steiner style play. The Autumn selection is particularly nice, the toadstool children with red fly agaric hats are lovely.

Hilary with Isaac (5)

£8.99 ISBN 0-86315-483-2 Floris Books

The Wish House by Cella Rees

This book is about a 15 year old boy called Richard who meets a mysterious girl called Clio on holiday with his parents. They spend the summer together and Richard is totally in love with Clio until he discovers that she has betrayed him. The story is set in 1976 against a background of unusual people, drugs and naked sunbathing, but it is written from the perspective of Richard looking at paintings in an exhibition six years later. Each chapter begins with a sign describing a painting that directly relates to the events in the chapter. The book is well written and interesting to read and the links between the exhibition and the unfolding plot are an original and unusual idea. I enjoyed the novel, although there are signs in bookshops saying that it is only suitable for older readers due to the subject matter.

Emma (14)

£10.99 ISBN 0-333-94739-8 Macmillan

The Usborne Internet-Linked World of Shakespeare by A Claybourne & R Treays

What a gem of a book - if you are interested in Shakespeare that is. It is full of interesting facts about Shakespeare's life and times, but used in conjunction with the numerous websites (one for every double page) you have a feast of information at your fingertips, including Shakespeare's schooldays, Elizabethan life, the Globe Theatre, the plays and sonnets, and a wonderful selection of Elizabethan language - full of wit; flowery and smattered with insults. There is a section on performing Shakespeare; theatre sets which have been used and a very extensive site on costumes with patterns and the methods used for dyeing cloth. An excellent book for students with study guides for each play and downloadable pictures and a glossary of Shakespearean words. It is also useful for general interest with information on life in Elizabethan times or to learn more about a play one is about to see. Well recommended and excellent value.

Susan with Gwenan (10)

£7.99 ISBN 0-74604564-6 Usborne

Embroidery on Paper for Every Occasion

by *Joke & Adriaan De Vette*

I love making cards for people and this book is really good as it gives some wicked ideas for making cards that you can embroider. There are different designs for all occasions including birthday, marriage, Xmas and baby births. You can follow the patterns in the book or I got some good ideas of my own too by looking at the examples given. It is a really good way of using up off cuts of thread as you can choose all your own colours. The cards are fun to make and I found they were much appreciated by the recipient.

Rosie (10)

£8.95 ISBN 90-213-3517-4

You're Thinking About Tomatoes

by *Michael Rossen*

Frank meets some pretty bizarre characters during his school trip around a country house. Desperate to fill in his worksheet he keeps encountering people coming out of paintings; a walking mummy who wants to be in films and other objects who want to tell their story. Of course the stories don't quite tally with the guidebook. The dolphin waterspout talks about how numerous children had to work in the lead mines to create objects like him. The aboriginal head talks of how white settlers took the land and killed many people. A good idea for a story but a bit too long. It was quite funny though and thought provoking about our history.

Susan with Gwenan (10) and Ceri (7)

£4.99 ISBN 1-9030154-4-8 Barn Owl Books

Can't Smack? Won't Smack?

by *Noel Janis-Norton*

Only a maniac would condone violence yet most of us are guilty of it. Good parenting is diabolically hard. Finding the capacity to respond with reason and compassion in every circumstance is a state of being that we all aspire to. When we lose our patience and physically or verbally smack our children we are meting out a form of violence few could sanction in calmer moods. Finding kinder, more effective ways for parents and children to co-exist is the aim of this book. The author's research at the New Learning Centre directs us gently and effectively towards "a calmer, easier, happier family life." Descriptive praise and reflective listening are part of the six-step method she has developed. She has been working in this field for two decades and has listened intelligently to a lot of arguments in that time. Her understanding of conflict and how to avoid it is profound although I do find a few of her ideas a touch pedagogue for my taste. But this is a small criticism. It's a valuable book with the rare capacity to sweeten people's lives.

