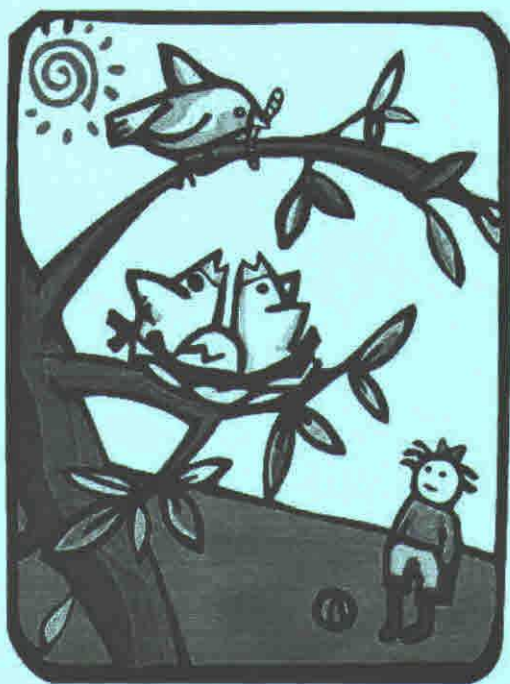


education otherwise



No. 168 - Feb. 2006

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

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS 3rd March 2006

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inside back cover*)

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CHILDREN'S PAGES *N.B. deadline 25th February 2006*
Malcolm Macgregor, 12 Shamrock Road Bristol BS5 6RL.
carla-maria@blueyonder.co.uk

Please mark material 'for publication' and include your **name, address, phone number and email** (if you have it) as we may need to contact you to discuss your contribution (though details may be withheld from publication on request). **Email contributions will be acknowledged within a few days. If you require a postal acknowledgement please enclose sae.** If no acknowledgement is received, or in case of queries, please contact the NL co-ordinator (see inside back cover).
Please also ensure your EO membership is up to date.

Please send contributions via the most appropriate section editor above

DISCLAIMER

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

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

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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CO-ORDINATORIAL

A belated Happy New Year to you all – I hope it's a good one for us and our children.

I'm pleased to say there's lots to read in this issue of the newsletter!

Lots of encouragement to follow a path that suits your child rather than 'the system' – As well as from Ross, we have a wonderful article by Ian Wild, which has also appeared in an Irish home ed. Newsletter, and is well worth sharing – It reassured me anyway!

A lovely story of a day out, by Azaria Rees – it brought tears to my eyes – thank you Azaria!

It really is good to share all our unique experiences of home ed. - There are so many paths to walk whilst raising our children – I love hearing of all the different approaches you have taken, so please keep sending them in!

Meanwhile it seems I may have found a replacement for co-ord –

fingers crossed! I will break her in gently though, so will still have some waffling to do for a couple more issues at least – Although I could always use a few space-filling quotes like these ones:

Alvin Toffler:

The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.

Beatrix Potter:

Thank goodness I was never sent to school; it would have rubbed off some of the originality.

Rachel Carson:

If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in.

Anne Frank:

Parents can only give good advice or put them on the right paths, but the final forming of a person's character lies in their own hands.

Best wishes,
Edana Edwards

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

Compulsory registration of all children

The Information Sharing Index which the government is setting up in the wake of the Laming report (about the institutional inadequacies that allowed Victoria Climbié to be murdered) will make registration of all children automatic and compulsory. The precise techniques for collecting this information have not yet been published, but some 'trailblazer' local authorities have been experimenting with ways of doing it, and regulations expected this spring and autumn will confer further powers. Each child will be given a unique identifying number, usually a scrambled version of the child reference number which all children are already allocated for child benefit purposes. Originally the data protection legislation provided that information could only be used for the purpose for which it was collected, but no doubt the government will empower themselves to do whatever they think best if we allow them to do so. They undertake that *We will consult publicly on draft regulations in the summer/autumn of 2006*. We must be ready to respond *en masse* but sensibly, in a way that will engage support from the public. The government is especially sensitive to communications from children and young people, as long as they do not appear to have been orchestrated by parents.

