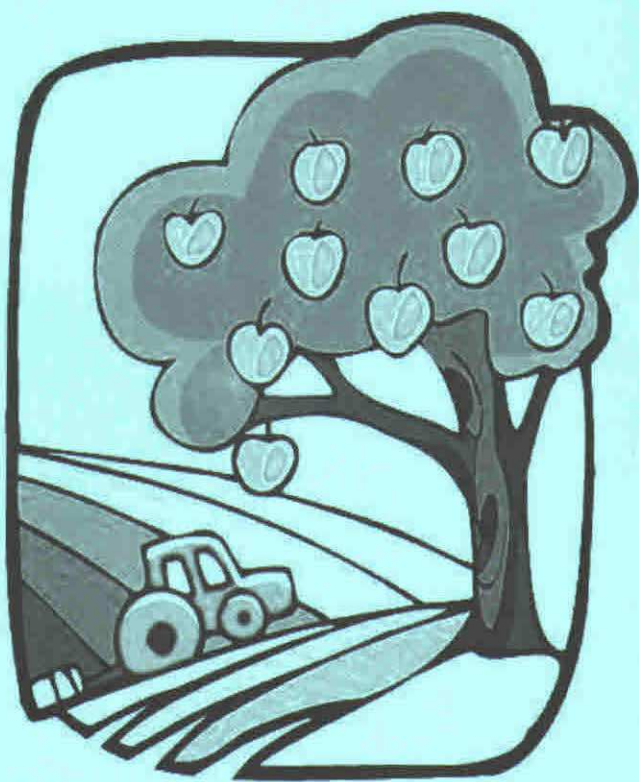


# education otherwise



No. 166 - Oct. 2005

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

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*DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS 1<sup>st</sup> November 2005*

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inside back cover*)

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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 sae.** 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**

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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.

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## CO-ORDINATORIAL

Welcome to October's newsletter everyone! That was the summer, and wasn't it a beauty for a change? Please note that the Featherstone Castle event has been cancelled due to lack of interest - there is a new date and venue for October's meeting before the notices pages. I'd like to welcome our new volunteer, local contact co-ord, Pauline Butterworth, local contact for the past 8yrs herself and now kindly giving up her time to support local contacts up and down the country.

Meanwhile I don't know about you but the time seems to fly in my house since I started home ed. Incredibly it's well over 2 years since we endured the school run, and my son is unrecognisable now (except when he loses his temper - if you know what I mean?!) All my doubts about home ed. are long gone though, as I can see the

proof of the pudding right in front of me. However shaky a start you make with home education, if you stick at it for long enough you *will* see your child blossom as they realise they have some control over life.

Trying to claw back control as I write though, are my unconvinced LEA! Thankfully I have had the support of well-informed and caring volunteers within EO, who have been such a help with this. Thanks very much to you people, who didn't mind me phoning out of the blue for advice and a listening ear! It really is a case of 'united we stand but divided we fall' when trying to home educate our children in the face of this opposition. It may be the autumn term as far as the LEA are concerned, but it's not for us! Here's hoping we all enjoy the autumn days following our own curriculum, watching our children grow and blossom uniquely, as and when they are ready to do so.

Best wishes,

Edana Edwards 19/09/05

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



## CHILDREN MISSING FROM EDUCATION: A NEW PROJECT IN SCOTLAND

### The Context:

The Scottish Executive is committed to a three year *reform programme for child protection (CP services) (2003-2006)*. The reform programme is part of the response to the audit and review of child protection services in Scotland "**It's Everyone's Job to Make Sure I'm Alright.**" (Predecessor equivalent to England and Wales "Every Child Matters"). The stated overall goal is to improve the protection of children at risk of neglect and abuse and reduce the numbers of children who need protection. In the June 2005 CP Reform Update Bulletin it is stated "*At the heart of the proposal for reforming the children's support systems is the intention that children receive the help they need when they need it.*"

This is also the first of eight standards in the **National Framework of Standards : Protecting Children and Young People**. The introduction to the standards states that they take account of

- the views expressed in the **Charter for Children** (and are the means by which the charter will be delivered)
- the principles of the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* (UNCRC)
- evidence of what works in protecting children including findings from "*it's everyone's job to make sure I'm alright*"
- Current research findings and evidence from the reviews of deaths of children
- Consultation with key stakeholders (not home educators as far as I am aware)
- Current legislation

On the basis of these standards the Scottish Executive have produced "**Safe and Well**" **Good practice in schools and education authorities for keeping children safe and well** (a handbook of guidelines) and under the umbrella of '*Safe and Well*' they have created the new project **Children Missing from Education: CME(Scotland)**.

The CME leaflet which will be widely distributed to multi agencies throughout Scotland says (amongst other things): "This project is a national coordinating body to help Children's Services find children who have disappeared from view. If a local search proves unsuccessful, the project team will follow up with a wider search across Scotland and other areas of the UK to locate the child. Once found relevant information will be shared to allow appropriate contact services to be put in place for the child."

The leaflet begins with "children missing from education are of school age but not on a school roll or being educated otherwise (at home, privately or in an alternative provision). They have usually not attended school for a period of time."

CME invited home educating organisations to a meeting (September 7<sup>th</sup>) and it was attended by the three project staff and Brenda Holliday (HEAS), Rebecca Kail (Highland Home Educators and EO), Jane Bathgate (EO council member) and Ann Samuel Till (EO). The meeting served to let us understand the background and role of CME and gave CME some depth to its knowledge and understanding of home education. In those terms the meeting went very well and communication flowed well in both directions. CME is intended to be a link between local authorities (education, social work, police etc) but independent to them with the main concern of child safety and whose main job will be tracing children referred (by LA agencies) as missing from view (and generally whereabouts unknown) and sharing relevant information\* with the appropriate body. (\*Apparently their database is locked to CME only and they will operate safety guidelines as to what and how much information is passed on, anonymising as necessary (eg in some domestic violence circumstances). The government have pledged to share information to protect children as part of the Children's Charter). They assure us they are not in the business of assessing education provision and they recognise the lawful status of home educating. The people involved came over as being of sincere intent as to their purpose (child safety) and that HE in principle was not an issue for them.

*(I apologise that this article has been so dry up to now but it has been my aim to give you the context as accurately as possible and without comment which might obscure things or cause undue alarm. Now I shall comment.)*

However, I am still left with some concerns for home educators in practice mainly because the language used in the literature has many ambiguities and the concept of "children missing education" is very negative and home education is listed alongside other categories where children may actually be missing "education" not just 'school'. My concern is when the ambiguities are read by those (in education or more especially social work) with either no understanding of home education or a prejudice against it, that being lawfully 'out of view' (ie. not known to the education authority) will be seen as a risk factor in terms of child protection. (Something similar to this has recently happened to a family in Scotland... CME have not been involved)

The nub of it, I think, is that in the process of the child protection review the concept of "in view equals safe" and "out of view is at risk" seems to have become an accepted cultural truth! (at least with government) This ignores the fact that children who are abused or murdered are generally enrolled in schools and therefore "in view" in that way or are known to the authorities ("in view") in the case of pre-school children. We need to remember ourselves and remind those we speak to within the authorities that

- being 'out of view' is not illegal
- being 'out of view' does not mean a child is not receiving education provision
- being 'out of view' of itself does not mean a child is at risk just as being 'in view' does not mean a child is safe.
- Undermining the integrity of natural parental protection of their own children in the society as a whole by authorities is likely to make children less safe by damaging the parent-child bond.
- Home educators have traditionally tended to stay out of view to minimise unwanted and often hostile interference in their choice of home based education provision.
- This is likely to continue unless authorities handle their contact with home educators within the terms of the statutory guidance and above all with respect.

Home educators not known to their authorities may find they are more likely to be reported in the near future. If this happens there is little as ever can be done about that or the distressing feelings it causes. But should it happen, it is of paramount importance that we each do all that we can to make sure we are treated properly within the law and that our fundamental right to choose HE is respected and upheld. (If you are reported to the authorities it should be passed to education authorities (not social work unless there were actual CP concerns) asap and the initial/ informal enquiry process should kick in). Once again we have the job of "educating" those we encounter about the lawfulness and wonder of home education. The statutory guidance will be useful in this as that is what it is for. Also you may care to remind overzealous EA officers or social workers of the purpose of the new CP guidelines (see first paragraph) of "giving children the help *they need when they need it*" and that excessive investigations of home educators is not only stressful to our children but keeps services from where they may be really needed.

I think we need to monitor this as it proceeds on the ground and feedback to CME and the Scottish Executive Education Department and also review the literature for the ambiguities. If you would like to help do that, get in touch. Fresh blood, energy and enthusiasm are welcome and needed.

*Ann Samuel Till ann.samuelitill@ntlworld.com*

To read the documents:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/06/20135608/56144>

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/08/0191408/14169#3>

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/children-families/17834/17261>

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/education/pcypfs-14.asp>

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/education/gcech-00.asp>

The EO AGM and a one day Council Meeting will be held in  
London on Saturday, 11 February 2006  
(more details to follow)

## Informal Report on Council Meeting

Once again, on a sunny morning this time, in her own inimitable style, Julie tried to start the meeting at 10.00 am and very nearly managed it!

The meeting was in a rather bare, dismal room, hard (very hard) seats and a very grubby floor. However, this room was set in the most peaceful and beautiful woodlands. John's Lee Wood, a well hidden Leicestershire beauty spot, has lots of small glades amongst the trees and Rhododendrons where the tops of blue and green tents peeked through.

Unlike last time, the Matters Arising from the last meeting did not sail through. There was further discussion on Education Otherwise's membership card; its appearance and durability. Whilst there were some who felt that the cheap, utilitarian card we currently had should be continued, the majority felt that, with the increased usage the cards had as more venues provided discounts to home educators, and the need for Education Otherwise to present a better public image in today's image conscious world, we should upgrade the card. So a group of volunteers from the meeting (and Lynda who was volunteered) will be choosing an environmentally friendly, durable membership card. The equipment that is needed will also produce Education Otherwise's Home Education card (colloquially known as the Truancy Card - but we all know home educated young people cannot truant!)

The draft Local Group Guidelines were welcomed, but there are several areas to clarify. One thing to be sorted is whether we call them guidelines or rules. It was agreed that some of the points were 'rules' whilst others were 'guidelines'. (We do like to make our lives easy!) We also need to verify which ones are required by our insurance policy...and which ones 'we' require. The provision of quiet areas at meeting venues to encourage some SEN children to be happier attending a meeting attracted a lot of attention. All the comments made at the meeting will be taken on board and the small group who produced these guidelines will bring them back in revised form for the next meeting.

In an effort to smooth my ruffled feathers (I definitely need to work on the passionate side of me - I get too het up about some things) I decided once again

to present my private awards for sartorial elegance. You may remember that last time I based them on socks! This time it was trousers.