Carolyn

ISBN 1-84299-302-X Barrington Stoke

BOOKS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

Choosing Home – Deciding to Homeschool with Asperger's Syndrome by *Martha K Hartnett*

This is a very encouraging book for anyone who doubts their ability to home educate a child with Asperger's, or who may be fearful about not being able to cope with the demands from their child 24/7. The author's son was in his mid teens when taken out of school, so it is more relevant for parents with older children, and she also uses a very structured, curriculum based approach, which may not suit everyone, although she does discuss approaches by different families too. There is a lot of legal information, which is only relevant to American homeschoolers, but it is well worth sifting through for the wise insights and practical tips which apply to all. In addition the author promotes the idea of self care for the weary parent. A nicely balanced, positive book.

Edana

£11.95 ISBN 1-84310-763-5 Jessica Kingsley

Caged in Chaos – A Dyspraxic Guide to Breaking Free by *Victoria Biggs*

16-year old Victoria Biggs is a passionate advocate for dyspraxic people, having been assessed as having dyspraxia when she was 13 years old. Her writing skills have earned her a place in the National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth, and yet she struggles to make a cup of tea or open a can of beans safely because of her co-ordination problems. *Caged in Chaos* is written in a humorous, informal style, and contains a wealth of information and advice about dyspraxia, or Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (DCD) as it is more formally known. The chapters cover assessment, school, family and friends, bullying, body language, puberty, health and hygiene, and include many practical tips and coping strategies. Home education in general and EO in particular get several honourable mentions - one of the people often quoted in the book is home educated, having left school due to bullying. As with many Special Educational Needs, it seems that home education can often meet dyspraxic children's needs more appropriately than most schools are able to do. Although she is keen to 'bang the drum' for dyspraxia awareness, Victoria makes a comment which applies to many so-called disabilities (or differences), "If you have dyspraxia, please remember that there is a lot more to you as a person than an unusual Greek word. Use the label, but don't be defined by it." This book is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand dyspraxia from the inside out.

Margaret

£12.95 ISBN 1843103479 Jessica Kingsley

The adolescent with developmental coordination disorder (DCD) by Amanda Kirby

A book pointing out the areas where a young person with DCD might have problems. Many points were repeated and I found the introduction boring and unproductive. The areas that were mentioned as needing support at school was depressing and overwhelming as no school in my experience is likely to give that level of assistance. I would have enjoyed the author relating to her own personal experiences with her son more often but mostly it was written stating just the facts. I would have preferred to read more about solutions rather than problems. There were parts that may have been helpful for a professional to use, referring to certain lesson situations.

Sally

ISBN 1-84310-178-5 Jessica Kingsley

Homeschooling the Child with Aspergers Syndrome by Lise Pyles

An excellent book overall that takes a clear look at what it means to live and deal with an Aspergers child throughout the 'school age' years. Family histories lend weight to the theoretical methods suggested and ideas for home educating these special children and teenagers are clearly stated. Of real use are the web sites and games giving activities that are particularly suited to Aspergers children. The one drawback that I found was that it is written by and for the American system where 'homeschooling' appears to be on a much more formal level than here. The ideas and suggestions are excellent but for parents new to home education the amount of input that the American system demands may be off-putting. A book I would recommend for its straight forward approach and ideas but if you buy a copy check that p.224 - 233 aren't missing, mine were!

Wendy

ISBN 1-84310-761-9 Jessica Kingsley

Note

Where prices are given these 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 borrowed from your local library. *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). Postage / packing is usually free on order over £25 but if you are ordering less tell them you are home educating and you will be able to get a discount rate. Many local EO groups have meetings where books and other resources are swapped or sold. Don't forget you can usually pick up cheap books at car boot sales, jumble sales etc and the library is a free resource.

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

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CONTACTS

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Allen & Unwin (see Frances Lincoln below)

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www.andersenpress.co.uk

Barn Owl Books 0208 883 7063

www.barnowlbooks.com

Barrington Stokes 0131 557 2020

www.barringtonstoke.co.uk

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www.thebookguild.co.uk

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www.boxerbooks.com

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www.florisbooks.co.uk

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www.franceslincoln.com

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www.wattspub.co.uk

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www.jkp.com

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www.macmillan.com

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www.wattspublishing.co.uk

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www.orionbooks.co.uk

Overlook Press / Duckworth 020 7490 7300

Search Press 01892 310850

www.searchpress.com

Tarquin 0870 143 2568

www.tarquin-books.demon.co.uk

Usborne 020 7430 2800

www.usborne.com

Walker Books 01256 302692

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

BOOK NEWS

Can You Write a Story for Children?