It is proposed that your child, and possibly you, will be able to correct the information held about you both in the IS index (*name, address, date of birth, gender, and contact details for parents or carers; contact details for their educational setting and GP practice and for other practitioners or services working with them; and where a practitioner judges it appropriate and necessary, an indicator showing that they wish to be contacted by other practitioners because they have relevant information to share, are taking action, or have undertaken an assessment in relation to that child*). You will not be able to access the information/opinions/gossip that a practitioner holds about your family, which they indicate they want to share with other practitioners. The only clue that such information exists is this 'indicator' such as an asterisk on their name in your entry. It may be that even this indicator is deleted when children and parents are given access to their entry, to protect the practitioner from harassment (and from human rights and freedom of information legislation, and appeals to the European court.)

This system will enable 'soft' information to be passed amongst all the practitioners who may have power over you, without your being able to access or contest it. 'Soft' information is that which cannot be substantiated or proved, based on opinion or gossip, including anonymous phone calls. Of course this information-sharing may enable an abused child to be picked up on earlier, and many of us might be happy to cooperate with this if experience in EO did not lead us to distrust a minority of local authority personnel and other professionals.

We already know how some LEA reports may imply or even baldly declare things which are untrue, to the detriment of a family's wellbeing or reputation. Most LEAs behave impeccably: their staff are intelligent, sincere and respectful of what we are doing, and a pleasure to meet. But there always remains a minority of LEA staff, not always in the same areas, who seem to resent our autonomy and try every trick to get our children back into their system. Since 1984, when Rob and I started supporting EO families to deal with their LEA, we have not seen any change in the basic misuse of power by a few individuals who manipulate and bully families unless they are challenged. Initially we thought that this would improve as LEAs understood home education better and appreciated how successful EO families are, but this has not happened. Some LEAs improve, and others slip back, depending on the individuals involved and how effective the local home educating community is in working with them. This abuse of power seems to be an inherent part of some people's personality, and it can only be countered

by a culture of integrity, equality, accountability and open government, along with clear statutory guidance for local authorities which empowers parents to contest allegations on an equal footing. EO put a lot of work into amending the draft guidelines put out by the DfES last year, but the government appears to have put these on hold.

This information sharing scheme has been set up almost entirely through consultation between government and professionals, with no acknowledgement that they may have a vested interest in claiming more authority than we, the people, are willing to give them. The government has responded to concerns from children and young people, many of them in EO, who wrote and complained that they did not want information about themselves to be on a database, by minimising the overt information on the database, but this does not change the substance of the problem. We need the government to recognise that most children are more likely to be well cared for by their parents than by people who are paid to care. This is blatantly true of the care system, and is equally true of education.

Children will not be helped to disclose abuse by Big Brother tactics. Some gross abuse such as Victoria's may be picked up in time to save them, but ordinary good practice would be more effective in dealing with such neglect and physical abuse. For instance, I knew a Barnado's scheme of self-referral to a day centre for mothers who were afraid of battering their small children, and it always had a waiting list. Social workers should have good support and supervision, hospital consultants should be approachable and listen to the concerns of nurses who think a child is being abused, and religious leaders who misuse their authority to demonise children should be made afraid of prosecution: these were some of the problems in Victoria's case. Sexual and emotional abuse can usually be hidden, and children will only ask for help if they feel in control of what happens to them, and if they have good choices. Telephone helplines are a huge success for this reason. Children may be helped to handle abuse, to learn what normal boundaries are, how to say 'No', and how to stand up to an abuser effectively, while remaining anonymous. They know that if they disclose abuse without this safeguard of anonymity they are likely to be taken into care, and will usually prefer to put up with the abuse they know rather than jump out of the frying pan into the fire.

I have always said that registration would come as our numbers became significant, and we would not find it a problem if we could guarantee by then that all LEAs met the standards of the best in their relations with us. Now it is coming, and expected to be fully in place by 2008 - but some professionals still feel they ought to be able to dominate us. The authorities, whether LAs, LEAs, Ofsted or whatever, are not going to improve spontaneously. We need a collection of succinct accounts of LEA practice, exceptionally good as well as bad, in order to convince the government of how widely they vary, and that legally binding guidance is required to control the behaviour of any authority towards us. Please write to us with your stories, or ring us and tell us about them; and to make suggestions for campaigning.

