

education otherwise



No. 167 - Dec. 2005

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

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS 3rd January 2006

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inside back cover*)

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REGIONAL DIARY

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

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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 ssac.** If no acknowledgement is received, or in case of queries, please contact the NL co-ordinator (see inside back cover).
Please also ensure your EO membership is up to date.

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

DISCLAIMER

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

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

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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CONTENTS

INFORMAL REPORT	2
TEESHIRT COMPETITION	4
VOLUNTEER VACANCIES	6
AGM + NOTICES	8
CLASSIFIEDS	11
EDUCATING ARCHIE	12
LETTERS	13
ARTICLES - DIARY OF A....	16
COMPETITION	19
BOOK REVIEWS	20
EO MERCHANDISE	26
REGIONAL DIARY	27
BACK PAGE CONTACTS	32

CO-ORDINATORIAL

Welcome to the December newsletter everybody...December! Oh dear - that came around quickly! I've done the newsletter for well over a year now and my life has changed a lot in that time - and speeded up considerably too! So I'm stepping down as co-ord, although it may be 2007 before another volunteer surfaces to do the job - oh please please help me somebody - I'm drowning in guinea pigs and rabbits (long story) - hence the appropriate front cover! Meanwhile I hope you all enjoy your festive season, however you celebrate it, or not, as the case may be - We certainly need something jolly to get us through another British winter so I'm off to deck the halls now, if I can wrestle any greenery from the rabbits that is - So many tiny stockings to fill this Christmas - if only my son's 'wants' were as small and

simple...and cheap! A quartered brussels sprout and a slice of apple won't impress him much! Although he did mention wanting an 'Apple' for Christmas...hmm, wonder if he'll notice the difference?

Have a lovely winter - I'm sure spring will be in the air by the time you get the next newsletter - I hope that the New Year is an inspiring and rewarding one for you and your family.

Best wishes,

Edana Edwards 15/11/05

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



Informal Report of Council Meeting, 12 November 2005

It was that time again and I duly set off, ready for the day. I did wonder what it would be like when I got there...I'd had a little birdie whisper in my ear that some people were wondering what they should wear after my last two informal reports!

The building we were in was huge...and it took me ages to find the entrance! But the room was comfortable with all the necessary amenities. Remarkably peaceful as well.

It could have been a very confused meeting, but Celia held it together very well. You know the latest fad, Sudoku? Well, the meeting reminded me of that...we couldn't 'box off' one item without discussing another one first as they overlapped...and the answer to the first question was dependent upon the answer to the second, and so on.

Anyway...not a lot of the meeting was contentious and it flowed quite nicely, even though we didn't get through everything. The reports submitted by people were clear and concise and didn't always need a lot of discussion. The amount of work all our volunteers get through is phenomenal. The minutes of the meeting alone just do not convey the amount of work done...when you read the attached reports and consider the time taken to do a lot of this stuff! So where we say, 'the meeting thanked' it is a much more heartfelt thanks than can be conveyed in formal minutes.

There was a lot of financial discussions this time relating to all aspects of EO. The finances are relatively healthy at the moment and it is sincerely hoped that this is the beginning of a new trend. The joining fee for new members is going to increase a little, but it will now actually cover the cost of membership for the first year. Renewals will not increase in price (phew!)

There had been an awful lot of work done, mainly by Lynda Hitchman, on the costs of each member. That is, the cost per member of a newsletter, and a copy of SINC and postage etc. She had received itemised quotes from several different printers and a very substantial savings can be made on the printing costs by moving. I must say the whimsical part of me likes the name of the new printers, 'Spindrift'.

There has also been a proposal to print our Handbooks free of charge for us, the costs being borne by advertisers. A fair amount of time was spent discussing what advertising was considered to be ethical and of interest to home educators. The company making the offer will now be approached to see whether they can fit with us...since we don't want to fit with them.

There was also another discussion on volunteers claiming expenses. Some don't as they see it as an additional contribution to the running of EO. EO would like to encourage all volunteers to complete expense forms and, for those that would like to contribute that little extra to EO, they will have the opportunity on the new expense form to donate it to EO. The beauty of this for EO is that EO can claim the Gift Aid on those donated expenses...so for every £1 donated, EO claims back 28p. The form will also allow people to donate just a proportion of their expenses as nobody should be made to feel it is an all or nothing thing.

Most of the rest of the meeting was dealing with the regular things just ensuring that we all knew what we all were doing. One of the side effects of the smoothness of the meeting was that I didn't end up gazing around while others debated...and as such did not analyse everyone's fashion sense! But not to let down the fans of this section of the report...Tracy got the gold medal with her hair. What a beautiful, bright shade of pink. I'm even going to mention me this time. I got the silver award...no, not because my hair is silver (although a lot of it is now iron grey naturally), but I've got three shades of purple extension in my hair. But everyone looked smart (Celia was even wearing stockings (could have been tights but I wasn't going to enquire too closely). Anne Wade's socks definitely won for brightness although those peeking out of Emma's boots were not insignificant! But back to the hair...I had a look at the men. We had four in attendance at the meeting...and they all had face fungus...lots of it! Maybe to be fair, I'll spend the next meeting analysing the 'kemptness' of the beards. ;-)



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.


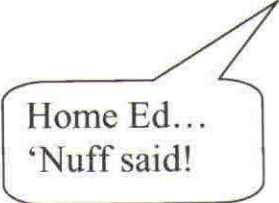
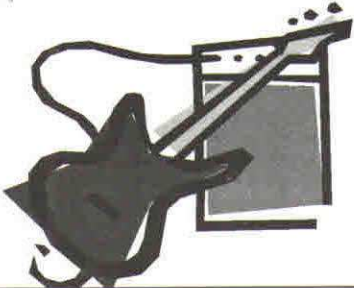
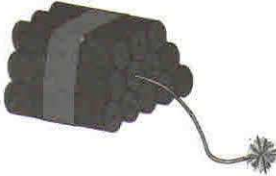
We would like to involve home educators in this!

Please send your designs or suggestions for the front of a T-shirt to jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk 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.

EO T Shirts

Last issue, we asked for your suggestions for a new line in T shirts for EO to stock. The following are the suggestions I've received. Please let me know your favourite at Jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk or 01925 654856 or 38 Garwood Close, Westbrook, Warrington WA5 8TF.

(Please note...where an image has been suggested and not drawn, if that design is chosen by you, the members, then I'll get someone to draw the image. I'm no artist and won't even attempt it)

<p>(A)</p> <p>I EXCLUDED THE SCHOOL</p> 	<p>(B)</p> 
<p>(C)</p>  <p>H.E. ROCKS!!!</p>	<p>(D)</p> <p>BREAK FREE..</p>  <p>WITH H.E.</p>
<p>(G)</p> <p>Too Cool For School</p>	<p>(H)</p> <p>We don't need no education(al establishment)</p> <p>(With picture of two children singing)</p>
<p>(I)</p> <p>Home Education (Image of rainbow)</p> <p>Because Real Life isn't In Black and White</p>	<p>(J)</p> <p>Home Education prepares you for life (Image: stick drawing of a child chasing a butterfly)</p> <p>prepares you for life in an institution</p>

(K)

It's ME, I am HE
I am HAPPY
I am FREE

Picture of a happy child who's hand is stretched out; open palm facing up, holding a red apple still with a little leaf on it.
A pigeon in front the child, a white pigeon flying on it's way to the apple.

She described the picture as followed:
The happy child and the pigeon would be the symbol of inner peace and freedom that we, the home educated children, have compared to others; While the apple would represent the wisdom and the power of knowledge which we can get and share free with anyone we like

(L)

Be Free



Be home Educated

education-otherwise.org.uk

VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

GET INVOLVED WITH EO!!

!! URGENT !! NEWSLETTER CO-ORD

Due to personal circumstances I am unable to find time for the newsletter any more – if there is someone out there who is methodical, perfectionist, with a good standard of English, very computer literate, preferably with broadband internet, itching for an interesting and creative job to do, then please get in touch with me, Edana Edwards - contact details inside front cover under Regional Diary.

!! 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)

SINGLE PARENT FAMILY CONTACT

To offer information and support to members and non-members in single parent families – contact Rowenna Williams, back page contacts list, for further information about the job.

MEDIA CONTACT CO-ORDINATORS

As an area media co-ord, you will agree to be contacted for interview, or give support and information 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
Somerset
Shropshire

SCOTLAND

Angus, Dundee, Perth &
Kinross
Argyll & Bute
Edinburgh & Lothians
Fife
Glasgow
Inverclyde & The Ayrshires

WALES

Anglesey
Mid Glamorgan
Vale of Glamorgan
West Glamorgan
Gwent

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 Bellinger, 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

Clackmannshire, Falkirk, North Lanarkshire & Stirling Janice Atkinson
Devon (Teignbridge area) Julia Pollard
Leeds Emma Birkenshaw
Northumberland (North) Mink Powell
Northumberland (West) Lizanne Richards-Cole
Wrexham and Denbighshire Sam Kruger

Areas Needing a Local Contact

See above.



WEBSITE UPDATES

INFORMATION FOR LEA

The LEA small group have recently updated the "Information for LEAs" pages.

If you think it would be helpful, you can direct your LEA to this information.

Please direct any comments or suggestions for changes/additions to these LEA pages to priscilla@pvpw.fsnet.co.uk Tel: 01980 629 737.

DONATIONS TO EO

There is now a 'Donate Now' button on selected pages of the website (the front page, site map, and index to the legal pages) so that non-members can donate to EO if they have found our information helpful.