Little Tiger Press is searching for an original, fiction-based, picture-book story of up to 750 words, aimed at 6 year olds.

Entries should be submitted to Little Tiger Press by **1 September 2005**. Cash prize of £2,000 plus a publication contract for the winner.

020 7385 6333 www.littletigerpress.com

Regional Diary

All regular meetings listed below are included automatically in every issue, *please reduce your details to minimum.*

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

CHANGES BY LETTER OR EMAIL PLEASE -to: EDANA EDWARDS, (see inside front cover for addresses) by 10th of month preceding month of publication. 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 events programme in Bedfordshire contact June McDonald on 01234 341375 email info@Bedford-Home-Ed.org.uk "Countries" theme for first-half of summer term; "Human Body" for second. Lots of Art, Craft, Pottery and Sculpture sessions with a geographical and anatomical focus, workshops and visits including Science Museum, an India Day and a Spanish Day, plus a session at a University Biology Department. Also regular swimming, multiaports, gym, chess club, carpentry group, GCSE groups, etc. Website: www.Bedford-Home-Ed.org.uk

BERKSHIRE emailing 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

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)

Caversham Fridays 12 - 5pm social, all ages, separate room for teens in hall...park outside & woods. £2/ family. 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

**NEW* Reading - MuddlePuddle group for families with 0-8ish year olds. Meet every Thursday for games, crafts and other activities. Contact Alison - alison@theportico.co.uk or 0118 961 6657

Pangbourne (near) Monthly, 2nd Tuesday, 11am - 6pm chat and play, Adventure playground, animals. £3/family Also activities 4 teens. Contact Gail 01628 483895

Windsor Leisure Centre, Fridays term time, 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)

Lambourne 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; Spanish, Science and Pottery happening on a regular basis. Contact Ian or Silke 0117 8412707 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...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. Penny 01223 526441 penny.k@ntworld.com Alconbury monthly activities run by Christian 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: North Cambridgeshire: Fortnightly at March. Contact Jane 01354 677869 or Sarah 01354 688245

Email: Pat Northcamps@chauntryhouse.fsnet.co.uk

CHESHIRE **NEW* Chester area group - weekly meetings Chester; Monthly meetings Frodsham. Contact Clare Farrell 01490 412167

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

CLEVELAND AND DURHAM (see also DURHAM) Tel: Lynsey Hutchby 01642 800940 l.hutchby@tesco.net

CORNWALL Small School for HE children age 5 -10. Menheniot, Thurs term time. Led by qualified teacher. £5 per child/session payable half termly. Contact Kath Revell (01752 851091) or Michelle Virgo (0845 3305034). Sci/History Wkshp. Menheniot, 2nd Monday of month. For ages 6 -13. Theme for Spring is colour. £5 per child/session - book in advance - Contact Katinka Soetens (01208 813490).

Forest School: Last Monday of month, Pensilva. Contact Ruth Cullin (0845 4560247).

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 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

**NEW* South Lakes, Wednesdays. Contact: Lex 01229 885206

DERBYSHIRE Chesterfield home ed group, meets Weds - NEW larger premises. Age related activities. Contact Yvonne 01246 555645 or Sian 01246 473902.
****NEW**** Derby Group, 4th Thurs of month.
Contact Andy 01332 752998 or andy@derbyhe.co.uk
****NEW**** meetings in Amber Valley area, contact Deborah 01773 778380 or Helen 01332 883545
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: 10-12.30am Yoga, Maths, cooking, swimming, free play indoors and out. Plus 1.30 - 3.30pm, 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 Crediton, 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 Corrine 01626 368044

DEVON EAST/DORSET WEST Lyme Regis, Axminster, Bridport, Chard Contact Habiba 0845 4582984

Dorset/Somerset/Devon borders Regular meetings on Tuesdays (contact Karen 01460 30461) and Thursdays (contact Ali 01297 443816).

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 weekly meeting contact Juliet 01207 544473 or Beth 07719530472. There is a yahoo chat group at

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/durhamhome_ed
To join e-mail s.waynforth@btopenworld.com.