Anne Wade anneandrob@onetel.com, 020 8904 7155, London Middx in contact list

Hansard 08 December 2005 Column 114WS - 116WS

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmhansrd/cm051208/wmstext/51208m01.htm#51208m01.html_sbhd1

Every Child Matters website [http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/deliveringservices/index/Information sharing index](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/deliveringservices/index/Information%20sharing%20index)

Amended draft guidelines for LEAs May 2005

<http://www.education-otherwise.org/Legal/Consultations/English/FrtPgEngland.htm>

VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

GET INVOLVED WITH EO!!

SEN CONTACT

Christine Waterman is looking to hand over the SEN Contact role. You need to have a grasp of the law relating to home education and special needs and a knowledge of how special needs affect life and learning. If you feel you could take on this role, please contact Christine at: christine.waterman@ntlworld.com or tel: 01923 464773.

TREASURER FOR THE TRADING COMPANY

You do not need to be an accounts expert, you only need to be able to add and subtract using an Excel spreadsheet. This is not a very time consuming job as there are only a few transactions; paying for books, t-shirts etc and for the hire of venues for Gatherings/Meetings, along with a few expenses cheques. There is some extra work at the year end (30th June) chasing up information on the stock we hold. Lots of support will be given in the early stages. If you would like to consider helping out please contact Terry Scott-Alexander Tel: 01749 343355 email: Terry@croscombe.fslife.co.uk

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 Tunham, 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: 6 White House Croft, Long Newton, Stockton on Tees, TS21 1PJ tel: 01642 570786 pollyb47@aol.com

Areas currently needing a Local Contact:

ENGLAND

Derbyshire
Dorset - East
Dorset - West
Durham
Gloucestershire - North
Gloucestershire - South
Hampshire – West
Kent
Kent South East
London Central
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

Resigning Contacts

Rachel Pearson	Worcestershire
Sandra Jones	Kent
Wendy Tebbatt	Nottingham City

New Acting Contacts

Sue Onions	Worcestershire
Damian Carnell	Nottingham City

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.

EO National Gathering
15th to 22nd May 2006

John's Lee Wood, Leicestershire

Following on from the fantastic success of 2005

Camping in clearings in woodland within the National Forest, 30 minutes from Leicester city centre by bus and 5 minutes from the M1. Situated in the countryside close to Bradgate Park, Beacon Hill and other public woodlands. Campfires, woods to explore, good company, and outdoor pursuits on site.

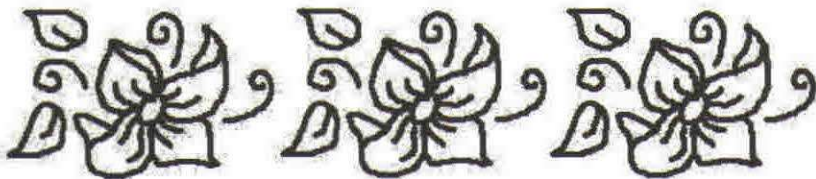
Leicestershire is home to the Space Science Centre, Twycross Zoo and Snibston Discovery Park, a hands on science museum. The Great Central Steam Railway is close by.

As well as camping there is some indoor accommodation in cabins with bunk beds, large communal rooms and indoor kitchen facilities. For further information and booking forms send a stamped SAE to Lize Stevens, 96 Ivanhoe Street, Leicester LE3 9GW or e-mail kissit@yawot.me.uk

The campsite can be viewed at www.jlw.me.uk
For information on disabled access, phone Pam on 0116 282 7929

There will be an open council meeting of Education Otherwise Association Ltd on Saturday, 20th May 2006 at John's Lee Wood Campsite, Leicestershire from 10am. All members of EO are welcome to attend.