Brightest - Sarah Cook in bright blue

Impractical - Celia McDonagh with very pale cream trousers with little stripes.

Neatest - Iris Harrison with brown cords

Boldest - Janet Wilkinson with red and black zebra stripes

Muddiest - Bryony McDonagh, flares that I would have loved at that age.

Unfortunately, nice long trousers and nice deep mud don't go well together...well, that's the problem...they go too well together!

Aspiring to Smartness - Anne and Rob Wade with ironed in creases in their jeans

Cutest - a tiny little child in a pink and mauve all-in-one pyjama suit.

Where did I come in here? (I'm being taught on my course that self-evaluation is a must in all circumstances.) Well, nowhere. I wasn't wearing any - the only one wearing a dress!

Back to business. The database report raised a lot of discussion around the efficient use of Education Otherwise's funds; the cost per annum of new members as opposed to renewing members; the cost of the Post Office Box service etc. A large 'small' group will meet up and discuss all the options available. Elsewhere in this newsletter will be a summary of this discussion and an invitation for members to contribute their suggestions for consideration.

We've agreed that clarification of the newsletter co-ordinator and publications secretary role is needed. Confirmation of how the Handbook will work in future was given. I thought I'd leave it at that...but I'm a nosey cow and would be wondering...so here you go. The Handbook will be issued in two parts. Part 1 will contain the contact details and concessions and will be updated for all members annually in April; this should help members who wish to make use of concessions over the summer in good weather. Part 2 will contain all the procedures and policies and will only be updated when necessary; all new members will receive a copy of it and existing members after an update.

Under various reports we heard of new appointments and retirements. Pam Vickers, Belinda Harris Reid and Lize Stevens were thanked for the hard work they had put into their roles of Research, Media and Local Contact Co-ordinator. We welcomed Sue White and Claire Turnham to the acting roles of Research Contact and Media Co-ordinator. The newly ratified and acting local contacts were also welcomed.

The Scottish Guidance is to be reviewed in February 2006 and Education Otherwise will be asking Scottish members about their experiences with their EAs under the Guidance.

The Welsh draft Guidance has now been issued by the Welsh Assembly (I think that's who it was) and the EO DfES team would like some Welsh members to join them in producing an EO response.

Jacqui announced that there was now a Google search facility for the EO website and that there is a new members area with discussion forums for members. (Since most of you won't read the full minutes I will repeat here my thanks to Tim Marchant for helping me set this up). The Yahoo Members List will be closing down at the end of August and migrating to the Members Area of the website. She's also looking at having facilities on selected pages of the website for people to make donations to Education Otherwise if they have been helped by the information on the site.

Jacqui has resigned from the Council and Gail Borrowes has taken on the named position of Membership Secretary. Rowenna Williams is to be approached to take on the named role of Enquiries Secretary.

We discussed the logo on the front of the EO trifold. I personally rate that logo alongside the crazy frog but I was in a minority of one, so we keep the hand! The last item to be discussed was about the Virtual Office Manager proposal. I really enjoyed this item. I walked through the woods, chatted to a number of people and then sat on a log in the sun. Not sure how long I did this for...but the peace ended when Julie came out announcing that the meeting had finished and would I accept the role of Virtual Office Manager for Education Otherwise.

I have to say that, when I announced to the Council and friends in EO, before Christmas, that the amount of work I was doing would have take a lot longer due to the fact that I needed to earn a living now, I never expected it would end the way it has. I volunteered to look after the website and the two email lists there were at the time and ended up on the Council almost by mistake. We had a lot of trouble on the email lists at the time and I was speaking to police and the legal advisors of our insurance company, and it was felt that I should have the authority of the Council behind me in these discussions.

I've now looked after the website and lists and stepped into breaches where necessary for the last four or five years until it is now a full day, 6-7 days a week I spend doing all sorts of stuff for EO. To have that work valued enough, and recognised like this is a great honour. So thank you to everyone.

Jacqui Houlding

# ***VOLUNTEER VACANCIES***

## **GET INVOLVED WITH EO!!**

### **!! URGENT !! 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)

### **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

### **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. If you would like to volunteer as a local contact or find out more about the role please contact: Pauline Butterworth: 01642 570786 , pollyb47@aol.com

#### **Areas currently needing a Local Contact:**

#### **ENGLAND**

Derbyshire  
Dorset - East  
Dorset - West  
Durham  
Gloucestershire - North  
Gloucestershire - South  
Hampshire – West  
Northumberland  
Somerset  
Shropshire

#### **SCOTLAND**

Angus, Dundee, Perth &  
Kinross  
Argyll & Bute  
Clackmannanshire, Falkirk,  
N. Lanarkshire & Stirling  
Edinburgh & Lothians  
Fife  
Glasgow  
Inverclyde & The Ayrshires

#### **WALES**

Anglesey  
Denbighshire – North Wales  
Mid Glamorgan  
Vale of Glamorgan  
West Glamorgan  
Gwent  
Wrexham

**OVERSEAS** Europe, America.

### **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.

Council Members are elected by signed up members at the AGM. Candidates are either recommended by the Council or proposed by any signed up member following the procedure which appears in the newsletter before every AGM. Any member of EO can become a signed up member by completing the form at the back of the Handbook and sending it to Pam Bellingier, General Secretary. Forms can be obtained from the Pam if you've mislaid your Handbook. Please send an SSAE to Pam at 56 Beech Drive, Braunstone, Leicester, LE3 3DA. Members can become signed up members at the AGM. 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**

Australasia.....Nicky Kingswell  
Berkshire East.....Lynn Joyce  
Devon East.....Louise Martin & Kate Molyneux (joint)  
Fiona Nicholson.....Sheffield

### **Resigning Local Contacts**

Berkshire East.....Gail Borrows  
Denbighshire.....Genny Bove  
Devon East.....Becca Bradley Carter  
Sheffield & Rotherham.....Gary and Sian Podmore  
Shropshire.....Val Higgins  
South Gloucestershire.....Diane Lovett  
Wrexham.....Marie Lumb

### **Areas Needing a Local Contact**

See above.

## **NEW LOCAL CONTACT CO-ORDINATOR**

### **Pauline Butterworth**

6 White House Croft, Long Newton, Stockton on Tees TS21 1PJ  
tel: 01642 570786 email: Pollyb47@aol.com

Pauline has previously been a local contact for 8yrs for Cleveland and Durham area and is familiar with the problems and pleasures of being LC. She has home educated for 9yrs – her eldest daughter is now at university and she still educates her youngest, aged 13.



## **AFFILIATION TO THE PHONE CO-OP FOR CHEAP PHONE**

You can raise money for EO by switching to the Phone Co-op for your phone calls.

EO raises around £1,000 a year this way, so thanks to those of you who have already joined.

They are an ecological and ethical company and, being a co-operative, there are no Directors creaming off large salaries. Their charges are very competitive and some of their rates have been reduced by up to 24%. All your calls can be routed via the Phone Co-op to save you money and save you dialling a code first. They can offer broadband and line rental, and also offer customers an **0845 number for FREE** so that long distant friends can phone you for the cost of a local call.

There is a link towards the bottom of EO's home page on the EO web site or telephone the Phone Co-op directly on 0800 781 3344 **quoting our affinity number 017.**

If you sign up with them be sure to write on our affinity code No 017 and EO will receive a small percentage.

## OCTOBER GATHERING at Featherstone Castle CANCELLED

Due to insufficient bookings, the Gathering at Featherstone Castle for 29 September to 6 October has had to be cancelled. Unfortunately, to go ahead would mean a shortfall of around £1,000 which, it is felt, is too much to make up from funds. Those who pre-booked have been contacted by the organisers, and an alternative Gathering has been arranged at Berwick upon Tweed from Sunday 2 to Friday 7 October.

## OPEN COUNCIL MEETING

The Open Council meeting planned for Saturday, 1 October at Featherstone Castle has been postponed.

This will now take place at the  
West Park Centre, Spen Lane, Leeds, LS16 5BE  
on Saturday 12 NOVEMBER  
10am for 10.30 meeting.

There is a resource room (used by local HE group) that anyone not involved in the meeting can use for playing/drinks etc. as well as a meeting room.

### Travel info:

By bus: no.97 (towards Guiseley & Bradford) leaves city centre and stops on Spen Lane close to West Park Centre.  
By car: Spen Lane crosses the A6120 Ring Road approx 1/3 mile west of A660 Otley Road junction. Take Spen Road south (towards city) and West Park Centre is on left after approx 1/3 mile  
By train/taxi: 15 minute taxi ride from Leeds station. West Park Centre is opposite the top of Butcher Hill  
Contact Sarah Cook for further details. 01768 896019.  
sarah@croggies.freeserve.co.uk

## NOTICES

Handbook printing was discussed at the Council Meeting in June, with a view to finding ways to reduce EO's costs. The actual Council decision (June 2005) is recorded in the draft minutes as: "Handbook Pt 1 (contact information and concessions) will contain all the information that needs regular updating and will be issued in April each year to all members. The Handbook Pt 2 will be issued to new members and updated only when required for existing members.

This is expected to reduce costs for this item."

There was subsequent correspondence on the Members List as to just how this would reduce costs, with a number of variations suggested. Handbook Pt 1 was rushed out in June so that members had up-to-date concessions listings; Pt 2 was left till 'later' and fell victim to 'summer procrastination/CM burnout'. I eventually obtained detailed quotations for producing 2005 Pt 2 either for new members only (£750) or for all members (£3,500). There are only minor changes in Part 2 from the 2004 Handbook (stocks of which had completely run out), and after discussion with Council Members and others it was felt that it would be best to send 2005 Part 2 to new members only, and carry out a full revision of both parts in the spring of 2006. I hope that members will agree that this is appropriate, in view of the substantial saving obtainable.

### **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.***

### **CONFIDENTIAL CONTACT LIST 2005 and HANDBOOK PART 1**

The 2005 contact list and Part 1 of the 2005 Handbook were distributed to all members with the June newsletter. Families whose membership had lapsed may have missed their copy of the contact list. For a copy of both of these items, send an s.a.e. with stamps to the value of 58p to Lynda, Memberships. (see inside back cover for contact details).

**IMPORTANT - The 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 for 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 a Council Member with any concerns.***

## Regional Diary Updates

I think this job will be like re-painting the Forth Bridge, never ending! However, it is very worthwhile. To help me along the way I would appreciate it if people could let me know of events featured in the Regional Diary listings which no longer take place. Between us we can make the Regional Diary as useful as it was always meant to be. Please email changes to me, Jo Borthen, on: jo4eo@aol.com titling your email 'Regional Diary' or tel: 01392 438876 Thank you!