ESSEXNEW** Chelmsford** meetings - monthly, third Thursday 1-4pm, various activities. Contact: Sally@brisleys.freeserve.co.uk

Chelmsford ice skating - Riverside, Fridays 3.30 - 5pm.
Colchester - Bowling and swimming monthly - also informal meetings fortnightly debbie-m@lineone.net or 0778 6570870

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

Tiptree - monthly meetings - last Tuesday of month 2pm - 5pm. Contact Julie email: julie.ashton@ntlworld.com
New Teens Group - meeting monthly - various venues across Essex. Sally@brisleys.freeserve.co.uk

Around Essex Educational visits twice monthly, Thurs. 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.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE Monthly social meetings open to all. Regular workshops and outings. Website: <http://members.lycos.co.uk/GlosHomeEducators/index.htm> also Email list for events and forum for discussions, information and virtual activities. Contact Rob and Fiona 01684 290087 openhorizons@ntlworld.com
Caroline 01242 890351 cambrose@ieee.org
Beverley 01242 524091 or Mhairi 01452 384104.
Gloucester meetings & swimming. Contact Dawn 01452 540019 dawnandmike@blueyonder.co.uk or Tracy 07941 612092

HAMPSHIRE ACTIVEO - 5 events a week within 20 miles of Petersfield. All welcome. 01428 712394 website at: www.activeo.co.uk

FAREGOS HE meets twice weekly in Fareham and Gosport areas for craft, swimming and other activities. Contact Tracey 02392 551870 or Julie 01730 261468 or email jkbart1955@myrealbox.com for more details

North Hampshire: NHEO: For home educators in North Hampshire and across its borders. There are regular activities and meetings organised, throughout North Hants and surrounding areas suitable for all ages. Web group address:

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/NHEO/>,
Contacts: west, Carol 01264 357650, email: eo@azakit.com, or east, Lesley 01420 543414, email: lmaskell@tesco.net

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

****NEW** Romsey/New Forest** area, fortnightly - details email Karen Robinson on karenca@btinternet.com

HERTFORDSHIRE (see also N.London)

Events List for Herts Home Educators please email karen.bartlett1@tesco.net

St Albans, Social group meeting at Sandridge village hall, mornings 2nd and 4th Thurs. Carolyn 01727 851073
Swimming Lessons at Stevenage Swimming Pool, every Thursday 10.30am, term time. All ages and abilities. £1.40 per session. Contact Barbara on 01707 891021 or email: babs.mcdonald@ntlworld.com

ISLE OF MAN **NEW** Isle of Man Home Education Network. Meet monthly for themed activities. Web Group Address: <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/hen-iom/> email hen-iom@manx.net

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 **NEW Gillingham** Ice Bowl Fridays term time plus other meetings, swimming etc. in area. Web group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kentandlondonbordersHomeEDers/?yguid=187701676> For further info contact: Sandy Jones (LC Kent) tel: Medway 01634 326868 email: lklemisdynomite@aol.com

Wealden Home Ed website: www.whenomnia.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 social 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 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.freemove.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 Regular events on Fylde coast - contact Tracy on 01253 858840

Blackburn Ice Rink monthly - contact Jackie on 01695 424220

Botany Bay - contact Angela 01204 659634/Jackie 01204 361072

Preston Badminton/Swimming - contact Angela/Jackie Old Cobblers 23rd March/all ages children - contact Pam 01706 215585 davidandpam@ntworld.com

For comprehensive list of monthly events please email

Pam at davidandpam@ntworld.com or send SAE to 2

Melia Close, Rossendale, Lancs, BB4 6RQ.

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

LINCOLNSHIRE website: www.activelincs.org.uk

Activelincs Home Education Group - for a

newsletter and list of regional events call:

Donna 01472 752507 or Helena 01724

720595 or Tessa 01522 790452

****NEW**** Lincoln Cathedral Home-educators - Central Lincoln activities crafts, play, walks, science etc. Regular meetings for the city. Contact Ruth 01522 804583.

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.com

Clissold Park Tuesdays . All welcome.

Contact: Charlotte 0207 254 0419

Dulwich, Woodland Club, Wednesdays.