Annual General Meeting

of Education Otherwise Association Ltd

will be held at Westbourne Grove Church, London W11 2RW

on Saturday 11th February 2006 at 2pm

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

The number of Council Members is set at between 14 and 19. The Council may recommend other candidates for election. Signed-up members (ie. Guarantors) of EO may also propose candidates. In this case, written notice from the proposer and signed consent from the candidate (who must also be a guarantor) must both reach the Company Secretary no earlier than 11th January 2006 and no later than 6th February 2005.

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

If you wish to become a guarantor of EO, please complete the form on the last page of the May 2005 EO Handbook or contact the Company Secretary, 56 Beech Drive, Braunstone, Leicester, LE3 3DA

The church is 5-10 minutes walk from the following tubes:

Notting Hill Gate - Central/Circle, Westbourne Park - Hammersmith and City

For tube / bus routes use the journey planner for transport for London <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/tfl/>

Select the journey planner, fill in your start location and put the church postcode W11 2RW in the destination. Clicking on 'view' for each journey option in the journey planner will bring up the route. The planner tends to suggest getting a bus from Notting Hill to Westbourne Grove, but this only shortens the walk from 10 to 5 mins as it still goes a block away. You can get the planner to create you a map for the walk from the station - in the journey planner type Notting Hill gate/station in the start, and W11 2RW postcode in the destination. When the journeys come up, select view for the walk only journey, and then select the map. The postcode guide slightly misplaces the building which is actually on the corner of Ledbury Road / Westbourne Grove as shown by the map below. You can look at the facilities at http://www.westbournegrovechurch.org/html/the_new_facilities.html#smallhall

Open Council Meeting

of Education Otherwise Association Ltd

will also be held **at the above venue on the 11th Feb 2006 at 10am**

All members of EO are welcome to attend.

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

Northern Ireland

The five Education and Library Boards of Northern Ireland are, we understand, individually looking at producing guidelines for the Boards dealing with elective home education. The Belfast guidelines have been seen by some home educators in NI and they are not 'home education friendly'. The EO Government Consultation group has been made aware of this, but contributions and help are always welcome. This is currently being discussed on the HE Consult email list, a list with EO and non EO members who are interested in ensuring that home education remains a viable option for all. To join this list and take part in the debate go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HE-consult-UK>

EO Postcards

Gail now has EO postcards available again. These postcards have EO contact details and are great for placing in newsagent windows and noticeboards. Contact Gail on 01628 483895, eostationery@gmail.com or 48 Marlow Bottom, Marlow, Bucks. SL7 3NB

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.

Anne Rix

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.

Silicone Wristbands

Purple colour with **School Is Not Compulsory** debossed on them.
as voted on by the majority of voters taking part on the EO Children's Email List.

£1 each plus postage and packing.

Up to 6 wristbands, P&P is 40p

Between 7 and 13 wristbands inclusive, P&P is 55p

Any other amounts, please contact jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk Tel: 01925 654856

Cheques and Postal Orders made payable to:

Education Otherwise Trading Limited

Orders to Jacqui Houlding, 38 Garwood Close, Westbrook, Warrington. WA5 8TF



IMPORTANT - MEMBERSHIP MAIL PROBLEMS

There was a problem with mail sent to 31 Audley Street, Reading, RG30 1BP from approximately 21st to 25th June; envelopes were being returned to sender marked 'addressee gone away'. I complained to Royal Mail and have been assured it's all sorted out now and mail is being delivered properly. Mail to the Reading address is mainly renewal forms or changes of address notes, so if you sent a letter there over that period, or are unsure if I've received your renewal payment then contact me and I'll check. Apologies if you've been affected by this. Lynda, Database Administrator

Email: database@education-otherwise.org Phone No: 0870 765 3650

LYNDA HITCHMAN NEW CONTACT DETAILS:

22 Lewis Drive, St. Germans, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 3FB.

Tel: 01553 617551 or above number

Encyclopaedia Britannica

(UK) Ltd are offering EO members special discounts to Britannica Online, the online version of the world famous Encyclopaedia Britannica databases. To claim a free 7 day trial and a 10% reduction on the normal subscription price of £39.99 contact

Renaë Lunjevich, Encyclopaedia Britannica (UK) Ltd

Tel: 020 7500 7819 Email: rlunjevich@britannica.co.uk

www.britannica.co.uk quoting your EO membership number.

Advertisements

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

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

HOLIDAY IN FRANCE FROM £295.00 PER WEEK

(Cheaper than many campsites' weekly fees)

NEAR POITIERS

MAY - SEPTEMBER

Futuroscope - Theme Park

Abbeys - chateau

route to Santiago de Compostella

canoeing - walking - biking

nature study

www.alfrescoproperty.co.uk

07810 360 496

use promotional code EO for 5% discount

CARAVAN BY RIVER available to EO families

£40.00/week winter

£60.00/week summer

Includes use of canoes.

Very basic facilities.

John and Carole Clohesy

Brooksby Station House

Hoby Road, Brooksby

Melton Mowbray, Leics. LE14 2LE

Tel. 01664/434689

Carole.clohesy@btinternet.com

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children's toys for boys and girls

We have a wide range of fun, creative, educational, scientific and inspiring toys.

Dinosaurs, robots, craft activities, knights, castles, jigsaws, board games, music, construction kits, animals, stocking fillers and much more.

Our range covers preschool to teens, boys and girls, from 50p to £85.

Visit www.tickseed.co.uk to see the full range.

Please mention Education Otherwise in the 'Any Other Information' section on your order, and EO will receive a donation of 5% of the value of your order.

HOME ED RESOURCES

I am no longer home educating but do have a host of resources for children aged 5 to 10 years for sale if anyone is interested?

Worldwide education syllabuses together with books, national geographic magazines, tintin volumes and complete science volumes. I live in Hammersmith, West London.

If anyone in my area would like to contact me and come and see what I've got, please contact

Ann Marie Kerr

Tel: 020 8749 5434; Mob: 07815 178441

annmariekerr@gmail.com

Moving abroad so need to clear asap.

LeCardo

Help your children practice word-building with LeCardo, the fun new playing-card word game that's sweeping the UK.

Price £8.99 (inc. p&p).

Cheques payable to:

Leo Marshall Designs 322 Panther House

38 Mount Pleasant LONDON WC1X 0AN

Tel: (020) 7278 1269

W: www.lecardo.com

If you like words, you'll LOVE LeCardo!

A2C Tuition & Dyslexia Centre

Tuition and support in most subjects from early beginnings to GCSE, daytime groups for home educated children with access to GCSE exam centre. We are an EO family so understand many of the issues and solutions.

Tuition and support for Dyslexia and other special needs, Indirect Dyslexia Learning, Phonographix etc.

For details call us on 01322 424524 or email info@a2ctuition.co.uk

Services and products advertised on this page have not been endorsed by Education Otherwise. EO does not make recommendations about any tutors or youth leaders, whether members of the association or not. Use of people in any such role, whether paid or unpaid, remains the responsibility of the parent.

Educating Archie - and a molecule Yule

by SEG

D. Midwinter Solstice and Mrs G is busy...

Busy trying to find the END of the Selotape

* PRODUCT PLACEMENT

WHEN - out of the BLUE -

why does hot pizza steam MUM?

... mustn't panic... think fast.. molecules? friction? GCSE science... 1969? 70? Wish I'd taken it...

I suggest we e-mail the Inspector about it.

[> I.M@MYWITSEND.ORG <]

Later: HE'S REPLIED MUM.. HE SAYS "COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON TO YOU AND YOURS" WHAT KIND OF ANSWER IS THAT??

I didn't have the heart to ask him. Know he'll be in the midst of the LEA party. just said Happy Christmas

I know for a fact they can't afford pizza

THEN THEY'LL HAVE TO EAT THEIR WORDS!

you're crackers Archie

WHAT? WE'RE PULLING THEM NOW? THANKS!

LETTERS

The Kitchin Family Travelling Britain

The home education tour is something that we often think about doing. In June we finally moved to a place where we have space to park a camper van but now we can't afford a van! And we've got a lot of work to do. We bought an ex MOD officer's mess. It's been neglected and needs lots of TLC. I see it as my personal challenge and of course we are recycling an unloved and underused building that was sliding towards dereliction. It is loosely divided in to 4 apartments, we are living in two of them whilst we redecorate and reclaim the garden.

We have made apartment 1 ready for holiday visitors by installing a new kitchen and new appliances. The apartment is spacious and light, sleeps up to 7+ cot, looks out onto our garden and pond and has its own patio with tables and chairs, BBQ and free standing hammock in the back garden which I have planted with ferns and bulbs.

We have already had several families visiting and we are delighted that they have been happy here. Visiting children are welcome to play with all our childminding toys and resources (Deryck and I are both registered childminders) and I can look after the children if parents would like an evening to themselves.

We live in an unspoilt part of Cornwall surrounded by farmland and a nature reserve. There is a wealth of history in Cornwall and several very strong home education groups who organise lots of educational events that visitors might like to join in with. For folks who don't know Cornwall it has some of the best coastline in the world and a lot of it is within an hour's drive from our house. Cornwall has mild winters; it rarely snows here. We'd be happy to negotiate a deal if any one wants to hole up here for a while, summer or winter. Anyone who can cook me a dinner or pull brambles out stands a chance of negotiating themselves a good deal!