## Learn Premium

Thanks to the popularity of this site, EO has renewed the subscription to Learn Premium.

The price for EO members remains at £25 for the year  
from October 2005 to October 2006.

For those new to EO, this is a digital subscription service run by The Guardian, aimed at primary and secondary age children and their teachers. There are over 35,000 pages of information based on a whole range of subjects.

The resources include online lessons, Guardian topical lesson packs, revision and homework guides, three web guides, randomly generated tests, projects and events and a daily news service for 9-13 year olds.

To take advantage of this offer, contact:

Sue Radford, The White House, 16 Fairhaven, Wychwood Park,  
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## FREE ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS

Ordnance Survey has opened the 2005 Free maps site for Home Educators with year 7 pupils. This offer is only open for year 7 pupils/Primary 7 in Scotland.

For more information on the terms and conditions of the scheme please visit [www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/freemapsfor11yearolds](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/freemapsfor11yearolds)  
Contact by email: [customerservices@ordnancesurvey.co.uk](mailto:customerservices@ordnancesurvey.co.uk) marking the Subject line with 'Free maps-Home educated Children'.

By letter addressed to Free maps-Home educated Children,  
Customer Contact Centre, Room C454, Ordnance Survey, Romsey road,  
Maybush, Southampton, SO16 4GU

Fax to 02380 792615 again using subject as Free maps-Home educated Children  
phone helpline: 08456 050505

## New service will make it easier for individual students to sit public examinations

A new service has been set up to make it easier for students studying outside the school environment to sit for public examinations.

Exams Together Ltd provides a much-needed lifeline for home or tutor-educated students, and offers new options for those wishing to re-sit examinations externally after this summer's results.

Finding places to sit small numbers of GCSEs and A Levels is often difficult for candidates studying outside the framework of the school year. Exams Together (ET) endeavours to offer venues for all qualifications to students of any age and at any stage of their academic cycle, and helps with the necessary paperwork for registration. ET has also been accredited to conduct new examinations such as the International GCSEs from Edexcel International. These are available in 20 subject areas including Maths and English, offer excellent support material for extra-curricular study, and are fully recognized by UCAS.

Christopher Blount, Managing Director of ET, says, "We have set out to help the increasing number of home-educated students who need to take public exams, and also to assist distance-learners. There is a big demand for students to take exams when it suits them, and this does not always fit in with arrangements at schools and colleges. By providing choice for individual students, ET supports everyone who aims to achieve their educational goals through the public examination system."

Further, ET can provide assistance to religious and cultural groups, and to students in hospital or detention.

Centres were set up in this summer in London, Birmingham and Manchester, with further Centres planned from May 2006. Exact venues will be posted on the Website: [www.examstogether.com](http://www.examstogether.com)

**For further information, please contact:**

Christopher Blount 01 608 645455

Martin Adeney Associates 020 8348 0375

## The Children's Bookshow 2005

### Outside In: Children's Writers in Translation

The Children's Bookshow, Outside In, will be touring the best writers and illustrators from France, Italy, Sweden and the UK in the autumn of 2005. It will begin at the British Library in National Children's Book Week – October 3<sup>rd</sup> to October 10<sup>th</sup> – and will end in November at L'Institut Français in London.

This year's theme, Outside In: Children's Writers in Translation, has been chosen to introduce British children to the richness of other cultures, to broaden their horizons, and to understand lives and cultures other than their own through poetry, stories and pictures. Events with writers from abroad will be held in theatres in cities throughout England including London, Sheffield, Manchester, Leicester, Newcastle, and Oxford, and at the same time, a series of schools workshops on the same theme, Outside In, will be given free to schools using writers, poets, translators, storytellers and illustrators. A book, Outside In: Children's Books in Translation

with an introduction by Philip Pullman, will be published by Milet Publishing Ltd to coincide with the tour.

One of our well known children's writers, David Almond, has this to say about children's literature in translation:

"One of the things I love about writing for children is that they don't know the categories yet. They don't know that they're supposed to think that something 'foreign' is something difficult. When we're young, everything beyond our mother's lap is 'foreign': all those people, all those places, all those objects, all those words. But that huge constantly expanding foreign realm is a source of delight. Being a child, growing up, is a process of moving outwards, a process of exploration and discovery. We make the unknown known. We turn the foreign into our familiar place. We play. We learn the world and its words through play. That's why children's bookshelves are such joyous and experimental places – where flaps pop up and animals talk, and dreams mix with the everyday. What better place to put books that lead us beyond our own shores and our own language?"

This is the aim of *Outside In*: to extend 'that source of delight, that process of exploration and discovery' and take children to places 'beyond our own shores and our own language'.

For further information: contact Sián Williams email: [sianwilliams2000@hotmail.com](mailto:sianwilliams2000@hotmail.com)

telephone: 020 8 960 0602

or Nicky Potter [nicpot@dircon.co.uk](mailto:nicpot@dircon.co.uk) telephone 020 8 889 9735

## Diary

**London** Monday October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1pm The British Library, 96 Euston Rd, London NW1 2DB

- Stefan Casta (Sweden) Nicolette Jones Children's editor Sunday Times

Booking: 020 7 412 7222 [www.bl.uk](http://www.bl.uk) free by ticket during National Children's Book Week

October 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>

**Oxford** Tuesday October 4<sup>th</sup> 1pm Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Park Rd

Oxford OX1 3PW - Stefan Casta (Sweden) and Nicolette Jones Children's editor Sunday

Times. Booking: 020 8960 0602 [sianwilliams1@gmail.com](mailto:sianwilliams1@gmail.com) Children £4.00 Adults £5

**Manchester** Thursday October 6<sup>th</sup> (National Poetry Day) 10.30am and 1.30pm

The Library Theatre, Central Library, St Peter's Sq, Manchester M2 5PD

- Matthew Sweeney and Owen Sheers [www.manchesterpoetryfestival.co.uk](http://www.manchesterpoetryfestival.co.uk)

[www.librarytheatre.com](http://www.librarytheatre.com) 0161 236 711 free during National Children's Book Week

**Ilkley** Literature Festival Sunday October 9<sup>th</sup> 5pm The Ilkley Playhouse, Ilkley

W.Yorks LS29 9DT 01943 601210 [www.ilkleyliteraturefestival.org.uk](http://www.ilkleyliteraturefestival.org.uk)

- Francesco D'Adamo (Italy) and Graham Fawcett - Young People £3 Adults £4

**London** Monday October 10<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm L'Istituto Italiano di Cultura, 39 Belgrave Square

London SW1 8NX - Francesco D'Adamo and Mary Hoffman – Booking: 020 7235 1461

[ici@italcultur.org.uk](mailto:ici@italcultur.org.uk)

**Sheffield** Tuesday October 18<sup>th</sup> 1pm The Crucible Theatre, 55 Norfolk St, Sheffield S1 1DA

- Michael Rosen Hervé Tullet (France)

**(sold out)**

**Newcastle** Monday November 14<sup>th</sup> 10.30am

7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> festival Northern Children's Book Festival, Life Centre, Times Square, Newcastle

upon Tyne NE1 4EP - Daniel Morden (Grimm's Tales) and Oliver Wilson-Dickson

Booking: 020 8960 0602 [sianwilliams1@gmail.com](mailto:sianwilliams1@gmail.com) Children £2 Adults £4

**Leicester** Tuesday November 22<sup>nd</sup> 10.30am

The Phoenix Arts Centre, 21 Upper Brown St, Leicester LE1 5TE

- Andrew Fusek-Peters (Eastern European poetry in translation for children)

Children £3 Adults £5 [www.phoenix.org.uk](http://www.phoenix.org.uk) booking: 0116 255 4854

**London** November 23<sup>rd</sup> 6.30p.m.

L'Institut Français, 17 Queensberry Place, London SW7 2DT

- Erik L'Homme (France) François Place (France) Michael Morpurgo

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Sarah Ablitt BA (Hons) PG Diploma SpLD

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# Educating Archie

Seeing the wood for the trees

SEG



# LETTERS

## Tour of Britain

### Questions, questions, questions!

We are planning a year long tour of Britain to experience our national history and wonder if any other HEs have undertaken such a journey.

We would really appreciate advice on the best way to do it please – caravan or camper/motor home? What problems did you meet? Any brilliant campsites to recommend? We would love to hear from anyone about places we really must not miss and places we really should avoid!

Which parts of Britain are best at which time of the year? Has anyone experienced winter travelling? Where are the milder areas in winter or would you recommend 'holing up' somewhere for the colder months?

Are there any HE'ers out there who have a campsite we could visit and perhaps stay longer than the average holidaymaker (maybe 3 – 4 weeks) to enable us to really learn about different areas? Also, if you have done something similar, were you able to get any casual work during your travels to refill the coffers?

Any helpful advice and suggestions would be very, very welcome. Many thanks and keep the EO flag flying!

*Margaret, Michael and Mathew Kitchin, 283,  
St Peters Street, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32  
2LU*

## Email Correspondence

Many thanks to Jacqui for a clear explanation of email correspondence, lists and forums (August NL). Although I've used plain email for some time, and have managed to get to grips with lists, I'm a complete novice at forums, and it's good to have all this information and tips gathered together. I think the point about BCC and privacy is particularly important; this is something I took a while to get the hang of myself.

On one point, I take a different view from Jacqui. To my mind, a basic email message is closer to a telephone call than to a letter – except that both (or all) correspondents have an automatic written record of what was said. When writing a letter (which may of course be attached or even pasted into an email, as

Jacqui mentions) I take time to compose it so as to be sure to express my meaning as clearly as possible, and expect the recipient to do the same when replying.

There's an informal immediacy about email, as there is over the telephone, and since the responses (at least, some of them) come back equally quickly and sometimes interspersed with the original message, the exchange has a conversational quality. I find email a wonderful medium for running ideas or draft letters past people; it can often throw up anomalies and clarify meaning prior to making a more formal statement.

It remains a mystery to me that the same attachment can get scrambled and come out as gobbledegook to some recipients, while others receive it perfectly well. And I'm hopeless at emoticons and acronyms – thought LOL was 'lots of love' – so thanks again, Jacqui, for enlightenment!

*Anne Rix*

## Wrong terminology?

Please, please, why does EO so often use the term school phobia? (eg in the helpline article, August issue).

A phobia, to me, is an irrational fear of something that is really safe, such as oranges, or lifts.

A child who refuses to go to school is not subject to an irrational fear, far from it, and to say that they are is to belittle them. She/he is expressing clearly their rational and intuitive feeling that school is too noisy/ violent/ disrespectful/ pushy etc. for them, and therefore they will not go.

When our daughter refused, finally, ever to go to school again, it was the clearest, most rational and bravest statement she had ever made. Surely 'school refuser' is a more accurate and respectful term, as it reflects the child's own intelligent choice.