Activities/social, ages 7-16, contact Jo 0208 693 5086

Forest Hill, all day meetings for age 11 plus, contact

Denise 020 8699 8868

Grove Park group meets every other Friday. Crafts,

volleyball, football, tabletennis - open to any ideas.

Contact: Claire Wade 0208 402 5831

Kidbrooke rollerblading Contact: Fiona 020 8852 9756

betteslake@clara.net

Lewisham Thursdays 11-1 then to park afterwards

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

jemimacornish@tiscali.co.uk

New Cross, term time swim on Tuesdays at 12.30,

contact Denise 020 8699 8866

Sydenham contact Christy + Keith 020 8776 8597

NW London Otherwise Club Contact: Leslie 020 8969

0893 Harrow meetings fortnightly on Fridays

****NEW**** Chelsea Open House Project SW London,

NLP cafe study group Mondays afternoons in June & July

- acting and storytelling visiting lecturer...August - poetry

evenings and board games...ongoing speed networking

for HE families call Sophie on (020)7581 5238 to book.

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. Also Wednesdays 12-2.30 pm, fortnightly

during termtime. Pool table, soft play room, outdoor play

area, equipped for all ages. Optional organised activity.

Welcoming all for fun, friendship and support. Alison

0208 56 99398 or Kathryn 0208 566 0543 or e-mail

Alison@rothwell1973.fsnet.co.uk or

kathrymvglynn@hotmail.com

West London (Chiswick & Ealing) home ed group

meets every Tuesday. Outdoor activities in Spring /

Summer. Warmer/ dryer activities Tuesdays 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 - discussion and information

about events in the area.

MANCHESTER Monthly formal art lessons at Stockport

Art Gallery £1.50. Also Monthly meeting at Stockport

library. Email young writers group Ed Wilson

wilson-net@lineone.net

MADCOW newsheet, send SAEs : Gill Wilson,

20 Brook Rd, Heaton Chapel, Stockport SK4 5BZ

Computing Skills 1st and 2nd Sats at Moores family

home, limited places, Contact: Karen 01204 573136

NORFOLK ****NEW**** Norwich area - Free Wheel for

under 10s - activity group Weds fortnightly. Details tel:

01603 478402.

Yoga Bugs Fri fortnightly. Contact Sally 01603 279832

Norfolk/Suffolk border ****NEW**** Steiner style grp for the

under 7s. Craft activities and peaceful, imaginative play.

Contact Hilary 01508 518870

Swimming, indoor sports/play at Leisure Centre, Thetford.

Term-time Thurs 2.30 - 4.30 Contact Fay 01953 681785

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE For email updates of activities

and outings send your email address to

northantshomeed@aol.com or tel: 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 ****NEW**** meetings in Amber

Valley area, contact: Deborah 01773 778380 or Helen

01332 883545

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

****NEW** SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE** SGHE group has occasional meetings, activities & outings arranged by members. Email Discussion group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SouthGlosHomeEd> Website at <http://www.southgloshomeeducators.org.uk> Contact: Diane at 01454-853455 or email DianeLovett@blueyonder.co.uk

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

****NEW**Suffolk/Norfolk border** Steiner style grp for the under 7s. Craft activities and peaceful, imaginative play. Contact Hilary 01508 518870

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

Cobham area 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

Guldford area: Theatre bookings: Tisha 01483 898575. Skating during term time Friday 1-4: Rachel 01483 565703 (no Sunday calls please) Under 10s: Nicky 01483 232080

Dorking/Reigate area. Contact: Helen Burnett 01737 243606

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

North Surrey Home Ed group meets up in Croydon

once a month, Age range from 2-15, small group, looking to grow. Details, contact Karen:

karen_wilkins@hotmail.com or Viv: viv@madtoyman.fsnet.co.uk

SUSSEX Wealden Home Ed website:

www.when.omnia.co.uk also email group: wealdenhomeeducatorsnetwork@yahoo.groups.com

Local Contact: Isobel 01403 261178 (W.Sx)

Winnie Durdant-Hollamby 01342 826087 (E.Sx)

Many events and activities throughout the County.