HesFes 2006 has moved to a new date and will happen over the Summer Solstice



NOTICES

World Book Day

World Book Day is the biggest annual event supporting books and reading in the UK and Ireland. World Book Day 2006 will take place on **Thursday 2nd March** and you should find *with this issue of the newsletter three £1 vouchers for World Book Day*. The vouchers are redeemable at any good bookseller displaying World Book Day posters and notices in their windows and in store between 27th February and 26th March 2006 (inclusive).

The specially produced £1 (€1.50) books for WBD 2006 are as follows:

Here Comes Harry and his Bucketful of Dinosaurs by Ian Whybrow and Adrian Reynolds;
Rainbow Magic: Hannah the Happy Ever After Fairy by Daisy Meadows, illus. George Ripper;
How to Train Your Viking by Toothless the Dragon by Cressida Cowell; **The Mum Surprise** by Gwyneth Rees; **The Stone Pilot** by Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell; **Koyasan** by Darren Shan.

Terms and Conditions (Extract. Full details available at www.worldbookday.com)

- Only one Book Token can be used per transaction.
- The offer only applies to titles in stock. The World Book Day £1 (€1.50)
- Book Token is also redeemable against any book or audio book worth £1.99 (€2.95) or more in all bookshops participating in the initiative.
- The World Book Day Book Token cannot be exchanged for cash or any other merchandise.
- Please **do not** attempt to exchange large numbers of WBD £1 (€1.50 in Ireland) Book Tokens for quantities of the special £1 (€1.50 in Ireland) Books at your local bookshop.

For those families with more than three children, additional Book Tokens can be obtained from Jacqui Houlding, 38 Garwood Close, Westbrook, Warrington, WA5 8TF on receipt of an SSAE as long as stocks remain. Please give your membership number and state how many more Tokens you need. (For those families with less than three children, please share if you know a child who hasn't received a Token.)

Happy Reading!

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.

Local Group Guidelines

With the rise in numbers of groups coming under the umbrella of Education Otherwise and claiming cover under the Education Otherwise Public Liability Insurance it has become necessary to introduce some rules and some guidelines which Education Otherwise wishes the groups calling themselves 'Education Otherwise Groups' to use.

Rules

1. Children and young people under the age of 18 remain the responsibility of their parents or guardians. In their absence, parents should make specific arrangements for another adult to take this responsibility on their behalf. *in loco parentis* Forms are available for group organisers to use if they wish to.
2. Whilst some groups distinguish between age groups, the group shall be fully inclusive regardless of race, religion, (dis)ability, sexual orientation of parents, style of parenting and style of educational provision.
3. Whilst the group may be called an Education Otherwise group, it is not necessary that all members belong to Education Otherwise the charity.
4. There must be at least one named Education Otherwise member who is responsible for ensuring that the group acts within these guidelines.
5. To benefit from the Education Otherwise Public Liability Insurance, an Education Otherwise member of the group must organise the cover with the Education Otherwise Treasurer. This may or may not be the person mentioned in 4 above.
6. Finances
 - a. Groups which take advantage of the Start Up grant offered by Education Otherwise must undertake to be a registered Education Otherwise group before the grant is released.
 - b. Whilst groups may make charges to cover expenses, all groups are non-profit making.
 - c. One person should be responsible for any monies collected and keep an account of income and expenditure. Accounts should be available to all group members.
 - d. In the event of a group folding, any funds should be returned to the Education Otherwise treasurer.
7. New groups should ensure that their group's name is different to any existing group.
8. The group must be listed under the Regional Diary section of the newsletter.
9. Groups must adopt and follow Education Otherwise's Equality and Diversity, Child Protection and any other policies introduced at any time.

Guidelines

1. Groups should renew their affiliation with Education Otherwise each year when

Education Otherwise's insurance policy is renewed. At this time, rough numbers of home educating families attending the meeting should be given to the treasurer so that Education Otherwise has an idea of numbers covered by the insurance policy.