*Penelope & Julian Easten E-mail:  
penelope@synergynet.co.uk*

## Thank You

I would like to offer profound thanks for people who have given financial support to my family in their time of need; it means so much to know people care about my children and I'll let you know how we get on. Thanks so much – with love

*Martine Frampton*

## Diary of a Home Educating Nobody

by Ross Mountney

My eldest has reached a stage now where the only questions she ever gets asked about her education are 'so.....what about GCSEs?'

Actually she hasn't been asked about her education much at all really over the last six years since we've been HEing. I hear the relatives asking other children 'How are you getting on at school?' But when it comes to asking my children, I sense the same kind of discomfort as if they were enquiring about bowel movements or something! It's too personal. Funny how they think HE is too personal (or taboo?) to talk about.

Anyway, now she's reached the age where her contemporaries are stuck on the GCSE treadmill she's asked about it intensely, as if people are getting desperate! As if they must have something concrete to show for all these years of studying subjects which interest her. Something to show she is educated. Because GCSEs, exams, SATS and all that testing do show that - don't they?

It was a long time ago when I had my first suspicions that it didn't. In fact, it was the reason I gave up primary teaching - because I was just not happy to be part of an educational system that revolved around endless testing and a National Curriculum. It seemed to me to be the total opposite of what I believed education should be: the personal development of each individual. How can restricting learning to the content of one overall curriculum develop each individual? Seems a contradiction to me.

The only thing SATS tell me about a child is that they have an ability to pass SATS! And is passing SATS a good life skill in the wide world? Do they demonstrate that a child has the skills to conquer the problems they face as they grow up and take their place happily in an adult world? I don't think so somehow. I just think they waste a child's time spent memorising and regurgitating irrelevant information. As John Holt, famous for his radical writing about education, once said - no one grows any taller for being measured!

But that is to do with the primary stages. And many people feel that it doesn't matter that much when they're little, it's later on at GCSE stage when it gets important. Trouble is - it's the early education that's the most important! Because the groundwork; the attitude to learning laid down right at the start of a child's life, is what sets them up for all that follows. So a happy, comfortable, successful experience of learning in those first years is vital. Why spoil it with tests I say?

So, having tried (dare I ask the children whether it's succeeded?) to give the children a happy, comfortable experience with learning over our last six years what about GCSEs? What are we going to do?

Well - we discuss them a lot! We talk mostly about what are they for? Who are they for? And once we started talking about that the questions started to get really big; what do we want to do with our lives ahead of GCSEs? And how can we achieve that best? And the biggest of all; what is being educated anyway - since obviously the children are going to need to demonstrate that they are!

It really does make you think. It makes you think really hard about what education actually is - if it isn't simply about these exams and tests. And it makes you think really hard about your children's lives, their priorities, their futures, what makes a person educated and what sets them up best to find their own way in the world.

Big scary questions! I hope you're not thinking I've got the answers!

Sorry, I haven't - for the simple reason that the answers, like education should be, are different for everyone. And I believe that the only way we're going to get at the answers is very simple; ask the right questions!

I know this sounds ridiculously obvious and you may well think I'm off my head (could be true - I admit!) but sometimes in our quest for understanding we can so easily overlook the obvious.

It is so easy to become conditioned to the norm. It has happened to me and still happens. We are enormously influenced by what everyone else is doing. So much so that we forget that we have choices. And we forget to make choices. And therefore we forget to ask the questions. The biggest major question being 'is this right for us and do we choose to do it?'

Like me you will already have asked yourselves questions - you wouldn't be HEing if you hadn't already questioned whether school was right for your child.

But I now realise that I can go on questioning. I can ask whether GCSEs are right for my child. Whether they are relevant to my child's future. Or whether not doing them now - or A levels, or any qualification for that matter - is going to make that much difference to them.

Which made us realise that however many answers we come up with there is one thing we will never be able to give a concrete answer to. We can never ever be absolutely certain what is going to happen in the future anyway. Everything can alter.

My teenager could slog her academic guts out to gain masses of qualifications just for the sake of it, to then find they're not relevant to what she wants to do.

Conversely she could do nothing about qualifications now, then take them when the need arises, as a mature student through other routes.

Who knows what will happen? Nothing is certain.

So whatever answers we come up with now, we can at a later date choose to change, and not stay stuck with the idea that we can only ever follow one path! Change is good - change is about growing. I would hate the idea that I had lived a life and never changed or altered anything in all of that time.

I guess an educated person is probably a questioning person. A person that sees, and learns, and chooses, with an open and informed mind, all through their lives. Someone who can adapt to changes, and confront and solve problems openly and without restricted thinking.

If GCSEs suit our child and her foreseeable future we will do them, but we shall never make our child or her future suit GCSEs!

Many employers are realising that just because young people have masses of academic qualifications it doesn't make them employable. Other more personable skills do.

And I always had a sneaking feeling, both about students and even more about the teachers who taught them, that having masses of academic qualifications doesn't necessarily make a person educated!

I now see increasing numbers of HE'd children who are well educated. Although I know that to be true, proving it to the rest of the world might be tricky. But it is possible. Whether we choose to take that unconventional path is up to each one of us. But even schools are beginning to provide alternatives to the traditional GCSE route for students it doesn't suit.

So what about our child?

It is up to her. We will choose through discussion to do what suits her needs, aware that her needs change so we will change. We might bypass them and go straight to A' levels. We might skip it all and do an OU course. She might go into sixth form or college via access courses or use night school. She might do none of this and go straight into work, knowing that she has the opportunity to come back to academic education at any time she wants to. She might start her own business.

But we'll always keep in mind the fact that, despite being conditioned to think otherwise, whatever decision we make now we can change in the future.

Her education, like the rest of her development and her life, continues beyond GCSEs. What ever age she is, meeting her needs at that time and showing her how to overcome obstacles in her path has always been our way of educating her, and I hope that this will show her how to do that for herself during the rest of her life. And most importantly, we are going to try not to overlook the obvious; that GCSEs are only one very, very small part of life. And actually (dare I suggest?) they don't even have to be a part of it at all!

## Make the World Miles Better Sport Relief 2006

In 2004 over 81,000 people, including loads of famous faces, came together to take part in the Sport Relief Mile.

We'd love you and your group to be involved in Sport Relief 2006 by taking part or by holding your very own Sport Relief Mile in the summer. People up and down the country will be donning their red socks and going the distance in this campaign for the Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile.

There will also be a fantastic night of entertainment to celebrate everyone's achievements on Sport Relief Saturday – July 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Sport Relief Mile is a great opportunity to get everyone involved in something exciting, and learn about the world at the same time. In 2002 & 2004 Sport Relief raised £31 million, making a huge difference to thousands of young people.

Put Sport Relief in your diary now and go to [www.sportrelief.com](http://www.sportrelief.com) to sign up for more information. Look out for Sport Relief resources plus additional support online from Easter '06.

## Survival Skills Course

I would like to get together a group of home educated children aged over 12, to take part in the Woodland Survival Course 1, run by Woodland Survival Crafts. The course covers safety and hygiene, shelter construction, friction fire lighting, cooking on open fires, string making and wild food identification and preparation. It takes place in Spring Wood on the Derbyshire/Leicestershire border and runs for 24 hours (12 noon to 12 noon). The date is still to be fixed. Following this course, participants would have the option of doing Woodland Survival Courses 2 and 3 which lead to an OCN level 2 qualification, equivalent to a GCSE.

The cost of Course 1 is £450, which would be split between participants. So if 10 people participate then each would pay £45. There is a maximum of 12 students per course.

Further information can be found at [www.woodlandssurvivalcrafts.com](http://www.woodlandssurvivalcrafts.com).

If you are interested and would like to find out more, please contact Penny on 01223 526441 [penny.k@ntlworld.com](mailto:penny.k@ntlworld.com).

# Using Electronic Communication

This little article is aimed at those of you who are considering entering the world of us technophiles and leaving the world of technophobes.

## The Internet and the World Wide Web

The difference between the Internet and the www (World Wide Web – sometimes known as the 'World Wide Wait' when it is running slowly) taken from Tim Berners-Lee's FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) page.

*The Internet ('Net) is a network of networks. Basically it is made from computers and cables. What Vint Cerf and Bob Kahn did was to figure out how this could be used to send around little "packets" of information. As Vint points out, a packet is a bit like a postcard with a simple address on it. If you put the right address on a packet, and gave it to any computer which is connected as part of the Net, each computer would figure out which cable to send it down next so that it would get to its destination. That's what the Internet does. It delivers packets - anywhere in the world, normally well under a second.*

*The Web is an abstract (imaginary) space of information. On the Net, you find computers -- on the Web, you find document, sounds, videos,... information. On the Net, the connections are cables between computers; on the Web, connections are hypertext links. The Web exists because of programs which communicate between computers on the Net. The Web could not be without the Net. The Web made the net useful because people are really interested in information (not to mention knowledge and wisdom!) and don't really want to have know about computers and cables.*

*<http://www.w3.org/People/Berners-Lee/FAQ>*

## Searching the Web

There are a number of 'search engines'; Google is probably the most famous one at the moment. In September 2003 Google had indexed over 3.3 billion pages of textual information. The trick is to separate the wheat from the chaff. Other search engines include Alta Vista, Yahoo, MSN, Lycos and Excite. Education Otherwise has a 'Google' search facility which will search the whole www or will search for information on our website alone.

To search for information using a search engine, type into the 'search box' the keywords of your search. If you type such words as 'the', 'and', 'or' etc. most search engines ignore these words. Some will search for the site based on it's popularity, some for how many times your search words appear in the individual web site. But most will bring up many thousands of results. To refine your search, be more specific with your keywords or choose different ones.

There is even a game now called 'Googlewhacking'. This is when you put two words into the search box and only one result is found. If you do this, it's called a Googlewhack! A great time waster and you find some really obscure connections between words. <http://www.googlewhack.com/>

## What is an URL?

URL stands for Uniform Resource Locator and is the unique location of a document/folder on the www. The first part is usually 'http://' which stands for 'Hyper Text Transfer Protocol' and basically is a communication protocol connecting documents to the www. The following www we already know stands for World Wide Web and then comes the domain name. This is the name that a person or organisation purchases and lays claim to. Most domain names are then followed by a full stop and then one of a number of extensions, e.g. .org or .com or .co.uk

<http://www.education-otherwise.org/> will be familiar to those of you already using the www as it is the domain name of Education Otherwise. Often you will see further words/sequences of letters following the 'forward slash' (/). These should be familiar to you from your own computer or your own home filing system. You have a set of four drawers; the top drawer contains household expenses files; the files contain individual bills. So the address/URL of your latest electricity bill would be:  
[www.smithfamily.org/top\\_drawer/electricity/feb2005](http://www.smithfamily.org/top_drawer/electricity/feb2005)

## Hypertext Links

These are the links which send you to another page on the www, maybe on the same website, maybe not. Sometimes they are in a different colour and underlined, sometimes just a different colour, sometimes they change colour. What will happen though is that your cursor (pointer) will change from an arrow to a hand with a pointing finger. When it does, you know that by clicking there, it should take you to another page (or to page/window from which you can send an email)...and it should be relevant to what you have been reading.