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

months, For NL contact Tula 01323 648127, email: asanababy@aol.com Or ring one of the following local events organisers:

Lewes: Sylvia on 01273 474375, Hope 01273 401594 or Jan 01273 514528

Lindfield EO Friday club: Liz 01444 414058

Hastings HEDGE Group: Rachel 01424 422178, Emily 01424 719570 or All 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 ACTIVEO: 5 events a week within 20 miles, For details please tel: 01428 712394 www.activeo.co.uk

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

TYNE & WEAR and NORTHUMBERLAND: Regular, frequent and varied activities. Age range from 1 to 17yrs.

New members welcome. Website:

http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/home_ed_tyneandwear

Music- Rosemary 0191 2853707 or

paul@thenews.icom43net

National Trust & English Heritage Visits - Deborah 01434 674713 Woodland visits - Juliet 01207 544473 or

ablett.jules@tesco.net

WARWICKSHIRE Usually 2 Thursdays a month; at Wolston nr Coventry and for an outing in the 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@bbunch.freemove.co.uk

WILTSHIRE contact: Beccy 01985 840174

****NEW**Lyneham/Caine/Devizes** area - every Weds - Visits to places of interest, in and around Wiltshire. Fully inclusive group aimed at under 8's but all welcome

Phone for latest details: Rachel: 01249 890525 or

Amanda: 01380 739845

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/NWlts_HE/
Devizes: Last Thursday of month 11.30-2.30 activities,
support, socialising. Tel: Janet 01249 818672 email:
janet@eldekvisit.com Or tel: Jane: 01380 860969
WORCESTERSHIRE LC - 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. Alison 01405 769902
YORKSHIRE NORTH Regular meetings and outings.
Contact Karen 01904 400317 kkarensandy@aol.com
NEW weekly on Wednesdays near Malton - contact
Tess on 01947825772 or tess@chrisgeall.com
YORKSHIRE SOUTH **NEW** Bradway, Mondays
fortnightly 1-4Activities /play for 0-8s but older siblings
welcome. £1 per family. Contact Barbara 0114 235
3224, Jax 01246 430616 or Kirsty 01709 865721
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/Abbeylea rd. Contact:
Annette 0114 2583502 or Fiona 0114 22751142

YORKSHIRE WEST

Bradford: Bradford Environmental Community Project
(1st Monday of month) at Carlisle Road Business
Centre, Bradford. Contact Niki (01274) 583164.
Badminton, football and table tennis (every Monday
except 1st and last in the month) at Manningham Sport
Centre, Carlisle Road, Bradford. Contact Gillian (01274)
586146. Ten-pin bowling (last Monday of month) at
Hollywood Bowl. Contact Sarah (01484) 361206.
Ice skating (every Friday) at the Ice Arena, Bradford.
Contact Anne (01274) 875357.

Leeds: Ten-pin bowling (2nd Monday of month) at
Hollywood Bowl, Leeds. Contact Sarah (01484) 361206.
"Wednesday Club" (every Wednesday) at West Park
Centre, Headingley, Leeds. Contact Sarah as above.
For a list of local Museum/places of interest and Theatre
trips, please contact Sarah (01484) 361206 or e-mail
sl.marshall@ntlworld.com.

Hallifax: 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

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

Huddersfield:Swimming (every Wednesday - term time
except 2nd Wednesday of month) at Huddersfield
Sports Centre. Contact Tracy (01484) 317176

NEWHuddersfield monthly meeting (2nd Wednesday
of month - except Feb when on 2nd Friday of month) at
Paddock Scout Hut, West View Rise, Paddock Contact
Helen (01484) 841041 or Jane (01484) 645034.
"Lunch and Chat" (last Thursday of month) at Civic
Centre, Huddersfield. Contact Tracy (01484) 317176.

Art Workshop (last Thursday of month) at Huddersfield
Art Gallery. Contact Jane (01484) 645034.