2. As far as is possible, all meeting venues should be accessible for all.
3. Membership of the group is open and members should be allowed to visit as and when they can. Non-attendance at a group for any reason should not restrict that member from attending when they can and wish to.
4. If it is necessary to ban a member from a group for any reason, the member must be given a reason and given leave to appeal the decision. Details of Education Otherwise's Complaint Group should also be provided to the member so that they can place an official complaint if they wish.
5. The group should be a safe environment for all children. Should any child begin hitting and fighting another, the parent of that child must take responsibility for the actions of the child. There shall be no abuse, ridicule, bullying or threatening behaviour by adults or children. Autonomy does not mean anarchy.
6. Every person attending should treat every other person attending with respect and dignity.
7. Someone(s) should be given responsibility at each meeting to welcome newcomers to the meeting to ensure that people feel welcome.
8. Quiet areas should be made available at the meetings for those children who have a problem with loud noises and frantic movements often evident at meetings.
9. Parents who opt to home educate to accommodate their child's disability often have different needs when attending a meeting. The group organiser should talk with a new parent to see how the child's needs can be accommodated. This may mean discussing the most appropriate way to explain the child's difficulties to others in the group so that tolerance and understanding can grow between all the adults and all the children.
10. A list of the guidelines under which the group is run should be available for parents at all times.
11. If a group has problems, these may be referred to the Education Otherwise Complaints Group in the event that the problem cannot be resolved locally. Education Otherwise can only be involved here with Education Otherwise groups.
12. The group organiser should have a supply of the Disability Leaflet published by Education Otherwise to give to all group members.

For Local Contacts

There is a forum on the Members Area which is just for Local Contacts, for you to discuss problems you may have in your area and to share experiences and information. It could be an excellent way for Local Contacts to support each other, especially if you are uncertain of anything.

To join the Member's Area, 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. As a Local Contact, please state which area you are Local Contact for so that you can be added to this forum and the password be sent to you.

Jacqui

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 at 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.

Education Otherwise Association Ltd

Meetings for Saturday, 11 February 2006

Westbourne Grove Church, Notting Hill, London

Agenda for AGM:

1. Minutes of the previous AGM
2. Consideration of the accounts.
3. Auditors Remuneration
4. Appointment of Auditor
5. Election of new Council Members

Provisional agenda for the Open Council Meeting (reports to be added later):

1. Matters Arising
 - a) Home Education Stories – Anne Rix (2)

- b) Newsletter Policy Revision – Anne Rix, Gary Podmore (2)
 - c) Finance Report - Martin Wise, Phil Hicks (4) - See Item 8
 - d) Training Courses for Volunteers – Celia McDonagh (5)
 - e) Handbook Proposal – Anne Rix, Martin Wise (13)
 - f) Paid Agency Staff Contracts – Jacqui Houlding, Lynda Hitchman (14)
 - g) Local Group Guidelines – Jacqui Houlding (15)
 - h) Argraffwyr Arfon Printers – Pam Bellinger (16)
 - i) Role of Chairperson with EO – Celia McDonagh (17)
 - j) Expenses Form – Jacqui Houlding (18) See Item
 - k) Updating of SINC – Martin Wise and others (24)
2. Enquiries Secretary's Report
 3. Media Report
 4. Publications Secretary Report
 5. Database Report
 6. Newsletter Report
 7. Virtual Office Report
 8. Treasurer's Report
 9. Government Policy Team Report
 10. Steering Group Report
 11. LEA group report
 12. Local Contact Co-Ordinator's Report
 13. Stationary Report
 14. Complaints Group report
 15. Scotland Report
 16. Expenses
 17. EO Merchandise
 18. Role of Steering Group and EO Council Email List
 19. Financial Contribution to Research on Home Education
 20. Future venues
 21. AOB

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

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>

Concessionary Rate at Bletchley Park, Bucks.

Can members please note that Bletchley Park are no longer able to offer the concessionary rate as shown in the 2005 handbook to EO members. If you visit this attraction, you will have to pay the full rate.

T Shirt Designs

The T shirts ideas shown in the December newsletter were quite popular and we now have here the three top favourites from the last issue as well as some which arrived after the copy deadline for December as well as a couple inspired by seeing the first lot.