*Jacqui Houlding*



## New EO T-Shirt

EO is considering adding at least one new T-shirt to their range...but this time, it must be humorous! Humorous but not slanderous, not rude and not an infringement of someone else's copyright.

We would like to involve home educators in this!

Please send your designs or suggestions for the front of a T-shirt to [jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk](mailto:jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk) or Jacqui Houlding, 38 Garwood Close, Westbrook, Warrington WA5 8TF or 01925 654856. It can be a phrase, or you can design a picture....or a combination of the two!  
All suggestions by Christmas please - They will be put on the lists and in the February newsletter so that people can vote for their favourite.

# OCTOBER COMPETITION

Closing date 31<sup>st</sup> October

Hi all, the autumn is here and the nights are drawing in - time to master a new puzzle? I thought that we would try something different this time - Sudoku! I have given you a choice of 2 - one standard size and a slightly easier one - choose which one you want to do, or do both! Instructions below - it certainly gets your brain working!

The prize for this issues competition is a year's subscription to Juno magazine, for more information see <http://www.hhm.com/juno/> Juno is a parenting magazine with an ethos based on natural parenting, sustainability, social justice and spiritual awareness. A very worthwhile prize! The winner of last issues prize is Rhys Pena from Suffolk.

Usual competition rules apply - no council members/puzzle compiler or their families.

All entries to be sent to: EO Competition, 79 Cumberland Avenue, Cleveleys, Lancashire. FY5 2DS or email to: [tracysolooney@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:tracysolooney@tiscali.co.uk) Remember to include your name, address, telephone and email if you have one. Good luck!

**Sudoku** - The aim of the puzzle is to enter a numeral from 1 to 9 or (in the easy version) from 1 to 6 in each cell of a grid. Each row, column and block must contain only one instance of each numeral. So for example in the biggest puzzle, numbers 1 to 9 must appear **only once** in each line down, and in each line across, and in each block.

Example Completed Sudoku

7	5	6	9	4	8	1	2	3
1	3	4	5	2	7	6	8	9
8	9	2	6	3	1	4	7	5
9	8	7	2	5	4	3	1	6
6	2	1	7	9	3	5	4	8
3	4	5	8	1	6	7	9	2
5	6	9	4	7	2	8	3	1
4	1	8	3	6	9	2	5	7
2	7	3	1	8	5	9	6	4

The Big Brain Teaser!

4	8	3			1			
		1	4	7	9		5	
	1			5				
2			1	6	8		9	
6	9				4		1	
7	4	9	8					3
		5			6			
1	3	2	6	4				
	4			7		1		2

The Tiny Teaser!

	1				2		
5	3		6				
1	2				1	5	
	4						
		1			2	4	
2					3		

## REVIEWS

### **The Chronicles of Spencer Drew Adventure on Monkey Island**

by Robert Guy Spencer and Becky Hall

This is an unusual story about a young boy who loses his eye in an accident and has it replaced by a tiger's eye that can reflect light. Some time after he has had the eye fitted in, Spencer goes with some family members to a place called Monkey Island to explore there. To Spencer's horror, he sees his father and uncle being kidnapped by some pirates! From then on, it's up to Spencer to save his family and stop the evil pirates. I recommend this book for boys and girls aged twelve upwards as this book contains some unexpected strong language.

James (13)

ISBN 1-85776-935-X The Book Guild

### **Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz**

This is the first in the series of Alex Rider books. Alex is a teenager. Having lost his parents in infancy, his closest relative, his Uncle, dies in an "accident" connected with his work for MI6. Reluctantly dragged into the world of espionage, all Alex really wants is to be a normal teenager. Horowitz has a fantastic style - gripping and exciting. The action is incredibly well done. I personally tend to find action scenes in other books are rather underwhelming compared to those in movies but with the Alex Rider books, it is the polar opposite. In Stormbreaker Alex has to investigate a man who is giving away his "revolutionary" Stormbreaker computers to every school in England. The only way MI6 can find out what is going on is to send a boy disguised as a school competition winner to be the first to try out the new computer. I would recommend Stormbreaker to anyone who likes the spy genre. 10/10.

Matt (15)

£5.99 ISBN 1-84428-930-3 Walker

### **Colours - a First Art Book**

by Lucy Micklethwait

An excellent choice of art works to prompt discussions, not just on the subject of colours, but also on the various paintings from Monet and Van Gogh to Durer and Yoshikuni, from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Many different mediums are used. Nice, straightforward picture index under colour listings but I would have liked a short commentary on each picture in more detail. This is visually a very satisfying book. Art as an everyday inspiration, not just as gallery pieces! Oliver giggled all the way through. He loved the pictures with his favourites being the Brown Owl and the Orange Oranges. He also repeated all the words as we read them through.

Jane with Oliver (3)

£9.99 ISBN 1-84507-285-5 Frances Lincoln

### **Bravo, Grace! by Mary Hoffman**

My 7 year old lost interest early on in this book and so I must confess I just skimmed through the rest to the end. We are not familiar with the other Grace books and so it may be an idea to read these first. The book follows Grace's journey as she adjusts to having a step-dad and new baby brother. It also touches on school, friendships, bullying and eating disorders. I'd suggest that this book is suitable for older children, perhaps 9+. It would perhaps be of help or interest to children who are facing some of the same issues as Grace.

Emma with Chloe (7)

£8.99 ISBN 1-84507-057-7 Frances Lincoln

### **Bella Balistica and the Indian Summer**

by Adam Guillain

Another Bella adventure, this time in India. Bella faces another exciting adventure of mystical powers and sinister forces mixed with the awful truths of child labour, animal cruelty and coming to terms with her Mum's new boyfriend. These books are so thought provoking, sparking many discussions. We all love them, Bella is a wonderful character who has such amazing powers, allowing her to fly, speak to animals and change form, yet far from being all fantasy these books give a real insight into how awful some people's situations are.

Denise with Lewis (11) and Katie (7)

£5.99 ISBN 1-84059-407-1 Milet

### **Go to Sleep Little Bear by Jan Magensen**

This is about a little bear who should be going to sleep for the winter, but he is too interested in the snow and won't go to sleep. Not long after he eventually gets to sleep he is woken by his mother for the Spring. A little tired and grumpy bear! Gemma enjoyed reading it and loved the pictures. She thought that the little bear was cheeky. A good night time read.

Debbie with Gemma (7)

£9.99 ISBN 0-86315-490-5 Floris

### **'Glitter Greeting Cards' by Polly Pinder**

and 'Making Christmas Cards by Judy Balchin

I could not wait to make the cards in these two books. The ideas are brilliant and use easily obtainable materials that are not expensive. I have made several of the Christmas cards already, which I will send to my special friends at Christmas. The instructions were very easy to follow and the results very pleasing. I have also made a birthday card and a thank you card from the 'glitter' card book and this too is very good. Recommend for anyone who likes craft and wants to send out more personal cards.

Susan (12)

Both books £6.99 each, Search Press

### Care of Henry by Anne Fine

Hugo has to choose who he will stay with while his mum goes into hospital to have a baby. Will it be Granny, Mrs Marisposa next door, Uncle Jack? Non-one seems to be able to tick all the boxes on Hugh's list. Only Granny can cope with Henry the dog so Granny's is where he ends up only to be pleasantly surprised and getting more than he had hoped for. Ideal young reader book by a very popular author. Very enjoyable.

Carole with Luke (6)

£3.99 ISBN 1-84428-1493 Walker

### I'm Not Cute by Jonathan Allen

I like this story. The pictures are funny and made me laugh specially the owl's big eyes and the fox. I could nearly read all of the words by myself. I like it when he says *I'm not cute* and there are lots of hugs in it and I like hugs.

Ben (6)

£10.99 Boxer Books ISBN 0-9547373-4-2

### Horsing Around by Jacqueline Arena

A quirky, simple easy-reader - a short book (*Girls Rock!* series) best enjoyed when read as a play, and therefore an interesting offering. Introduces a few basic, limited horse facts and some kids' jokes about horses. Could be better value for what it offers. This book does not openly state its target reader "age range" - follow the advertised web link too though and you find these books are aimed at "less able or more reluctant readers", and if your child/children fall into this category, this book should be short enough to hold their attention and hopefully encourage them to read more, but it wasn't challenging enough for our daughter, Isis. This is supposed to be a KS2 title (for ages 7-8), and a paired reading pack aimed at primary schools sells for, wait for it, £52 - which is 2 copies of each of the 8 titles in the *Girls Rock!* series, including this one. Finally, don't assume such titles are only for girls - but as for value, we remain unconvinced by this package. The web site is worth a look, however, if you haven't come across it before.

Robin, Michael and Isis (5)

£3.99 ISBN 1-905056-23-0 Rising Stars

### Earth, Water, Fire and Air - playful explorations in the four elements by Walter Krawl

An exciting book for 6-12 year olds exploring the elements with activities such as making water wheels, paddle steamers, weather vanes and dam building. Some are quite easy - other larger projects would require adult help but all look great fun for adults too. There is lots of interesting information on the science behind why it works. A book that makes you want to get down to the nearest stream.

Hilary with Isaac (5)

£8.99 ISBN 0-86315-489-1 Floris

### Dolphin Boy

by Michael Morpurgo and Michael Foreman

What a lovely book! Michael Morpurgo is a master storyteller and this tale of a fishing community struggling to survive the pressures of diminishing fish stocks is no exception. For all ages, this is a simple, beautifully illustrated book about finding hope amidst adversity and about the need to work with nature rather than against it. We all loved this story, and, as it works as a simple story and as a comment about fishing policies and the changing nature of small economic communities in the UK, it is a very useful book for introducing debates and discussions about the morality of fishing, the impact of European/government directives and so on. A bargain at £5.99!