We have a very large garden with plenty of room for several tents and campervans. There is an outside tap and the bathroom of

apartment 2 is available - just ignore the rest of apartment 2, we'll 'get around' to it! I will be working on a website soon, meanwhile I have a photomail I can send to anyone who would like details. Please contact me any time.
Sue and Deryck Barnicoat formerly of Falmouth can now be found at Mill View Holiday Apartments, Ruan Minor, Helston, Cornwall.
TR12 7LH. Tel No: 01326 290512
E-mail: suebarnicoat@yahoo.co.uk

Canoe weekends

Following a very happy and successful canoe building weekend with four families, we'd like to invite other EO families to the next one which we have arranged for 7-9th April 2006. You can see the details on the web at <http://www.assignments.org.uk/EOcanoes.htm> or telephone us to find out more.

The families arrived for a shared meal around 6pm on the Friday evening. There followed an interesting discussion about canoe design, involving a look at some previously built canoes, some pictures of canoes in books and models made by the children. By about 8 o'clock, each family had a clear idea of the shape and size of the boat they wanted to build and work could begin. The shape of the sides of the canoes were drawn out by the children with advice from everyone(!) The exciting thing is that considerable variation arises which makes each boat completely unique. The ends of the boats are sewn together so that before it's time for hot chocolate at around ten o'clock, everyone has glimpsed the shape of their boat for the first time. Then it's heads down in the simple caravans by the river.

Bright and early on the Saturday morning everyone's keen to get started again. Resin left to harden overnight is fully set and we can proceed with the next stage. The Saturday requires quite a bit of stamina on the part of children and parents but there's plenty of other things for the younger ones; a tree den, a wooden fort, swings, goats, chickens, sheep and new friends. Towards two o'clock the boats are clearly coming together and it's all hands on deck to get the boat ready for the final resin and fibre glass seams. While this resin sets there's more time for fun and games and another shared meal. By the end of Saturday, the boats

are about ready for painting or staining which should dry overnight.

We tend to launch the boats for the first time on Sunday afternoon. This is an enjoyable moment with all the cameras out for maiden voyages on our quiet stretch of the River Wreake. There are some very proud families strapping their new canoes to their roof-racks at the end of the weekend.

So far, we've run half a dozen of these weekends and we've found that about £120.00 covers our immediate costs for a small boat and £160.00 for a larger one. These prices include use of basic caravans or space to camp. Since the food is all "shared table" with everyone bringing whatever they like and using the house, we can keep the costs of the weekend to a minimum. These are not commercial prices as they don't cover our time, of course, but the buzz of being involved is tremendous.

John and Carole Clohesy, Leics. E-mail: carole.clohesy@btinternet.com

Home Ed GCSEs in Bedfordshire

This is an update on the article in Dec '04 newsletter in which I described persuading a local secondary school Head, sympathetic to home-education, to register a number of children for GCSEs. The children do not attend school, but I was paid a small salary to organise the purchase of NEC packs and co-ordinate their work at home.

Altogether, 26 children registered with the scheme at the start of, and during, the last academic year. The majority of the children are now in their second year of their GCSEs. One went into (boarding!) school; another two are now over 16, and one has gone to Sixth Form at another school and the second to College to follow a BTEC course. But we have had new registrants this year too, so our numbers are around 26 still.

Apart from a tendency for a few families to "abandon" their previously wholly HE'd children once the courses were under way (I managed to put them straight!), everything has gone okay. The children have taken two batches of Modular Science exams and

generally have done well. They are due to sit more in November, and most have completed drafts of Science coursework and final drafts for English coursework by now.

Naturally, the fact that the children have been provided with NEC packs, with free tutorial support and with free examination entries has made life so much easier and more relaxed for families that they are feeling very privileged. The School has been wonderful, not interfering at all, quietly supportive at all times and taking a genuine interest in the children's progress and development. Some very pleasant teacher-pupil relationships have developed and I think the children (and parents) now feel a real sense of "belonging" and of loyalty towards the school.

Personally, I feel very lucky and privileged to be a part of the whole scheme. It has often been hard and busy for me, and there have been one or two sticky patches, but overall I think the pilot has been a great success. I would strongly recommend it to other home educators in other areas.

June McDonald info@Bedford-Home-Ed.org.uk

Contact wanted

I have been home-educating since April due to my daughter not coping with school. She has been left under-confident due to bullying, and a fat lot of help the Education department (as always) are in helping kids like her!

I would like to hear from families that follow an autonomous type of education and who, like me are poor in terms of money (not brains, ha, ha!). I can't afford a computer or anything like horse-riding etc. for my daughter but we have fun together and we think our life is ok and we get by.

We are vegetarian and adore animals and are free spirits really. I believe kids should have a say in their choice of what they want to learn.

Anyway, I won't bore you any more but would love to hear from people with the same views to get in touch. Letters most welcome but you are welcome to telephone.

*Lisa Gowing, 33 Tokar Street, Southsea,
Portsmouth, Hampshire PO4 9PE
Tel: 07963500840*

Craft Workshops, Beccles area

We are planning some craft workshops - activities such as patchwork, knitting, crochet, weaving, wool carding and felting. We will try to do activities for a range of ages and they will be held every other month, perhaps on a Tuesday, depending when most people can make it.

Those coming will need to have an interest in the activities we are doing as the places we may be able to hold the workshop in will not be big enough for running about play and they need reassurance it will be a 'quiet' group!

Are there any EOers who would be interested in coming? The group will be held in the Beccles/Bungay area, but we need to know if sufficient numbers are interested before we organise it.

Also, several people have rung to ask me about Honeybees and I have been unable to return their calls as I couldn't hear their telephone numbers on my answerphone. Please ring again if you are still interested.

Hilary Woolf Tel. No. 01508 518870

The Amazon Experience

Twelve years ago when my first daughter was 2, I joined Education Otherwise and read an article about a family travelling by boat down a river in a jungle somewhere. Then I could not foresee myself taking my daughter to the jungle. Besides I had an ant phobia. I could only dream "if only that was my family", "would I ever be able to do that?" and "where would I start?".

My 2 year old (not so long ago) became my 14 year old and has now been to the Amazon jungle, has played with children from the Shipibo tribe and knows more about the delicate balance of our declining planet than I care to mention. My youngest had her second birthday there. It took a long time to plan and many sleepless nights, but I'm pleased to say I eventually managed to "do it alone".

I realise how important it is to educate children in a "hands on" fashion. This is

why I am now in a position to offer an amazing opportunity to join us, going back to experience the Peruvian Amazon jungle, live with a tribe and participate in "permaculture" projects (which help sustain the tribe's livelihood). The trip is planned for August 2006 and you can visit from 1-4 weeks.

It is not intended to be a "hardcore" experience, although living conditions are obviously basic and the climate can be a bit hot 'n' sticky. The price is kept to a minimum while enabling the village to "reap the rewards" and help fund the next projects (which include educating the children to rebuild the Amazon).

There are 12 places available and I have made information sheets for anyone who is interested in joining us.

Phone Med on 0789 1956973



Diary Of A Home-Educating Nobody

by Ross Mountney

"So what exactly is a virgin, mum?"

Always endless questions!

Thankfully she was only asking about the Virgin Mary and not the Madonna song which I would have found much more difficult to answer.

I gave her an honest answer - honest, that is, without being too explicit. But it didn't stop there.

"Well, if Mary was a virgin, how did the baby get in there." Actually I've always wanted to know the scientific breakdown of that one!

I play my old trick, when I don't know what to say, of answering her question with one of my own. "How do you think it did?" Gets a great discussion going and gives me a break from having to think up answers all the time.

Meanwhile, it's that time of year when all the ledges in the house seem to have a film of glitter on them. When all activities have a Christmas slant, until it gets almost to the point of death by Christmas! And I don't seem to have an item of clothing without glitter glue stuck on it.

But by far the trickiest thing of all about Christmas with HEing children is the curiosity! Because they're nearly always around, not tucked away in school, while I try and collate Christmas presents.

"What's in that bag?"

I scurry upstairs furtively and call, "nothing."

"What's the postman brought?"

I secrete the parcel under my desk quickly. "Nothing. Only some bills."

"What's in that box?"

There's no getting away with it this time, it's far too big and intriguing. "Your present, but you mustn't look."

I know this will have the same effect as requesting a thousand word essay on the laws of gravity and I know it will get the same result. Namely; the opposite. So I search for a hiding place that will be big enough to conceal it and that they won't think of looking. I settle on their dad's drawers, they wouldn't look in there for fear of what they might find!

That's just the trouble with HE children, isn't it? They're more curious than the proverbial cat.

But, of course, that's exactly what we want: curious and questioning children. Because curiosity is an enormous asset for learning.

Curious and questioning children cannot help becoming educated. It doesn't even have to be curiosity about the subject in hand. Or about any specific subject come to that. Because having a generally curious attitude to life is the same as having a general eagerness to learn. Curiosity has the effect of inspiring children to learn for learning's sake, without even realising it. And it makes the children not only interested in learning but also come to understand, again without realising, that learning itself is interesting.

Children are naturally curious. Put any infant in any room and they're into cupboards, opening drawers, fiddling with switches and particularly fascinated with the contents of the dustbin! They are desperate to find out. In other words, to learn about their world. They plague their parents with questions, get themselves bruised, grazed, and into trouble for their curiosity. In fact they are pure, unashamed, curiosity-led learning machines. Even as they get older. Unless of course they get their curiosity killed.

Unfortunately that happens a lot.

It's easy to do. Most adults are driven to distraction by their child's curiosity and most particularly their questions. And the children more often than not get told off for it. 'Don't touch'. 'Put that down'. 'Leave that alone'. 'Mind your own business'. We've all used those statements at some point I would guess! But most particularly, I feel, children tend to get their curiosity killed when they go to school. Unfortunately the climate in most schools, the way in which they implement the National Curriculum, and the inevitable peer pressure, leaves no room for curiosity.