As before, I'd like votes from everyone as to their favourites. This WILL be the last lot, so please, even if you are inspired...don't send any more designs in otherwise we could keep going for ever and not actually achieve anything. ☺



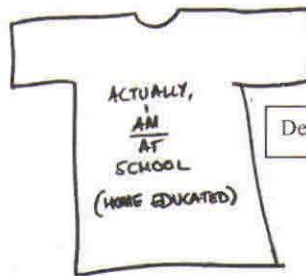
Design A



Design B



Design C



Design D

THE WORLD'S MY
PLAYGROUND!
I'M HOME EDUCATED



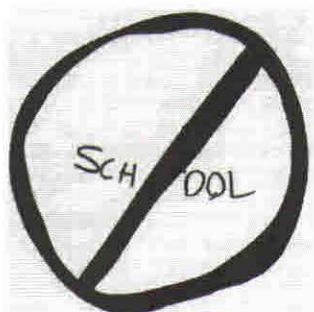
Design E

007
LICENSED
TO
LEARN
(AT HOME)

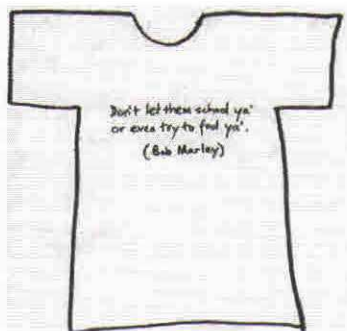
Design F



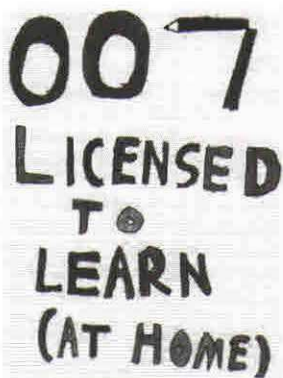
Design G



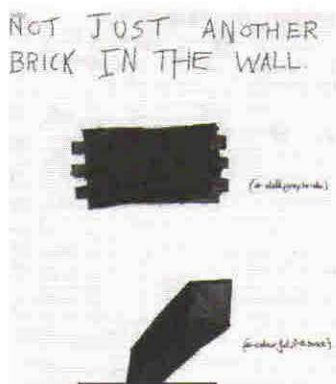
Design H



Design I

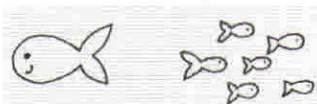


Design J



Design K

I
EXCLUDED
THE
SCHOOL



Design L

Too Cool
For School

Design M

Home Education

(Image of rainbow)

Because Real Life isn't
In Black and White

Design N

Design O

Picture: Mother deer and a home-ed child deer in their cave making a tapestry. Behind them a group of sheep rushing to school with thought bubbles talking of problems in school. Child deer speech bubble says, 'What's that?' Mother deer answers, 'Oh, that's just a schoolpede.' (schoolpede – stamped)

Phrase: Home Education: More time, More knowledge = Better Life

Meaning: Deers represent that you can go higher in things in HE... deers climb to the highest points. Tapestry means that 1) takes years to make as does learning, and 2) every single thread making the tapestry represents little pieces of knowledge accumulated throughout life. Sheep follow the crowd but in HE you can be yourself and be different. The rushing means all the rushing in learning you do in school – therefore the phrase 'schoolpede' fits perfectly.

Imitation
+ Conversation
= Education
Otherwise

Design P

STAND OUT
FROM THE CROWD



BE HOME-EDUCATED

Design Q

The following slogans were also suggested.

1. Don't let school drain your brain!
2. Stand-alone Learner
3. Avoid the herds, learn at home
4. No school rules – Home rules OK
5. Apathy out – Learning in
6. Individual Learner
7. Bright shiny star in the making
8. Done with school – Learning at home
9. Proud to be Parent-Ed
10. Beware! Home learner, no stone left unturned
11. Making ripples in the educational pool
12. My future looks brighter, I'm learning at home
13. Hi Ho, Hi Ho!
It's off to learn we go.
With Mum and fun,
The work's soon done,
Hi Ho, Hi Ho.
14. Organically Educated.