Karen with Holly (8), Hamish (6) and Minnie (3)

£5.99 ISBN 1-84270-448-6 Andersen Press

### My Daddy is a Pretzel by Baron Baptiste

The message, the design, artwork and text are all excellent. The yoga positions are explained succinctly and well, we could follow them easily - or rather I did whilst the kids fell about laughing. The drawings are clear and easy to understand. Each pose also has a one liner on the benefits. At the end of book are tips for young yogis and some hints on attitude. Moreover the whole book oozes fun and enjoyment. However, after a bit more thought two things became apparent. First, it is difficult to gauge the intended age of the yogi. Ruby loved the pictures which are like those in a book for toddlers. The boys didn't quite get the links between pictures (Sita's mummy's a marine biologist - her Daddy does the Fish Pose) nor some of the tips at the end. So though the book appears to attract younger ones, it is probably more valuable to slightly older children, say 9+. The other thing was the title. Pretzels are American (and remind me of Mr Bush) and the essence of this book is American and so something doesn't quite sit quite right here in the UK. I think that is why I haven't been able to rave about it as easily as I thought I would. Now if it had been titled "My Daddy is a Twiglet" or "My Mummy is a Lardy Cake" then I think we'd have connected instantly....

Hazel with Tristan (6), Hayden (5) and Ruby (2)

£10.99 ISBN 1-84148-150-5 Barefoot Books

### Ancient Greeks

One of a good series of books for children who can read reasonably well and who enjoy factual books. In this one we learnt about how the Ancient Greeks lived and worshipped, battled and relaxed at home. Good, clear text with lots of pictures and many other titles in the series from *Castles* to *Under the Sea*. Well recommended.

Susan with Gwenan (11) and Ceri (7)

£3.99 ISBN 0-7460-5911-6 Usborne

### **Man of the Match** by *Sophie Smiley*

I don't think this is a very good book because I am not interested in football. I think it is about football and nothing else so to improve it I would add other subjects. It is pretty easy to read and is probably best for ages 8-10.

Jem Freiesleben (11)

£4.99 ISBN 1-84270-420-6 Andersen Press

### **Autumn Nature Activities for Children**

by *Irmgard Kutsch and Brigitte Walden*

The first in a new series of wonderfully inspiring activity books, full of indoor and outdoor activities, songs, recipes and stories plus information on using recycled and eco-friendly materials. We loved the photos which showed happy children in jumpers and wellies thoroughly enjoying the activities - photos that really inspire you to get outdoors, despite the colder weather. There's a detailed section on paper making. A section on house building was very good and inspired us to have a go at a willow house with a star roof. It emphasises the importance of a healthy lifestyle and some of the philosophies on childhood and family life. An invaluable book for those who feel childhood should be close to nature and in touch with the seasons. Definitely one of the best activity books I have read.

Hilary with Isaac (5)

£12.99 ISBN 0-86315-495-6 Floris Books

### **Casting The Gods Adrift**

by *Geraldine McCaughrean*

One in a series of 'Flashback' books in which dramatic stories are set during key moments in history. Based on factual events, this one is set in ancient Egypt between 1351 and 1354 BC. Tutmose and Ibrim's father, an animal dealer, is commanded by the new pharaoh Akhenaten, to bring him animals - lots of animals - for his new capital city. The boys and their father are delighted, but have no idea what the pharaoh's strange new religion will mean for all of them. This story centres on this Pharaoh's controversial views on religion - he believed there was only one God. To the Egyptians this was a religious and cultural shock. These events are viewed through the eyes of a young boy and his family. I would say this was aimed at 9+ readers, although it failed to appeal to either of my sons (9 & 11) even though the subject matter is one they are very interested in.

Caroline

£4.99 ISBN 0-7136-7455-5 A&C Black

### **A Strong and Willing Girl** by *Dorothy Edwards*

This is based on the life of the authors Aunt Grace who was a maidservant in Victorian times. We hear how Nan, at the age of 10, goes out to work scrubbing the Vicarage steps and steadily through her life, works her way up to be a lady's

maidservant. Full of stories the spirited Nan gives us a good insight into Victorian Times though as Gwenan pointed out, not the most gripping of reads. Susan with Gwenan (11)

£6.99 ISBN 1-903252-20-2 Jane Nissen Books.

### **So Much to Tell You** by *John Marsden*

This book is written like the diary of a teenage girl. We do not find out her name until the final chapter. This style was a little odd to begin with but you soon get used to it. Through the diary the reader learns of the girl's life at a boarding school, her abusive father and her growing friendships. The book deals with the girl's daily life and her feelings about herself and others. It was interesting and enjoyable. I liked getting to know the writer gradually through her story. It was a touching account of a personal recovery written in an engaging way.

Molly (12)

£4.99 ISBN1-84428-946-X Walker

### **Star Crystal, Daughter of Snow White and Other Stories** by *Annabella Steward*

Romy quite enjoyed this collection of seven modern fairy tales written in a traditional way. The illustrations are lovely and the book looks like the perfect Christmas gift. However, we both found the plots quite hard to follow. They were quite convoluted and, well... weird! For instance Snow White's daughter meets her mother's wicked stepmother's half brother and falls in love. She then goes to stay over the rainbow on the yellow brick road with the seven dwarfs' grandchildren who have become the munchkins!!! If I could hardly follow it there was no hope for Romy!

Hazel with Romy (6)

£12.99 ISBN 1-85776-940-6 Book Guild

### **Super Kids** by *Sasha Norris & Rupert Davies*

As the cover says "over 200 incredible ways for kids to save the planet". This book is split in to 12 different categories which are energy, water, waste, food, home & school, pets, garden, wildlife, toys, transport, having fun and it's over to you. This is an extremely good book. I for one don't particularly like eco books because most of them are not very hands-on or for children but this book is both and I found it really interesting plus it was good fun too with lots of novel illustrations.

Keith (11)

£5.99 ISBN 1-84525-001-X Green Books

### **A Candle in the Dark** by *Adèle Geras*

Clara and her little brother Maxi are Jews and need to get away from the Nazis. Their mother sends them on the Kindertransport. The children have to leave their mother behind and their father is in a special camp and cannot leave yet. Clara and Max go to England to live with a strange family. They go

to school and take part in a Nativity play. Will they see their parents again? Clara is worried about religion and her role in the play. I don't like the book because it is so sad. I can sympathise with the children. They have lost their cat and are in a strange country on their own. Their situation makes me feel very sad. It must have been horrible for children like this. If you want to find out about Jewish children in the war, read this book.

Karis (11)

£4.99 ISBN 0-7136-7454-7 A&C Black

### **The Seal Children by Jackie Morris**

This story is about a seal woman (selkie) who falls in love with a fisherman who she hears singing while he works. One day she comes out of the sea and gives him her salty sealskin to look after, and she stays with him. They have two children, Ffion and Morlo, but after several years the sea-woman becomes weak and the fisherman knows it's time to let her go back to the sea. Some time later a stranger comes to the village, and tells them of a land over the sea where people can live as they wish, and the villagers want to go there but haven't enough money. Ffion and Morlo go down to the shore and they sing a song to ask their mother to help them. Morlo goes with his mother into the waves, and they return with a box of pearls, enough for all the villagers to travel. Morlo becomes a seal and returns with his mother, and Ffion goes with her father to the New World. I thought this was a rather sad ending, but it was an excellent story with wonderful pictures. Aidan thought the story was "bit sad but really good", and loved the colours in the illustrations. The gentle watercolours bring to life the place and atmospheres, and although the ending was quite melancholy it was a beautifully told story.

Jenny Allwood (13) with Aidan (4)

£5.99 ISBN 1-84507-109-3 Frances Lincoln

### **Informal Education: Conversation, Democracy and Learning by Tony Jeffs and Mark K Smith**

This slim volume is now in its third edition from its original publication in 1996. It defines informal education which is wider in scope than autonomous, self or experiential. What distinguishes informal education is its location in a natural everyday setting rather than in a purpose built classroom where the environment is managed by the educational establishment although some of the more informal activities that take place in the classroom could also be categorised as informal education. The book is largely inspired by the early twentieth century educationalist John Dewey although the origins of informal education can be traced back to Ancient Greeks who considered "dialogue and conversation" .. "the natural way to wisdom and understanding for adults" with "instruction and the classroom "reserved for those who were not mature

enough to join in". Criticism is levelled at the current educational obsession with a depersonalised product approach to education that deals in targets and measurable outcomes to the detriment of the process of education where real benefit may only be manifest over the course of a lifetime. Although this book, by questioning and espousing wider educational values and the benefits of an informal personalised education, is clearly relevant to home educators, there is no evidence that the authors anticipated that it would be useful to us. No mention is made of home education and the intended readership is for professional (paid)

informal educators such as youth, community or prison workers. It aims to stimulate interest in the issues and then provide a signpost to more in depth material. Much of the book's practical focus on the problems for the professionals such as how to start an empathic conversation with strangers or the ethical dilemmas of conflicting of institutional loyalties are not relevant to home educators. It is nonetheless a thoughtful book which provides clarification of important ideas, makes a plea for making flexible use of all available methods as well as espousing values that have led many of us to part company with school education.

Anne

ISBN 1-900-219-29-8 Educational Heretics Press

## **BOOKS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS**

### **Surviving the Special Education Needs**

#### **System by Sandy Row**

I thought this was an excellent book. With humour it guides a parent through the system while describing their own journey through it with their four adopted special needs children and pointing out the pitfalls they found. It was especially helpful as the age range of her children over the years means she could give a wide range of advice. It made me feel sad to read how much damage the fight caused the family but I could also relate to the feelings she shared and it confirmed why I had removed my special needs child from the system. Resources that she mentions can be assessed by home educating families and she herself dipped in and out of home education with her children. It also illustrated to me how little we know of what goes on when the children are not in our care and when they have communication problems how little they share until it can be nearly too late to help them. It was well written, well laid out, easy to read and I would especially recommend it for parents of ASD children.

Sally

£12.95 ISBN 1-84310-262-5 Jessica Kingsley

## Raising NLD Superstars

by *Marcia Brown Rubinstien*

Non-verbal Learning Difficulties (NLD) is one of lesser known specific learning difficulties. I would have liked to have had a brief summary of the characteristics of NLD at the start of the book, but that is my only real criticism. Raising NLD Superstars is written by an educator, and mother of a child with NLD. Rubinstien writes with passion and humour, and the book is quite a compelling read because of this. Information about NLD filters through, but mainly the book is like a supportive friend – someone who helps because they know what you are going through. All home educators know the value of shared experiences, so if you have a child with NLD this book will be an encouragement.

Margaret

£12.95 ISBN 1-84310-770-8 Jessica Kingsley

## Autism Initiatives by *Kate Silver*

Sub-titles *Assessing and Developing Communication and Thinking Skills in People with Autism and Communication Difficulties*. These are assessment sheets, which are coded and cross-referenced with the curriculum in the next part of the book. The sheets are easily photocopy-able and therefore handy to keep as a record and to keep track of your child's progress. They are in two parts: for both ends of the Autistic Spectrum. I found the book useful in defining what constitutes communication and in making the link between thinking skills and those required for communication. Where the book is less successful, I found, is in the way the curriculum and therefore the assessments are not broken down into small enough steps. For example: 'At what level does he interact with others?' is a question that is open to many different interpretations and therefore, ironically, not easily quantifiable. Ironic, because this book is really aimed at professionals in a professional setting, for whom quantifiable data is the name of the game.