In school it is often not cool to ask questions, or to want to know more, or to be interested, or keen. And teachers don't have time to answer thirty questions a lesson - and that's only one per child - of course they don't. No one does curiosity. It's more likely to be ridiculed or snubbed. And there's nothing worse than humiliation for killing curiosity dead.

This is one of the sad things about the way the schools educate children. The teachers don't have any time to make use of one of the best opportunities available for learning; answering and encouraging the questions. And they certainly cannot encourage curiosity - they have tests to administer and grades to keep up and a blinkered uncurious path of set objectives to follow. What a terrible shame. I look at our insatiably curious toddlers hell-bent on learning about everything, then I look at some of the uncurious switched off adolescents that I see and I think; what happened to your interest in the world?

It probably got snubbed somewhere down the line. It probably got well and truly switched off. How sad is that!

Wouldn't it have been a loss if Isaac Newton had his curiosity snubbed before he wondered about the apple falling down?

Now I'm not advocating that we run ourselves ragged dropping everything to answer all our children's questions there and then, pandering to their every curious whim! That wouldn't necessarily be a good thing. Children have to fit into society and live with others and understand that adults are not simply question-answering machines! And they have to understand when to be safe instead of curious, and when it's not appropriate to ask questions - especially loudly, as one of my children did one day sitting on a park bench next to a complete stranger. "Is that man wearing underpants, mummy?"

All I'm saying is perhaps we could be a little careful with our child's curiosity. Even though there's a time for answering questions and a time not to do so, curiosity is still desirable. Curiosity needs nurturing. Let's be frugal with, 'don't', and 'leave that alone' and 'for goodness sake stop asking me stuff all the time!' (That was me the other day!) And allow our children as much curiosity as we can manage. Just remember it's one of the most invaluable assets our children can have for their education. A curious attitude has a knock-on effect upon all their learning. Let's encourage it all we can!

Meanwhile good luck with the Christmas secrets! Have a happy one!

DECEMBER COMPETITION

Closing date 31st December

Hi all, well hard to believe that Christmas is very nearly upon us once again - where does the time go?!

It looks like you all enjoyed the last Sudoku puzzle and well done for spotting my... ahem...deliberate mistake!

Last issue's winner is Viv Evans from Weston-Super-Mare - congratulations!

Viv wins a year's subscription to Juno magazine, which happens to be the prize again this issue, and we have another Sudoku puzzle for you.

For more information about Juno magazine 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!

Usual competition rules apply - no council members/employees, puzzle compiler or their families may enter.

All entries to be sent to: EO Competition, 79 Cumberland Avenue, Cleveleys, Lancashire. FY5 2DS or email to: eocomp@tiscali.co.uk. Remember to include your name, address, telephone and email if you have one.

If you would like a copy of the competition emailing to you, so you can return it completed then feel free to email the above address and I will let you have a copy.

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

REVIEWS

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

Making Christmas Scrapbooks by Joy Aitmen

I really liked this book. Its style is informal and easy to follow, with lots of colour photos and step-by-step instructions. It has six chapters with themes such as 'Food and Drink', 'The Nativity Play' and 'Decorating the Tree'. Each chapter has about three or four different ideas for scrapbook pages. They all have instructions, variations and tips. There are also very original ideas, such as memory jars, photo baubles and recipe journals. I have done some scrap booking before, but this book would be suitable for beginners and keen crafters alike. I would recommend it to anyone interested in the art of scrap booking.

Molly (12)

£6.99 ISBN 1-84448-068-2 Search Press

The Story of the Snow Children

by Sibylle von Olfers

This is a beautifully illustrated and magical tale. First published in 1905, this book tells of a girl gazing from her window watching the snowflakes tumble down when they turn into snow children. Poppy's adventure begins when they take her to the Snow Queen's palace. She visits the Queen's icy garden with crystal flowers and joins a party in the Great Ice Hall, where snowmen serve delicious food. A wonderfully enchanting book, a pleasure for children to read and the children listening really did sit open mouthed. The perfect book for a winter's day.

Hilary with Isaac (5) and others

£9.99 ISBN 0-86315-499-9 Floris Books

The Nativity by Francesca Crespi

This is a lovely book that any child who wants to know the Christmas story is bound to love. Aimed at the younger child / early reader it is in a 3D format so the scenes are brought to life. Gina said "I love the bright pictures and the pages that pop up and I could read the words by myself."

Mary with Ginny (6)

£12.99 ISBN 1-84507-343-6 Frances Lincoln

Winter by Gerda Muller

This text-free chunky board book has very nice paintings of children playing in the snow; sledging, skating, feeding the birds and being cozy indoors.

The illustrations are packed with detail and give you lots to talk about. The book was equally enjoyed by babies and older children and has more to offer than the average board book.

Hilary with Isaac (5) and Finty (6 months)

£4.99 ISBN 0-86315-192-2 Floris Books

An African Christmas by Ifeoma Onyefulu

We loved reading this book about celebrating Christmas in Africa. Young Afam wants to make and dance his own Mmo (masquerade) so he spends time

in his village collecting all the materials he needs. Molly loved the bright photos of real people and we all loved the front cover showing four children dressed smartly for Christmas in cool clothes and sunglasses - of course it is hot in Africa over Christmas! It was interesting to read that sunglasses are bought for children over Christmas to make their children look beautiful.

Vicky with Molly (7) and Emma (2)

£10.99 ISBN 1-84507-387-8 Frances Lincoln

OTHER BOOKS

Across the Roman Wall by Theresa Breslin

This book is about the relationship between a native Briton girl (Marinetta) and a Roman boy (Lucius). At first they absolutely detest each other, but when barbarians from over Hadrian's Wall capture them, they begin to work together and become good friends. My favourite part was when Marinetta had been sold into slavery and was in Rome. She managed to find her way to the Roman commander's headquarters to deliver a note and showed great bravery. The author has shown that, despite first appearances, people can become friends. I enjoyed reading this book for two reasons - I enjoy anything to do with History and also, it was very easy to read and had a good glossary of harder words at the back. There was also a map, which shows the main Roman towns in Britain.

Deiniol (10)

£4.99 ISBN 0-7136-7456-3 A & C Black

A Ghost-Light in the Attic by Pat Thomson

This is a really interesting book (Flash Back series) which tells the history of the civil war in Britain (Cavaliers and Roundheads). The main characters are Tom and Bridget who are children from our times and Elinor, Bragshaw and Edmund from the 17th century. Tom and Bridget go on an exciting adventure back in time and are invisible to all but Elinor. The book has got facts about the history of the Civil War in a separate section at the back. I thought the book was well written and full of excitement. A really fun way to learn history!

JJ (10)

£4.99 ISBN 0-7136-7453-9 A & C Black

Respect! by Michaela Morgan

I found this book fascinating. It is a true story about a boy called Tully and his younger brother Eddie. Their parents die and they are sent to a children's home. The other kids there make fun of them but Tully is very good at football and goes on to play for Tottenham, Northampton and Glasgow Rangers. When the war broke out Tully became the first black officer in the British army and made history. This book was very well written and easy to read and understand and I would recommend it.

JJ (10)

£4.99 ISBN 1-842993-372 Barrington Stokes

The Wind in the Willows (in Bite-Size Verse)

put into verse by Richard Cuddington

I enjoyed this book a lot, not only because I adore poetry but, having read another of Richard Cuddington's books, I am happy to be called 'one of his greatest admirers'!! His books are proof of his ability to understand words and use them well. I compared this book with the original *Wind in the Willows* I have and it certainly makes the story come alive. Because of the rhythm of the poetry, I found myself becoming even more excited at the 'exciting moments' in the book! The only drawback I found was that if I read too much in one go, the rhythm tended to carry on in my head! So I read it in stages, one chapter at a time. It is one of those books that makes you feel you are really there actually watching the characters like Mole and Badger and for that reason I was quite sad when I got to the end. I was left wondering what could fill the gap left by not having the adrenalin surges from the various adventures! Well worth a read, even for people who feel they are not real fans of poetry/verse. I am looking forward to reading another of Richard Cuddington's books in the future.

Francesca (15)

£14.95 ISBN 1-85776-917-1 *The Book Guild*

Girl's Rock! Pool Pals by Holly Smith

This is a book from a series called Girls Rock! It is a slim book, which is written in a play type format that was difficult to read out loud as a story. There are lots of illustrations and a section at the back with some info, a quiz, jokes, etc which Chloe enjoyed. The story itself is about 2 girls and a swimming competition and although short and slightly predictable, Chloe really liked this book and has asked to read more in the series.

Emma with Chloe (7)

£3.99 ISBN 1-9050561-76 *Rising Stars*

Connor's Eco Den by Pippa Goodhart

This is a fantastic idea for a book, which both Romy and I enjoyed and learnt from. It is a fiction book, but includes lots of facts about global warming, greenhouse gasses, re-cycling, etc. Three brothers set out to make their own house. Whoever builds the best house gets to have the new bedroom extension as at the moment they all share a room. From this point on it becomes a parody of the *Three Little Pigs* as the first brother builds his house from straw, etc. The end result being that Connor (the environmentally conscious brother) builds an eco-den from re-used bricks, with newspaper insulation, solar panels, etc. We would highly recommend this book to girls and boys equally between the ages of about 5 to 12.