SCOTLAND

ARGYLL Home-Ed Group - Regular meetings and
occasional outings/activities. All welcome. Contact
Joanne 0845 345 2291 or Debra 01631 730469 email:
debra@celtic-soul-music.com

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY home ed group
Regular 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.samueltil@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.net/firms.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

****NEW** CEREDIGION & CARMARTHENSHIRE**
Weekly meetings on Tues - Lampeter; weekly meetings
on Fri - Aberaeron; monthly meeting Llanddeusant.
Contact Laura 01545 580528

GWYNEDD Weekly meetings for crafts, socials and
outings. Contact Heather 01248 352336
Weekly meeting at Tremadog on Thursdays. Contact
Annie & Keith 01766 514867

POWYS Welshpool on wednesdays, swimming/Tumble
Towers, workshops, skateboarding, and events, contact
Dee + Dave Yeoman 01938 590098 email:
d.yeoman@tesco.net

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/trampoline in
Wrexham, Oswestry, W. Cheshire/NE Wales. local
newsletter of events please send your details and £2
payment to: HENWOS, Berlian Gron, Llanycil, Bala.
Gwynedd LL23 7YG

****NEW**Wrexham** themed craft sessions run by prof.
artist, with parental help. Contact: Marie 01978 362436

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@ntworld.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,
Gail Borrows, Anne Rix, Terry Scott-Alexander

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 0870 765 3650
database@education-otherwise.org

Celia McDonagh, 235 Coed y Gores, Cardiff
CF23 9NL 07763 729055

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

Media Contacts

Media co-ordinator: Claire Turnham, (SE area,
below, for contact details)

Scotland: (VACANT) *Volunteers please!!*

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

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

North East: Eva O'Rourke, Wilsden

01535 274520 evaandmary@aol.com

Midlands: Simon Foster, Birmingham tel: 0121
443 2752 email: simonf@surefish.co.uk

Wales: (retiring) Celia McDonagh, Cardiff, 07763

729055 email: celiamcdonagh@yahoo.co.uk

(new acting) Edwina Theunissen, Wrexham, 01978

661882 theunissen@freeserve484.fsnet.co.uk

East Anglia: Ali Willer, Sprowston, Norwich

01603 401020 simon.whitehall@tesco.net

mailto:webmaster@education-otherwise.org

South West: (VACANT) *Volunteers Please!!*

South East: (acting) Claire Turnham, 6 The Butts,

Aynho, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX17 3AN

01869-811099 Claire@birhandbeyond.co.uk

London(1): (acting) Winnie Durdant-Hollamby,

East Sussex tel: 01342 826087

London(2): (acting) Kathleen McLaren,

Walthamstow. Tel: 0208 527 3296 email:

krmclaren1@tiscali.co.uk

Isle of Wight: Shara Ouston, Ryde tel: 01983

562313 email: sharaouston@aol.com

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 Members list discusses the
organisation, admin. 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 Members list go to:
<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/EO-Members/> or send a blank email to:
EO-Members-subscribe@yahooogroups.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 verified, your
membership will be approved.

Council Members

Jane Bathgate (Borders) 01835 862118
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educationotherwise@mac.com
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Membership

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

Database Administrator, Education Otherwise,
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01945 860483
Email database@education-otherwise.org

Stationery

Leaflets, posters, membership forms, car stickers:
Gail Borrows, 48 Marlow Bottom, Marlow,
Bucks SL7 3NB tel: 01628 483895 email:
gail@borrows.plus.com (donations toward postage
welcome; reuse labels £2.50 per 100, free for EO
business use)

Publications

Books, information leaflets and back issues of
newsletter. For a full list send SAE to:
June Wilson-Billing, 17 Woodland Close,
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educationotherwise@mac.com (please ring to
check availability of items before ordering)

Website and email lists: Jacqui Houlding,
01925 654856 jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk

Useful Contacts

Contact with LEA / Member Support / Other Problems .

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

Single Parent Family Contact: Rowenna Williams
rowenna73@hotmail.com Berllan Gron, Llany Cil, BALA,
Gwynedd, LL23 7YG Tel: 01678 521348

Special Needs: Christine Waterman, 85 Elfrida Rd,
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Sarah Cook: 01768 896019
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School Phobia: Mary Thompson (acting)
01942 795975 ktmusic59@yahoo.co.uk

College Contact: (Acting) Lianne Smith Ivy Mount,
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Devon PL21 0QR tel: 01548 830716

Research Contact: VACANT - volunteers please!!

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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:

P.O. BOX 7420
LONDON N9 9SG

Helpline 0870 73 000 74

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

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