Laura

£19.95 ISBN 1-84310-352-4 Jessica Kingsley

## CONTACTS

### Note

Prices quoted are the publishers' recommended retail prices (rrp). Shop around for lower prices – try discount book shops, mail order discount book clubs and the internet. Contact details from publishers are set out below but many titles can be ordered from your local book shop. *The Book People* (tel 0870 6077780 or visit [www.thebookpeople.co.uk](http://www.thebookpeople.co.uk)) is a good, economical source for books. It is NOT a book club and you order what you like, when you like (at prices well below publisher's rrp). Postage / packing is usually free on order over £25 but if you are ordering less tell them you are home educating and you will be able to get a discount rate. Many local EO groups have meetings

where books and other resources are swapped or sold. Don't forget you can usually pick up cheap books at car boot sales, jumble sales etc and the library is a free resource.

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

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

## CONTACTS

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

# 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  
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**plus 1 x loose 2<sup>nd</sup> class stamp  
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## EO/NEC vouchers

£30 discount per course -A5 SAE to Sarah  
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CA4 8RZ (quoting EO membership number)  
or sarah@croggies.freemove.co.uk

## EO Car Stickers

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Please send a reasonably large SAE to:  
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Marlow, Bucks SL7 3NB

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For further details please contact  
alex.caldwell@tiscali.co.uk  
tel: 0116 2720209

## EO Cotton T-shirts

Good quality - choice of 2 designs:

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'school patrol' EO logo.

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**"home education - a real option"**

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and complete your personal details and  
tick the Learn Premium box.

## 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 to Jo Borthen tel: 01392 438876

email: jo4eo@aol.com

### ENGLAND

#### BATH

H.E.L.P. group meets regularly for outings and activities. Contact: Louise Jensen 07957 618988 jensen-thomas@clara.co.uk

**BEDFORDSHIRE** The Luton Home Education Group established 2004 - We are a small but expanding group, and our aim is to not only help bring HE into the open but to also provide ongoing events to keep our children learning and entertained. All are welcome to join in. For a copy of the latest newsletter, contact Fran on 01582 515458 email: francfranc100@yahoo.co.uk

**For events programme in Bedfordshire** contact June McDonald on 01234 341375 email info@Bedford-Home-Ed.org.uk "History" theme for autumn. Art/craft sessions, workshops, theatre and visits including the Globe, Mountfitchet Castle, Hampton Court and Hatfield House. Also regular swimming, multisports, gym, chess club, carpentry group, GCSE groups, etc. Website: www.Bedford-Home-Ed.org.uk

**BERKSHIRE** email list for home educators in Berkshire and surrounding counties.

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

Activities and HE events for all ages most days including social for chat and play; crafts; swimming; bowling; skating; wall climbing and other indoor and outdoor sports and organised camping, caving, walking and cycling trips. For details and list of all Berks activities contact Gail: gail@borrows.plus.com, 01628 483895

**Camp Mohawk** Home Education Centre 3 days / wk - workshops, lessons, activities. Contact Dawn 01628 783107, [thirdEye1@compuserve.com](mailto:thirdEye1@compuserve.com) or website [www.homeeducators.co.uk](http://www.homeeducators.co.uk)

**Lambourn** - Fridays. Meeting on a farm, for crafts, cooking and nature walks. Contact Tracey or Roge: 01793 610448, [roge.tracey@virgin.net](mailto: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 9412707

Email list for Bristol and surrounding areas at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BristolHomeEducation> Also local group website for more information about home education in Bristol: [www.bristolhomeeducation.org.uk](http://www.bristolhomeeducation.org.uk)

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

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

**South Bucks:** meetings for craft, activities, play, speakers, drama, trips etc. Contact: Jackie 01753

886924 or Gail Borrows 01628 483895

[gail@borrows.plus.com](mailto:gail@borrows.plus.com)

#### CAMBRIDGESHIRE

**Cambridge** regular meetings and outings. Penny 01223 526441 [penny.k@ntworld.com](mailto:penny.k@ntworld.com)

**Alconbury** monthly activities s 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](mailto:sarah.lambert7@ntworld.com)

#### Cambridge/Norfolk border:

North Cambridgeshire: Fortnightly at March. Contact Jane 01354 677869 or Sarah 01354 688245

Email: [Pat.Northcamb@chauntryhouse.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:Pat.Northcamb@chauntryhouse.fsnet.co.uk)

#### CHESHIRE

**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](mailto:home.ed@ntworld.com)

#### CLEVELAND AND DURHAM (see also DURHAM)

Tel: Lynsey Hutchby 01642 800940 [l.hutchby@tesco.net](mailto: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 Cuillin (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](mailto:Annawheeler@cambrose.fsnet.co.uk)

Local information on our local home ed website:

[Homeedinkermow.tripod.com](http://Homeedinkermow.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](mailto:cumbria.otherwise@dsl.pipex.com)

**Kendal** alternate Mondays Endmoor Village Hall 1-4pm, Contact Jo Collier 01539 567005.

**Penrith** alternate Tuesdays Castletown Community Centre 1.30-3.30 Contact: Sarah Cook 01768 896019

**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.

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

Contact Andy 01332 752998 or [andy@derbyhe.co.uk](mailto:andy@derbyhe.co.uk)

Meetings in **Amber Valley, Alfreton** area, 30 minute drive from Derby, Nottingham, Matlock and Mansfield 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](mailto: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.National trust card is held by Louise contact: 01392 275426 [louise\\_239@fsmail.net](mailto:louise_239@fsmail.net)

**Exeter:** Tuesday:EO meetings in the park, alternate music and art sessions, contact Ali 01392 255568

**Wednesday:**Free range Learning, something for all ages.Yoga, science, music, cooking, and art and craft.

Please ring Annie for more details - 01392 434167

Thursday: alternate weekly outings contact Louise 01392 275426 email: [louise\\_239@fsmail.net](mailto:louise_239@fsmail.net)

Friday: Pottery - held in pottery workshop with kiln and wheels, fortnightly 1-3pm contact Neil 01363 82314 Green Woodworking contact Neil 01363 82314

Exeter Puddlers weekly contact Jules 01626 865456

**Okehampton** meetings on alternate weeks, contact Barbara 01837 55805

**East and Mid Devon:** Contact Kate 01392 851370 or Louise 01392 275426

**Tiverton Adventure Playground**, first meeting

OCTOBER 13<sup>th</sup> contact Eileen 01884 256955

**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

Meetings with loads of activities for all ages - full details in Devon newsletter (see above)

**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](http://www.he-ed.org.uk)

Meeting every Monday for crafts, games, play etc.

Friendly, welcoming group. Contact: June

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

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

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

To join e-mail [s.waynforth@btopenworld.com](mailto:s.waynforth@btopenworld.com).

**ESSEX Chelmsford** meetings - monthly, third Thursday 1-4pm, various activities. Contact:

Sally@brisleys.freemove.co.uk

**Chelmsford** ice skating - Riverside, Fridays 3.30 - 5pm.

**Colchester** - Bowling and swimming monthly - also

informal meetings fortnightly, [debbie-m@lineone.net](mailto:debbie-m@lineone.net) or 0778 6570870

**Southend** - informal meetings monthly, first Mondays.

[paul.nadine@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:paul.nadine@blueyonder.co.uk) 01702 319682

**Tiptree** - monthly meetings - last Tuesday of month 2pm

- 5pm. Contact Julie email: [julie.ashton@ntlworld.com](mailto:julie.ashton@ntlworld.com)

New Teens Group - meeting monthly - various venues

across Essex. Sally@brisleys.freemove.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](mailto: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>

ml also Email list for events and forum for discussions, information and virtual activities. Contact Rob and Fiona

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

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

Beverley 01242 524091 or Mhairi 01452 384104.

**\*\*NEW\* Dursley** Home Educators meeting first weds/month for social, support and activities. Swimming

and occasional outings. All welcome. Contact Paula

01453 519287 email: [uks\\_sneaky@hotmail.com](mailto:uks_sneaky@hotmail.com)

**Gloucester** meetings & swimming. Contact Dawn

01452 540019 [dawnandmike@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:dawnandmike@blueyonder.co.uk)

or Tracy 07941 612092

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

[www.activeo.co.uk](http://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: [jkbar1955@myrealbox.com](mailto:jkbar1955@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, [eo@azakit.com](mailto:eo@azakit.com), or east; Lesley 01420 543414, [lmaskell@tesco.net](mailto:lmaskell@tesco.net)

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

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

**Romsey/New Forest** area, fortnightly - details email

Karen Robinson on [karence@btinternet.com](mailto:karence@btinternet.com)

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

Events List for Herts Home Educators please email

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

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](mailto:babs.mcdonald@ntlworld.com)

**ISLE OF MAN** 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](mailto:hen-iom@manx.net)

**ISLE OF WIGHT** Contact Shara 01983 562313

Isle of Wight Learning Zone workshops, social events +

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 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:

Andy Jones (LC Kent) tel: Medway 01634 326868 email:

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

**Wealden** Home Ed website: [www.when.omnia.co.uk](http://www.when.omnia.co.uk) and email group:

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

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

surrounding areas - **East Bleas** 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](mailto:he@simonandheather.fsnet.co.uk)

**Ash, Sandwich, Dover, Canterbury, Ramsgate**

and surrounding areas Contact Leanne 01304 814498

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

**Medway towns** Contact: Bridget 01634 234938

**Bromley** Contact: Claire 0181 460 7347

[Claire@wadefamily99.freemove.co.uk](mailto: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

**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@ntlworld.com

For comprehensive list of monthly events please email Pam at davidandpam@ntlworld.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](http://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

**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, christinehalse1@yahoo.co.uk

**S Lincs** Regular meetings & activities, swimming etc. Contact Lorraine 0845 458 3004

#### **LONDON**

**Bromley/Croydon** Chrysalis Group meets most weeks for activities and outings, age from 0-10. Very welcoming. Contact Jenny 0208 654 3972 or jen9@blueyonder.co.uk

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

**Dulwich**, Woodland Club, Wednesdays. Activities/social, ages 7-16, contact Jo 0208 693 5066

**Forest Hill**, all day meetings for age 11 plus, contact Denise 020 8699 6866

**Grove Park** group meets every other Friday. Crafts, volleyball, football, tabletennis - open to any ideas. Contact: Claire Wade 0208 402 5831

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

**Lewisham** Thursdays 11-1 then to park afterwards  
Contact: Jemima 0208 2975672  
jemimacornish@tiscali.co.uk

**New Cross**, term time swim on Tuesdays at 12.30, contact Denise 020 8699 6866

**Sydenham** contact Chrystia + Keith 020 8776 8597

**NW London** Otherwise Club Contact: Leslie 020 8969 0893 Harrow meetings fortnightly on Fridays

**Chelsea** Open House Project poetry evenings, Chelsea from October. Also study group for young linguists - French, Spanish, German, Italian, ESL - And study skills workshops. Call Sophie (020)7581 5238 to book.