Hazel with Romy (6)

£5.99 ISBN 1-842992-90-2 *Barrington Stokes*

Goldie at the Farm

by Martha Sandwall-Bergstrom

This is the second Goldie book and picks up where the first book (*Goldie at the Orphanage*) finished. We enjoyed the first book and Chloe liked this one even more. The illustrations are beautiful and even though the story focuses on Goldie being allowed to go to school (!) Chloe loved it and was glad of the happy ending!

Emma with Chloe (7)

£8.99 ISBN 0863154859 *Floris Books*

The Works 4 Poems about everything

poems chosen by Pie Corbet and Gaby Morgan

Inside it says "Every kind of poem on every topic", and this is very true. The poems are written in sections in alphabetical order such as 'A' for "The Ark and other creatures" or 'K' for "Kissing and Other Things Best Avoided". There is not only an index in the back of the book, but a glossary of terms telling you what kind of poem each poem is, such as Acrostic verse, alphabet poems etc and how they all work. I found this very helpful when I needed to know how to write different types of poetry or in some cases how to understand how a poem should be read. The poems Corbet and Morgan have chosen are brilliant and mostly funny or beautifully written, although some of the poems are just plain odd, but hey, without odd bits poetry wouldn't be poetry! I recommend this book for anyone of any age who likes poetry.

Jenny (13)

£5.99 ISBN 0-3304-3644-9 *Macmillan*

I see you baby ...

by Kevin Brooks and Catherine Forde

This is a very short book about two teenagers, Keith and Sally, who meet each other at a music festival. It alternates sections between the two main characters, each of whom is written about by a different author. This is effective as it gives each character an individual voice. The story is interesting as neither Keith nor Sally should actually be at the festival as they have both got in with other people's VIP passes and are pretending to be someone else. Meeting each other makes them realise that they don't need to pretend to have a wonderful time. I enjoyed the book but I would have preferred it if it had been longer.

Emma (15)

£4.99 ISBN 1-842993-30-5 *Barrington Stokes*

Four Acres by Beverley Stead

This is about 5 ponies, a cat and a dog and their adventures. My Dad thinks some of it is silly and some is scary. I think it's all great because I love everything to do with horses. My Dad reads me a chapter every night but I can read it myself too.

Celeste (7)

£12.95 ISBN 1-85776-900-7 *The Book Guild*

Pudding and Chips

by Penny Matthews and Janine Dawson

This book tells a story of the relationship between Pudding the goose and Chips the sheepdog. It explains what their life is like on the farm and describes their relationship. Then one night a fox enters the farm and gradually the other geese start to disappear, which Pudding takes very badly. This is basically discussing loss and how Pudding reacts. Then for some reason the author feels the need to make everything all right again in that Pudding has some babies. Rowan listened to the story but has not asked to listen to it again, we were not really sure of the point to the story. It makes you feel a bit strange at the end of the story. Otherwise it is well written and well illustrated. My only other point is the fact that it presents foxes in such a bad way!

Kathleen, Rowan (7) and Kai (10 months)

£9.99 ISBN 0-86315-496-4 Floris Books

Cirque du Freak by Darren Shan

This is the first book of a long series by Darren Shan; it's about a boy who loves spiders. One day he goes to a freak show and gets turned into a Vampire because he stole a Vampire's spider. To save the life of his friend (who will later become the enemy) he becomes a vampire's assistant to learn the ways of the half dead. The story keeps you reading as his emotions run through his head; how he has to fake his own death and leave his family to enrol in the life of a Vampire's Assistant. Your attitude throughout the book changes towards the vampires and you start to really like them. As you read on into Darren's Saga the story gets deeper and deeper bringing in new characters making the plot twist and turn. If you're into sad Vampire stories this one for you, it made me laugh and cry and most days while reading these books I would picture it all in my mind. It is its own reality.

Georgia (13)

Angus, Thongs and Full Frontal Snogging

by Louise Rennison

This book is truly funny, it's about a 14 year old growing up in London and all the things that can go wrong and happen. In the middle of it all she is helping her friends with their "love" lives and ends up falling for a "Sex God." She has a smaller sister who thinks she is a boy; she has a cat that wants to kill the neighbour's poodles; a dad who wants to live in New Zealand and a mother who has huge "nuganuggas." I promise you will laugh your head off.

Georgia (13)

Aesops Fables retold by Saviour Pirotta

What a great book. A selection of Aesops better known stories brilliantly retold in very accessible language and with wonderful illustrations. We couldn't fault it - the boys were enthralled, bedtimes were a doddle with the book to look forward to, (only

4 requests instead of the usual 15 to get teeth cleaned and pyjamas on) and even I enjoyed reading them! The boys were fascinated by the concept of the morals and loved the pictures of Aesop growing older throughout the book. Without sounding too much like my grandmother, it was good to read a positive, well balanced book with a sense of traditional morality yet with a very current feel to it. Thoroughly recommended!

Hazel with Tristan (7), Hayden (6) and Ruby (3)

£9.99 ISBN 0-7534-11830 Kingfisher

The Jungle Book - Mowgli's Story

by Rudyard Kipling

This is a beautifully presented version of the classic story of Mowgli the man-cub. The detailed illustrations are a delight and for a child whose passions in life are art and animals it is a perfect book to sit and gaze at. The story is quite a difficult one to read and although George is a fairly accomplished reader he found the text quite daunting. It has become a favourite bedtime story with both boys listening intently whilst enjoying the pictures. It has been an excellent introduction to the wonderfully descriptive poetry of Rudyard Kipling. This book has become and I think will long remain, a treasured book of the household.

Kerry with George (9) and Ben (6)

£14.99 ISBN 0-7445-8643-7 Walker

Sharp Sheep by Vivian French

Paul, Josh and Mandy go to stay with their grandparents in Wales and Josh tells them a really spooky tale about the yellow-eyed sheep on the farm. Tom from next door believes the story and wants to be granted a magic wish so decides to stay outside with the flock all night despite being scared about the evil shepherd that lurks in the fields. He survives and his wish comes true. This is a very exciting book and I would like to read it again. I would also like to read some more of the author's books. I would recommend it to anyone.

Jack (9)

£9.99 ISBN 1-405-04783-6 Macmillan

The Barefoot Book of Fairy Tales

An epic and beautifully illustrated fairy tale book that is just right for a bed-time story. Tales from around the world kept the children captivated from start to finish (even my 3 year old!). Old favourites rub shoulders with other not-so-well known tales such as *The Fool of the World* and *The Flying Ship* from Argentina. I only had to edit one story whilst reading it - *Hansel and Gretel* was a little too dark for small children with its references to "four wooden coffins" - if the family did not find food. At the end is an excellent section giving the sources for the tales (this was also enjoyed by the children).

Jane with Robyn (7), Max (5) and Oliver (3)

£14.99 ISBN 1-84148-2974 Barefoot Books

The Usborne Internet-linked Children's World Atlas

I have been looking for an easy to understand Atlas because I like learning about Geography. This Atlas looks exciting and the cover is very interesting making it look like a valuable book. The inside is just as good with easy to understand maps and really good information about animals of the world and their habitat. There are lots of other facts about rivers, cities, volcanoes and many other interesting things. The satellite views are brilliant, particularly of the volcanoes. There is a brilliant section on flags with lists of information about the world's 193 independent states. Although this is an internet linked book I haven't had much chance to look at the sites as our computer has been broken but I have really really enjoyed this book and have learned a lot from it. I also like that it says it is made with paper from a sustainable source as this is really important.

George (9)

£9.99 ISBN 0-7460-6819-0 Usborne

The Usborne Introduction to Archaeology

I have always been interested in archaeology so I was really pleased when I saw this brilliant book. I was over the moon. It has a section of different countries and examples of what can be found in each. The other sections are all about various finds. I found the one on underwater the most interesting and really enjoyed looking at the diagrams on ancient writing. The pictures are stunning. There are internet links and my favourite was a game where you can excavate a burial chamber. I will look at this book a lot and recommend it to children and adults!

Keith (11)

£14.99 ISBN 7460-5203-0 Usborne

Prita Goes to India by Prodecepta Das

This is a concise, easy to read, hardback photo album and diary of a girl's visit to India, as narrated by her father. It is visually appealing and contextually stimulating. It covers experiences with a different culture; family, religion, arts and crafts, to name but a few... and it makes for a good addition to the well travelled mind, positively embracing the multi-cultural differences / awareness we all need to live in today's mixed societies. You'll even find a recipe for Baras, the Indian version of a type of muffin... An excellent choice, which will surely appeal to all. The pictures themselves are visually superb, and merit further visits to this book even well after the typed words have been read... Each picture tells its own story. Prodecepta Das has written a few books previously, including "I Is for India". His works are for positive cultural awareness. Highly Recommended.

Robin and Michael and Isis (5)

£10.99 ISBN 1-84507-128-X Frances Lincoln

Stonecipher by Judith Heneghan

This book is about Jago Stonecipher, a boy who gets mixed up in a money-making plot involving a violent man called Armbruster. Jago has learnt conjuring tricks from his mean master which he uses to overcome Armbruster's plot. The story is set in Winchester in Victorian times. Whilst the story is interesting in terms of the historical aspect the pace of the book is very slow and I found it very difficult to keep reading it. It would be suitable for 7-9 year olds but they might find it moves too slowly.

Alex (10)

£4.99 ISBN 1-84270-365-X Andersen

The Voyage of QV66 by Penelope Lively

This book is about a time when humans have gone away but their ruins and the animals remain. A creature called Stanley who is very clever and loves human things makes a boat. He and his friends - Fred (a cow), Pansy (a cat), Pal (a dog who found his name on a tin!), Ned (a horse) and Offa the pigeon who was born on a king embark on a journey to London. They have lots of adventures along the way. Will they ever get to London and find out what Stanley is? Will they rescue Pansy who gets blown away by balloons? Will they rescue her before she is sacrificed in the midsummer ritual? Read and find out! For all ages. It is perfect for reading out loud or to yourself. I couldn't put it down - I was awake until ten o'clock because I was determined to finish it and find out what happened.

Karis (11)

£6.99 ISBN 1-903252-21-0 Jane Nissen

Mortimer and The Sword Excalibur

by Joan Aitken

This book is about Arabel Jones and her pet raven, Mortimer. The builders think they have found King Arthur's round table and the Sword Excalibur. But, uh-oh, here comes Mortimer, there's bound to be trouble when he's around... I found it quite a funny story but unrealistic and the ending was a bit pointless. It is a short and easy to read book which I think would be good for 5-7 year olds.

Ethan (8)

£3.99 ISBN 1-903015-48-0 Barn Owl Books

Powder Monkey by Paul Dowse

This is a historical novel set on board a ship in the 1800s. The main character is Sam Witchall (13) who is a powder monkey. Pressed into the navy, his job is to supply the gunners with gunpowder. The story describes life on board a ship so that you get a clear picture of the harsh life the sailors had. It's not for the squeamish! The story is fast moving and because it is written in the first person, you really understand how Sam feels. I would give it ten out of ten and recommend it for 9 and up.

Alex (10)

£12.99 ISBN 0-7475-7704-8 Bloomsbury

Cloud Cat by Caroline Pücher

Luka has always known he's different. Only Luka can hear the call of the cloud cat. And he has to follow it, even when it leads him straight towards danger, old magic and the Bone Cracker. Jez can't see the strange creature his brother senses, but with both parents lost, he is desperate to keep Luka from slipping away too. Could Luka fall too far, out of our world and into another? This is a fascinating book which had us gripped right until the end...and luckily there will be a sequel as this story is to be continued! The story is well written with wonderful imagination taking readers to another world. Ideal for slightly older readers, probably 10+.

Caroline with Connor 11

£4.99 ISBN 1-4052-0849-X Egmont

Bunchy by Joyce Lankester Brisley

Bunchy was first published in 1937 and has been re-published by Jane Nissen with the original sketches. In her introduction to the book, Fiona Waters said the book "took her straight back to her childhood" and perhaps that is the problem. I cannot really see who the target reader is for this book. Maybe nostalgic grandparents will buy this for their grandchildren, but will those grandchildren read it? I doubt it. My children were put off by the cover, which they thought made the book look "babyish." It didn't do a lot for me either. In fact, only one of them bothered to read it and she only did so because there was absolutely nothing left in the house that she hadn't already read! Needless to say she had nothing to say about it other than it was for much younger children, in her opinion. In my opinion, yes, it was too young for her but probably of little interest for younger children (5?) who may not be able to read it for themselves, but probably wouldn't sit through someone reading it to them. There has been renewed interest in children's books and tv from maybe thirty years ago (*Beano*, *Denis the Menace*, *Scooby Doo*, *Rhubarb* and *Custard* etc.), but this is just too old to be relevant, and at £6.99 pricey too. What a shame.

Karen with Holly (8)

£6.99 ISBN 1-903252229 Jane Nissen Books

Childhood and Human Evolution

by Frederick Kipp

This book is as much a romance of apes and humans as it is a science documentary. It may not be everybody's cup of tea but I could not put it down. I have read a lot about human evolution but this book holds more than bare facts. It is a philosophy that helps you understand yourself, your species, children and apes. Kipp considers the features we have in common with our closest relatives in the animal kingdom: our bodies, minds, behaviour and the fossils of our ancestors, and presents an explanation for our prolonged childhood and obvious differences from apes. He strongly suggests chimp children have mental capacities beyond the needs of adults and that

they were once more 'human' than they are now but then diverged down a more animal path. Like a tadpole reveals the fish-like ancestry of a frog, the ape-child reveals the human-like ancestry of apes. Humans continued to develop the traits that the other apes diverged away from. "The evolutionary path that humanity took," says Kipp, "led to individualism or, one could say, to the experience of becoming an 'I.'" If this has aroused your interest then you must read it, I don't want to reveal too much. What I like most about Kipp is that he sees no division between the emotive and the scientific and declares that science should be less mechanical and more passionate and considerate to its subject, nature. I'm hesitant to recommend the book to younger readers, it is quite scientifically written and does have some long words and advanced concepts. I think most sixteen year olds would struggle with some of the information although they would get the gist of it. But it is a great book for adults and children to work through together.

Ian (aged - well over the hill and on the slippery slope!)

ISBN 0-932776-33-7 Adonis Science Books

Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan

As the suggestion on the back of the book said "Read to: 7 - 11 yrs" that is what we decided to do. This was probably the best thing we could have done as I feel that Deiniol would have struggled and eventually given up reading the book sooner than we actually did. We didn't actually finish the whole book as most of our time was spent looking up the meanings of words that he hadn't heard before - very good for expanding his vocabulary, but not so good for increasing his enjoyment of the story! There are several suggestions on how to use the book in the Editor's Notes at the beginning - these ranged from applying the story to your own life to using creative expression whilst reading. At the back, there is a "Further Study Section" which breaks the story up into parts and guides the child towards following the "right" path. Not a book we enjoyed, I'm afraid.

Chrissy with Deiniol (10)

ISBN: 1-84550-102-0 Christian Focus

Magical Window Stars by Frederique Gueret

This book shows you how to make really beautiful window stars out of coloured tissue paper. There are nice clear instructions for twenty five different stars and when you put them up at the window the effect is lovely as you see the different shades depending on the layers of tissue. I found some of the instructions quite hard at first but I soon got the hang of it and really enjoyed creating lots of different designs. Some of them I used not just for window decorations but by making smaller ones and putting them between clear plastic I created my own cards to send to people.

Jenny (12)

£9.99 ISBN 0-86315-494-8 Floris Books

Mind the Door

by Steve Barlow & Steve Skidmore

The new caretaker at school seems to excel in his job and Andy thinks he's brilliant. Perce thinks otherwise and with a group of friends, they set out to uncover the truth. This story, based on the Greek myth of the Minotaur, is aimed at school children and so I needed to explain to Finn many of the references. He did enjoy the humour. It's intended for 7-9 year olds. Borrowed from the library, it would make a light read.

Tina with Finn (5)

ISBN 1-903015-49-9 £4.99 Barn Owl Books

BOOKS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

Can I tell you about Asperger Syndrome?

A guide for friends and family

This is a short book, only 27 pages, which alternate between an illustration on one page and words in larger than normal print on the other page so it is easy to read. It is aimed at 7-15 year olds to help them understand the difficulties faced by a child with Asperger Syndrome (AS). It tells them what AS is, what it feels like to have AS, and how they can help. It is also a useful, friendly book to share with children who have recently had their own diagnosis of AS explained to them.

Sally Pain

ISBN 1-84310-206-4 Jessica Kingsley

Understanding Sensory Dysfunction.

by Polly Goodwin Emmons & Liz McKendry Anderson

A really interesting book that deals with sensory dysfunction and general development in children with Autistic Spectrum and related disorders. The book is neatly divided into sections that explain how the sensory perception of Autistic, ADHD and other children is different from the standard. The way that this causes these children to be over or under sensitive to the perceptions of their 5 senses affects both their home and school life drastically. Methods for identifying problem areas and the resultant strategies for coping and helping are given in detail. Actual case histories are given with bracketed notes showing how each sensory problem links with the concomitant behaviour. Both writers are parents of children with these disorders and this has helped them to focus on the real-life problems experienced by them and their parents. Worth a read.

W Tebbatt

ISBN 1-84310-806-2 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. Some contact details are set out below

but many titles can be ordered from your local book shop. *The Book People* (0870 6077780 www.thebookpeople.co.uk) and *Red House* (0870 1919980 www.redhouse.co.uk) are good, economical sources for books where you can order what you like, when you like (at prices well below publisher's rrp). Postage / packing is usually free on orders over £25 but if you are ordering less tell them you are home educating and you may 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.

Dorling Kindersley www.dk.com offer a 20% discount to home educators. Follow the online instructions to register and contact bodcustomerservice@penguin.co.uk if you need any help.

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

CONTACTS

A & C Black 01480 212666

Andersen Press 020 7840 8701 www.andersenpress.co.uk

Barefoot Books 0800 328 2640 www.barefootbooks.co.uk

Barn Owl Books 0208 883 7063 www.barnowlbooks.com

Book Guild 01273 472534 www.thebookguild.co.uk

Barrington Stokes 0131 557 2020

www.barringtonstoke.co.uk

Christian Focus 01862 871011 www.christianfocus.com

Egmont 020 7761 3696 www.egmont.co.uk

Floris (Scottish Book Service) 0870 240 2182

Francis Lincoln 020 7284 4009 www.francislincoln.com

Jessica Kingsley Publishers 020 7833 2307 www.jkp.com

Macmillan 020 7014 6000 www.macmillan.com

Rising Stars 01933 443862 www.risingstars-uk.com

Search Press 01892 510850 www.searchpress.com

Usborne 020 7430 2800 www.usborne.com

Walker Books 01256 302692

NEXT ISSUE

We are including a feature on education using music. If you know of any good titles please let me have reviews of them.

Send in your reviews to Sally Hall, Nant-y-garreg, Saron, Llandysul SA44 5EJ or email 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
envelope

plus 1 x loose 2nd class stamp
for each card required.