**Stammore** 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 kathrynvglynn@hotmail.com

**West London (Chiswick & Ealing)** home ed group meets every Tuesday. Outdoor activities in Spring / Summer. Warmer/drier 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**

Manchester, contact Sue 0161 881 4830

Madcow email list contact Lesley [m\\_samuel@ntlworld.com](mailto:m_samuel@ntlworld.com)

**NORFOLK** 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** Steiner style grp for the under 7s. Craft activities and peaceful, imaginative play. Contact Hilary 01508 518870

**Thetford**, Swimming, indoor sports/play at Leisure Centre Termtime 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

#### **NORTHUMBERLAND/NORTH EAST**

<http://groups.msn.com/EducationOtherwise>

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE** 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, 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 HESEO** (Home Educators Supporting Each Other) Meeting 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month 11:30 - 3:30, Craft, drama, dance, socialising and varied activities. Bring lunch. Contact Jane 01283 820642 christopher.perkins@onetel.net

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

**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>

**SUFFOLK**

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

**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 01932 706191

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

**Dorking/Reigate** area. Helen Burnett 01737 243606

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

**North Surrey/Croydon** meets once a month. Park in the summer, activities in winter, age from 0-15. Contact Jenny 0208 654 3972 or jen9@blueyonder.co.uk.

**SUSSEX** Wealden Home Ed website:

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

Winnie Durdant-Hollamby 01342 826087 (E.Sx) Many events and activities throughout the County. Monthly newsletter gives full details: £8pa or £4 six months, for NL contact Tula 01323 648127, email: asanababy@aol.com Or ring one of the following local events organisers:

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

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

**Hastings HEDGE** Group: Rachel 01424 422178, Emily 01424 719570 or Ali 01424 814175

**\*\*NEW\*Horsham** Horsham Dragons, weekly meetings plus outings, email: jenny2998@snail-mail.net or phone Jenny on 01293 522513

**Brighton:** Kathy 01273 685674, Lucy 01273 204764 or Jim 0779188343

**Eastbourne** 'SHINIES' home ed. group - All ages and abilities welcome. Contact Loretta 01323 509283 or email madboys@tiscali.co.uk for details.

**Shoreham Beach:** Avis 01273 542589 /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](http://www.activeo.co.uk)

**St Leonards/Hastings** call Jenny 01424 434953

for an informal chat/meeting

**Worthing Worthing Area Group (WAG)** every Weds afternoon 1-3pm. Contact Nic - 01903 851232 [nic@goddardstuff.co.uk](mailto:nic@goddardstuff.co.uk)

**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](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@bunchn.freemove.co.uk

**WILTSHIRE** contact: Beccy 01985 840174

**Lynneham/Calne/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

**Lamborne Pottery** 1st Friday of the month 11am-2pm Phone Jane: 01380 860969

Join email list at: [http://groups.yahoo.com/NWlits\\_HE/](http://groups.yahoo.com/NWlits_HE/)

**Devizes:** Last Thursday of month 11.30-2.30 activities, support, socialising. Tel: Janet 01249 818672 email: janet@eidkevist.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

**North Worcs/Kidderminster** meetings - Gail Titcher 101562 822034 [gail@tqmi.co.uk](mailto:gail@tqmi.co.uk)

**YORKSHIRE EAST**

Regular meetings and visits. Alison 01405 769902

**YORKSHIRE NORTH** Carleton Music Group Meets the last Friday of the month, 1pm-3pm, in Carleton Village Hall (near Skipton) for musical activities. Contact: Judith, 01756 791356.

Regular meetings and outings. Contact Karen 01904 400317 [kkarensandy@aol.com](mailto:kkarensandy@aol.com)

weekly on Wednesdays near **Maiton** - contact Tess on 01947 825772 or [tess@chrisgeall.com](mailto:tess@chrisgeall.com)

**YORKSHIRE SOUTH** **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**. Free entry, small contribution for craft materials. 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. 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/venues of interest and Theatre trips, please contact Sarah (01484) 361206 or e-mail [sl.marshall@ntlworld.com](mailto:sl.marshall@ntlworld.com).

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

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

Huddersfield 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.samuelstill@blueyonder.co.uk>](mailto:<ann.samuelstill@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](mailto:contactSWHEN@aol.com) or [bev1.french@btinternet.com](mailto: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](http://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

**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](mailto:d.yeoman@tesco.net)

**Newtown area**: Mondays get-together, twice a month, in Newtown, for activities, play and socialisation. Contact Sue 01686 688748 or [srmw5@tutor.open.ac.uk](mailto:srmw5@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, Berlan Gron, Llanylic, Bala, Gwynedd LL23 7YG

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

### ***Small Groups:***

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

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

**Publications:** Gary Podmore, Lucy Charlton,  
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

**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:** Celia McDonagh, Cardiff, 07763 729055  
email: celiamcdonagh@yahoo.co.uk  
also 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@birthandbeyond.co.uk

**London(1):** (acting) Winnie Durdant-Hollamby,  
East Sussex tel: 01342 826087

**London(2):** (VACANT) *Volunteers Please!!*

**Isle of Wight:** Shara Ouston, Ryde tel: 01983  
562313 email: sharaouston@aol.com

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**EO Email Lists** The **Yahoo based EO general list** where general HE discussion takes place between home educators, members or EO or otherwise. Can be accessed via the website at [www.education-otherwise.org](http://www.education-otherwise.org) The **Yahoo based EO Single Parent list** where general HE discussion can take place but where all members face the same problems of being a single parent. Again, membership is not restricted to EO members. Can be accessed via the website at [www.education-otherwise.org](http://www.education-otherwise.org) The **Yahoo based EO Children's email list** for the children of EO members to chat about anything and everything. This list is closely monitored and membership of EO is verified before approving a child's membership. The email from a child's parent giving information on membership is taken as approval from the parent for membership. Can be accessed via the website at [www.education-otherwise.org](http://www.education-otherwise.org) The **Members Area of EO website contains discussion forums** for general HE chat amongst members and a **business forum** for discussion of the running of EO and both EO and govt policies affecting home education. Also contains **forums for EO members who volunteer to do work for EO**. To join the Member's Forum, send an email to [forums@education-otherwise.org](mailto:forums@education-otherwise.org) giving your preferred User Name, your Full (real) Name, the email address you wish to have associated with the forum and either your full postal address or your EO Membership Number. You will receive an email at your associated email address confirming your Username and giving you a password. You will be able to alter this password to something more memorable yourself.

## **Council Members**

**Jane Bathgate** (Borders) 01835 862118  
**Pam Bellinger** (Leics) 0116 282 7929 (Co Secretary)  
**Gail Borrows** (Bucks) 01628 483895  
gail@borrows.plus.com  
**Tracy Coates** (Lancs) 01253 858840  
tracysoloonay@tiscali.co.uk  
**Sarah Cook** (Cumbria) 01768 896019  
sarah@croggies.freereserve.co.uk  
**Martine Frampton** (Gloucs) 01608 812411  
martine-frampton@macunlimited.net (Treasurer)  
**Phil Hicks** (London Central)  
0207 2294385 phil@hicks.london.com  
**Celia McDonagh** (Wales) 07763 729055  
celiamcdonagh@yahoo.co.uk  
**Gary Podmore** (York) 0114 2585702  
podmorefamily@blueyonder.co.uk  
**Julie Ridley** (Manchester) 0161 860 7589  
julier@breathemail.net (Chairperson)  
**Anne Rix** (Devon) 01237 451535  
anne@annerix.demon.co.uk  
**Janet Simpson** (Lincs) 01427 617313  
HE@hubblesimpson.co.uk  
**Rowenna Williams** (Wales) 01678 521348  
rowenna73@hotmail.com  
**June Wilson-Billing** (Dorset) 01202 827945  
educationotherwise@mac.com  
**Martin Wise** (Cumbria) 01539 732918  
martlakes@dsl.pipex.com

## **Membership**

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

**Database Administrator**, Education Otherwise,  
31 Audley St., Reading, Berkshire, RG30 1BP  
Tel: **Lynda Hitchman 0870 765 3650** or  
01945 860483  
Email [database@education-otherwise.org](mailto: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,  
Verwood, BH31 7PM Tel: 01202 827945 e-mail  
[educationotherwise@mac.com](mailto:educationotherwise@mac.com) (please ring to  
check availability of items before ordering)

**Website and email lists: Jacqui Houlding**,  
01925 654856 [jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk](mailto: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,  
Watford, HertS WD1 8AT 01923 464773

**GCSE Contacts: Geraldine Adams** 0207 263 4922  
**Sarah Cook:** 01768 896019  
sarah@croggies.freereserve.co.uk

**School Phobia: Kathleen (Mary) Thompson** (acting)  
01942 795975 [ktmusic59@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ktmusic59@yahoo.co.uk)

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

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

**Research Contact: Sue White**, 2 Pretoria Villas, Eye  
Rd, Brome, Eye, Suffolk IP23 8AL tel: 01379 870036  
[sue\\_white@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sue_white@tiscali.co.uk)

**Company Secretary: Pam Bellinger** 56 Beech Drive,  
Braunstone, Leicester LE3 3DA 0116 2827929

**Treasurer: Martine Frampton**, 70 Fossey Avenue,  
Moreton in Marsh, GL56 0EA tel: 01608 812411 (not  
mornings) email: [martine-frampton@macunlimited.net](mailto:martine-frampton@macunlimited.net)

**Membership Secretary: Gail Borrows** (acting)  
01628 483895 [gail@borrows.plus.com](mailto:gail@borrows.plus.com)

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

**Coordinator for Local Contacts: Pauline Butterworth**  
01642 570786 [pollyb47@aol.com](mailto:pollyb47@aol.com)

**Enquiries Secretary: Rowenna Williams** (acting)  
01678 521348 [rowenna73@hotmail.com](mailto:rowenna73@hotmail.com)

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

**Newsletter Coordinator: Edana Edwards**  
01909 774811 [vulpixie3@btinternet.com](mailto:vulpixie3@btinternet.com)

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

# education otherwise

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

Our principal aims are to:

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

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

P.O. BOX 7420  
LONDON N9 9SG

Helpline 0870 73 000 74

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

Education Otherwise Association Ltd., Registered Charity No. 1055120