EO/NEC vouchers

£30 discount per course -A5 SAE to Sarah
Cook, The Old Cottage, Croglin, Carlisle,
CA4 8RZ (quoting EO membership number)
or sarah@croggies.freemove.co.uk

EO Car Stickers

Help spread the word.

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

EO Hoodies - hooded sweatshirts

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

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

EO Cotton T-shirts

Good quality - choice of 2 designs:

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

b) navy shirt with white slogan:

"home education - a real option"

£5 adult (M, L, XL) £3.50 child (3/4,
5/6, 7/8, 9/11, 12/13)

Add p&p up to 6 shirts £2. More than 7
shirts, p+p £4. Cheques to E.O.Trading
Ltd. Lucinda Smart, 4 Chester Gardens,
Church Gresley, Swadlincote,
Derbyshire, DE11 9PU.

Learn Premium

To join Learn Premium for the low rate
of £25 for the year (October-October),
contact: Sue Radford, The White
House, 16 Fairhaven,

Wychwood Park, Weston, CW2 5GG.
01270 820396 for details on how to join.

To join online, go to:

[http://www.education-
otherwise.org/About%](http://www.education-otherwise.org/About%20EO/Joining/membershiprenewal.htm)

[20EO/Joining/membershiprenewal.htm](http://www.education-otherwise.org/About%20EO/Joining/membershiprenewal.htm)
and complete your personal details and
tick the Learn Premium box.

Regional Diary

All regular meetings listed below (alphabetically by county first then by county) are included automatically in every issue. New members attending their first meeting should phone to check it is happening as shown. Changes to Jo: 01392 438876 or 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: francifran100@yahoo.co.uk

For events programme in Bedfordshire contact

June on 01234 341375 email:

info@Bedford-Home-Ed.org.uk

Themed workshops, arts/craft sessions, theatre + visits.

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; embroidery; swimming; skating; wall climbing and other indoor and outdoor sports and organised camping, caving, walking and cycling trips. Details and list of all Berks activities: Gail: eostationery@gmail.com or 01628 483895

Camp Mohawk Home Education Centre

4 days / wk - workshops, lessons, activities. Contact Dawn 01628 783107 thirdEye1@compuserve.com or website 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

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 ed in Bristol: www.bristolhomeeducation.org.uk

BUCKS

Newsletter for Bucks/Northants Contact: Georgeanne on 01908 662256. Milton Keynes home educators network extends a warm welcome to all (wherever you live): activities, socials and support. Local Contact Georgeanne 01908 662256 or www.mkhen.co.uk (and another Milton Keynes HE group ...)

MKHE - Milton Keynes Home Educators, friendly group welcomes all...arts + crafts, socials, outings, chess club, sports, open afternoons, themed activities etc, monthly newsletter + online discussion room contact Georgina 01908 371945 www.miltonkeyneshomeeducation.co.uk

South Bucks: meetings for craft, activities, play, speakers, drama, trips etc. Contact: Jackie 01753 886924 or Gail 01628 483895 eostationery@gmail.com

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Cambridge regular meetings and outings. Penny 01223 526441 penny.k@ntlworld.com

Alconbury monthly activities run by Christian group. All welcome Contact: Audrey Hull 01480 219881

Peterborough weekly meetings for art, craft, science, swimming, sports, play and visits. Contact: Sarah 01733 265043 email: sarah.lambert7@ntlworld.com

Cambridge/Norfolk border: North Cambridgeshire:

Fortnightly at March. Contact Jane 01354 677869 or

Sarah 01354 688245 or email Pat:

Northcamps@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@ntlworld.com

CLEVELAND AND DURHAM (see also DURHAM)

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

CORNWALL

Free events sheets every two months via Email or SAEs.

Contact: Anna Wheeler, Cambrose Farm, Redruth, TR16 4HT

01209 890378 Annawheeler@cambrose.fsnet.co.uk

Local information on our local home ed website:

Homeedinkernow.tripod.com

Menheniot near Liskeard, Home Grown Small School

for HE children now split into two groups for children

ages 4-7/8 and 8-15. Thursdays 10am-3pm in term time.

Themed per term. Led by qualified teacher and parents.

£5 per session. Contact Kath 01752 851091 or Michelle

0845 3305034.

Menheniot, Science/History Days. £5 per child ages 6-

13, 2nd Monday of the month. Contact Katinka 01208

813490. Monday December 5th Winter Solstice Day.

Pensilva, Forest School. Last Monday of the month.

Contact Ruth 08344 560247.

CUMBRIA

Informal gatherings for socialising, support and activities.

Cumbria Otherwise Newsletter, for full details of events

throughout the county contact Martin, 01539 732918

email: cumbria.otherwise@dsl.pipex.com

Kendal alternate Mondays Endmoor Village Hall

1-4pm, Contact Jo Collier 01539 567005.

Penrith alternate Tuesdays Castletown Community

Centre 1.30-3.30 Contact: Sarah Cook 01768 896019

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

Amber Valley, Alfreton area, meetings, 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 or 01297 625439

National Trust (Devon) card is held by Louise, contact:

01392 275426 louise_239@fsmail.net

Exeter: TUESDAY: EO meetings in the park, alternate music and art sessions, contact Ali 01392 255568
WEDNESDAY: Free Range Learning, all ages., Spanish, Yoga, science, music, cooking, art + craft. Also,
FORTNIGHTLY EO social meetings, Please ring Annie for details of both on 01392 434167

THURSDAY: alternate weekly outings contact Louise 01392 275426 email: louise_239@fsmail.net

FRIDAY: Pottery Workshop with kiln and wheels, fortnightly 1-3pm contact Neil 01363 82314

Green Woodworking contact Neil 01363 82314

Exeter Puddlers fortnightly 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 13th 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 - Karen 01460 30461 and on Thursdays - Ali 01297 443816

DORSET

Regular meetings, Rosemary 01747 853593

Bournemouth area: local website www.he-ed.org.uk Meeting every Monday for crafts, games, play etc.

Friendly, welcoming group. Contact: June 01202 827945 bugchick@btinternet.com

DURHAM

Durham based weekly meeting call Juliet 01207 544473 or Beth 07719530472. Yahoo chat group at:

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

To join e-mail: s.waynforth@btopenworld.com.

ESSEX

Chelmsford meetings - monthly, third Thursday 1-4pm, various activities. Email: Sally@brisley.freereserve.co.uk

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

Colchester Bowling and swimming monthly - also informal meetings fortnightly. debbie-m@lineone.net or 0778 6570870

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

Tiptree monthly meetings, last Tuesday of month 2-5pm. Contact Julie, email: julie.ashton@ntlworld.com

Various venues across Essex, New Teens Group, meeting monthly - Sally@brisley.freereserve.co.uk

Around Essex Educational visits twice monthly, Thurs. Full details of all Essex groups and visits in *Epicycle*

available at meetings - or for more info contact Corinne: epicycle@wavy.org or 07802 630696

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Monthly social meetings open to all. Regular workshops and outings. Website:

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

also Email list for events and forum for discussions, information and virtual activities. Contact Rob and Fiona 01684 290087 openhORIZONS@ntlworld.com

Caroline 01242 890351 camrose@ieee.org

Beverley 01242 524091 or Mhairi 01452 384104.

Dursley Home Educators meeting first weds every month for social, support and activities: Swimming and occasional outings. All welcome. Contact Paula 01453 519287 email: uks_sneaky@hotmail.com

Gloucester meetings & swimming. Contact Dawn 01452 540019 dawnandmike@blueyonder.co.uk

or Tracy 07941 612092

South Gloucestershire

<http://www.southgloshomeeducators.org.uk>

HAMPSHIRE

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

FAREGOS HE meets twice weekly in **Fareham** and **Gosport** areas for craft, swimming and other activities.

Contact Tracey 02392 551870 or Julie 01730 261468 or email 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, or east; Lesley 01420 543414, lmaskell@tesco.net

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

01483 426277 emmajeavons@supanet.com

Romsey/New Forest area, fortnightly - details email Karen on karence@btinternet.com

HERTFORDSHIRE (see also N.London)

For events List for Herts Home Educators please email karenbartlett@btinternet.com

St Albans, Social group meeting at Sandridge village hall, mornings 2nd and 4th Thurs. Carolyn 01727 851073

Stevenage Swimming Pool, Swimming Lessons every Thursday 10.30am, term time. All ages and abilities.

£1.40 per session. Contact Barbara on 01707 891021 or email: babs.mcdonald@ntlworld.com

ISLE OF MAN

Isle of Man Home Education Network. Meeting monthly for themed activities. Web Group Address:

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/hen-iom/>
email hen-iom@manx.net

ISLE OF WIGHT

Contact Shara 01983 562313

Isle of Wight Learning Zone workshops, social events + 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:

Sandy 01634 326868 email: lkmdisdynomite@aol.com

Wealden Home Ed website: www.when.omnia.co.uk and email group:

wealdenhomeeducatorsnetwork@yahoo.groups.com

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.freeserve.co.uk

Tunbridge Wells group meet every Monday from 10-4 for Tae Kwan Do, art and crafts, & many other activities. Contact Kim 01892 863941

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

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, for details contact Tracy 01253 858840

Blackburn Ice Rink monthly - Jackie 01695 424220

Botany Bay - contact Angela 01204 659634 or Jackie 01204 361072

Preston Badminton/Swimming - contact Angela/Jackie

Old Cobblers, all ages children - contact Pam 01706 215585 email: 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

Activelincs Home Education Group - for a newsletter and list of regional events call Donna 01472 752507, 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 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

jemimacomish@tiscali.co.uk

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

Sydenham contact Christia + Keith 020 8776 8597

NW London Otherwise Club Contact: Leslie 020 8969

0893 Harrow meetings fortnightly on Fridays

Chelsea Open House Project SW London,

NLP cafe study group Mondays afternoons, acting and

storytelling, visiting lecturer, poetry evenings and board games, on going speed networking for HE families call Sophie on (020)7581 5238 to book.

Stanmore events on Tues and Wednesdays.

Programme available from Vivienne, email timsharkey@aol.com or tel. 0208 954 1885

or Vicki on Aceva@btinternet.com

N London Hornsey Home Educators Club (currently under 10s, meet for arts, crafts, drama, games etc) Thursdays 11-12.30 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.

Contact Betsy (EO West London Local Contact) to join West London Home Ed yahoo group, details above.

WEDNESDAY 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 569 9398 or Kathryn 0208 566 0543 or kathrynyglyn@hotmail.com or Alison@rothwell1973.fsnet.co.uk

West London (Chiswick & Ealing) home ed group meets every Tuesday. Outdoor activities in Spring / Summer. Warmer/ dryer activities Tuesdays during the rest of the year. For full details and more information about winter activities, contact Naomi 020 8567 7589 or naomisandler@yahoo.co.uk. Also contact for details of yahoo group membership - discussion and information about events in the area.

MANCHESTER

Manchester, contact Sue 0161 881 4830

Madcow email list from Lesley: m.samuel@ntlworld.com

NORFOLK

Norwich area - Free Wheel for under 10s - activity group Weds fortnightly 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 Fay 01953 681785

Norwich, Fridays, fortnightly activities run by Christian group, contact Sue: 01953 454278

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 01604 454240 email: 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, contact Val 01952 502225
South Shrops regular meetings every Tuesday, outings and workshops: Carolyn 01588 680503

SOMERSET

Frome and beyond (FAB) home educators support group. Social gatherings, outings and newsletter. Contact: Sally 01749 841554, Helen 01373 465260
Wiveliscombe/Taunton area - regular get-togethers and outings: Maggie 01984 624651.
Wells and Glastonbury area, regular social meetings, weekly swimming, outings and nature activities. Contact Lesley 01749 689241, Tanya 01458 83487 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

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

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, for 5-12yr olds, activities organised by Suffolk Wildlife Trust, for more details and to book call Jenny on 01394 380113

Wetherden meetings every 3rd Friday 10.30-2pm. £3 per family, shared lunch: details from Heather, 01953 688 128

SURREY

P.A.C.T Surrey's home education newsletter. Monthly newsletter advertising Groups, outings, activities etc. For more information or Subscription form please contact Judith: judith_coughlin@hotmail.co.uk or 01737 813736

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 emmajevons@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

Regional Contact for East Sussex:

Winnie Durdant-Hollamby; 01342 826087

Sussex Newsletter for Home Education

Monthly newsletter gives full details of news, groups, events and activities throughout the County. Paper edition - £12/year or £6 1/2 year
Email only £2.50 year from Tula 01323 648127
Email: asanababy@aol.com or ring one of the following local events organisers:

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

Lindfield EO Friday club: Liz 01444 414058

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

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

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

Worthing/Shoreham Beach: Avis 01273 542589 or 0770 3647954

Forest Row Area: Winnie 01342 826087

Petersfield ACTIVEO: www.activeo.co.uk
5 events a week within 20 miles. For details please tel: 01428 712394

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

Wealden Home Ed website:

www.whenomnia.co.uk also email group: wealdenhomeeducatorsnetwork@yahoo.com

TYNE & WEAR and NORTHUMBERLAND

Regular, frequent and varied activities. Age range from 1 to 17yrs. New members welcome. Website:

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

Music - Rosemary 0191 2853707 or

paul@thenews.icom43net

National Trust & English Heritage Visits - Deborah 01434 674713
Woodland visits - Juliet 01207 544473 or ablett.jules@tesco.net

WARWICKSHIRE

Usually 2 Thursdays a month; at Wolston nr Coventry and for an outing in the area. Call Helen, 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 on 0121 585 6450 or email:

JoyBeasley@bbunch.freereserve.co.uk

WILTSHIRE

contact: Beccy 01985 840174

Lynham/Caine/Devizes area, every Weds, visits to places of interest in and around Wiltshire. Fully inclusive group aimed at under 8's but all welcome. For latest details call: 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 as above.

Swindon meeting: informal get together 1st and 3rd

Wednesdays 2-4pm Shena: 01793 334673, 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/NWILTS_HE/

Devizes: Last Thursday of month 11.30-2.30 activities, support, socialising. Tel: Janet 01249 818672 email: janet@eldekvisit.com Or tel: Jane: 01380 860969

WORCESTERSHIRE

LC Rachel 01527 597809 Meetings, events, trips out etc happening all through the month throughout the county. Meetings - Karen 01527 835384

North Worcs/Kidderminster meetings - Gail Tutcher 01562 822034 email: 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, 1-3pm, in Carleton Village Hall (near Skipton) for musical activities. Contact: Judith 01756 791356

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

near Malton, weekly on Wednesdays - contact Tess on 01947 825772 or tess@chriseall.com

YORKSHIRE SOUTH

Bradway, Mondays fortnightly 1-4 Activities/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 or Denise 01226 733478 or 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/places of interest and Theatre trips, please contact Sarah (01484) 361206 or e-mail: sl.marshall@ntlworld.com

Halifax: Gymnasium, Heath Training Centre, Free School Lane, every Monday except bank hols. 2-4pm. Meeting: Free-range activities + exchange of friendship and support for home educating children and parents. Gill Kilner 01422 311876, email: 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

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY Home-Ed Group Regular monthly meetings. Contact: Jean 01387 820374 or Debbie 01848 600348

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

HIGHLANDS/MORAY informal network for information + support. occasional outings and get-together, suggestions welcome. Contact Toni, email: koczy@koczy.co.uk or 01463 831574 or Rebecca 01343 542245

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. 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: contact: SWHEN@aol.com or bev1.french@btinternet.com or contact Louise 01443

231362 (Llantrisant), Bev 02920 797628 (Cardiff), Juliet 01639 760987 (Port Talbot), Amanda 01792 862305

(Swansea) or see www.swhen.netfirms.com

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

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

CEREDIGION & CARMARTHENSHIRE

Weekly meetings on Tues - Lampeter; weekly meetings on Fri - Aberaeron; monthly meeting Llanddeusan. 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 01938 590098 email: d.yeoman@tesco.net

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

N.E. WALES / BORDERS weekly gym/trampoline in Wrexham, Oswestry, W. Cheshire/NE Wales. local newsletter of events please send your details and £2 payment to; HENWOS, Berlan Gron, Llany Cil, Bala. Gwynedd LL23 7YG

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

Council Members

Jane Bathgate (Borders) 01835 862118
Pam Bellinger (Leics) 0116 282 7929 (Co Secretary)
Gail Borrows (Bucks) 01628 483895
eostationery@gmail.com
Tracy Coates (Lancs) 01253 858840
tracysolooney@tiscali.co.uk
Sarah Cook (Cumbria) 01768 896019
sarah@croggies.freemove.co.uk
Martine Frampton (Gloucs) 01608 812411
martine-frampton@macunlimited.net (Treasurer)
Phil Hicks (London Central)
0207 2294385 phil@hickslondon.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@annex.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,
22 Lewis Drive, St. Germans, Kings Lynn, Norfolk,
PE34 3FB. Tel: Lynda Hitchman 0870 765 3650 or
01553 617551
Email database@education-otherwise.org

Stationery

Leaflets, posters, membership forms, car stickers:
Gail Borrows, 48 Marlow Bottom, Marlow,
Bucks SL7 3NB tel: 01628 483895 email:
eostationery@gmail.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 (please ring to
check availability of items before ordering)

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

Useful Contacts

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

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

Single Parent Family Contact: Rowenna Williams
rowenna73@hotmail.com Berllan Gron, Llany Cil, BALA,
Gwynedd, LL23 7YG Tel: 01678 521348
Special Needs: Christine Waterman, 85 Elfrida Rd,
Watford, Herts WD1 8AT 01923 464773

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

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

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

Membership Secretary: Gail Borrows (acting)
01628 483895 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

Enquiries Secretary: Rowenna Williams (acting)
01678 521348 rowenna73@hotmail.com
Coordinator for Enquiries Secretary: Iris Harrison
(Assistant) Jo Borthen 01392 438876 jo4eo@aol.com

Newsletter Coordinator: Edana Edwards
01909 774811 vulpixie3@btinternet.com

Chairperson: Julie Ridley, 32 Cheltenham Road,
Chorlton, Manchester, M21 9QN 0161 860 7589
rainbow.weaver@phonecoop.coop

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, Rob Wade, Priscilla Park-Weir

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

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

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

Grievances and Complaints

Martine Frampton 70 Fossey Avenue, Moreton in Marsh, GL56 0EA 01608 812411
martine-frampton@macunlimited.net

Lynda Hitchman, 31 Audley St., Reading, Berks, RG30 1BP 0870 765 3650
database@education-otherwise.org

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

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

Media Contacts

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

Scotland: (VACANT) **Volunteers please!!**

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

North West: Stewart Eyres.
eonorthwest@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 07792 777750.

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@freereserve484.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) Sandra Jones.
Iklemisdynomite@aol.com Tel: 01634 326828.

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

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 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 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 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 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.

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