Thank you to everyone for your suggestions and we look forward to hearing which ones you like best. Hopefully we may have something new and original for the summer. ☺

Jacqui Houlding

Jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk

01925 654856

EO Wristbands

Silicone Wristbands with ***School Is Not Compulsory*** debossed on them. Purple colour 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 or 01925 654856 and enquire.

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They Don't Teach You This In School!

Are you aged between 12 and 16?

Would you like to learn how to become a
journalist?

I am a freelance journalist, published writer of nine
books and home educating mum and I am offering a
correspondence course (email/postal) in freelance
journalism to home educated kids.

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published, the laws of journalism, how to set yourself
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along the way.

To cover materials, postage and time, I am charging
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If you are interested, please contact me at
Deborahdurbin@fsmail.net or
phone me on 01934 835769

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Educating Archie: putting your cards on the table

The keyword for 2006 appears to be 'education education education'.



- & government advice on reading, is that it should be 'enjoyable'...



yes reader, it's all a worry. How can we tell if our children are doing 'education', 'enjoying', or 'reading'?



Rest assured! I've designed a test to do in the safety & privacy of your own home - called H.E.L.L.O? © [Home Educators List of Learning Outcomes] funded by Nestlé



SIMPLY ARRANGE THE FOLLOWING CARDS on a table



[the cards can be changed according to need]

NOW. Withdraw and wait to see which card your child is drawn to... ARCHIE?



GULP! I've just swallowed a whole chip



OH DEAR! Want some Rescue Remedy?



NO BUT I'LL HAVE SOME KETCHUP



COMING SOON... EO sin bins! A 'knee-jerk populist idea' or 'mish-mash of gimmicks'? The Inspector tells all...

I apologise to anyone who may have tried to send material to me by e-mail and had the address bounce back. Just before Christmas my e-mail was deleted by tiscali (don't ask me why – it's a long story!). Once deleted it seems it cannot be reinstated so I have had to create a new one but I have no way of accessing the old one.

*My new tiscali e-mail address is sannw@tiscali.co.uk or you can use sue_white@lineone.net
Sue (Letters and articles editor)*

Derbyshire Steiner Group

In south Derbyshire we are setting up a family Steiner group. We are planning on having a toddler group, Kindergarten and parent and child group for older children. If anyone is interested in joining us or finding out more then please contact me. We are going to be starting very soon.

We are also looking for a qualified early years leader to run the kindergarten, preferably with knowledge of Steiner education. If there is anyone who would be interested in this position then contact me. We are setting the project up as a workers co-operative so whoever takes on this job would be welcome to join.

Please contact me for more information:

*Julie Loughlin 01283 760800
loughlinkzc@aol.com*

Contact needed urgently

I've been home-educating my daughter Katie for 10 months, after she had a bottle thrown at her head in the school yard and suffered serious concussion and then panic attacks. Home-education has been the answer; she is very creative, much more relaxed and no more panic attacks.

I am a single parent and constantly worry about money. I am amazed myself at how much I do on so little sometimes. You can home-educate on a budget – it's about more than money. However, I feel excluded. I have not got the Internet and not much money to travel to the nearest home-education groups. I found the LEA very patronising and discouraging. Even though they approved of Katie's work I sent them I felt distinctly resented and ALONE. I'd love contact with like-minded people as even my Mum has not really supported me,

thinking home-education too 'radical'. Contact with 'radical' home-educators needed! I give Katie a lot of freedom in learning, but we also get deep into subjects. We are both creative. We love animals (our cat is about to have kittens) and, also, we are Christians.

*Hannah Samuel, 25 Alexandrina Street,
Seaham, Co. Durham SR7 7HU*

Request for reinstating themes

I'm an avid reader of the EO newsletter and look forward to it arriving every couple of months. Thanks to all involved in its production.

There used to be a theme for each newsletter – learning languages, computers or exams, for example. Could this be reinstated? I thought it was a good way of encouraging would-be article writers to contribute. The 'personal experience' articles are always very interesting and are invaluable to those new to home-education and having a theme may make contributing less daunting.

Another request: Could the EO triangle logo be made available as an iron-on transfer?

*Rebecca Kail, 18 King Street, New Elgin, Elgin
IV30 6BX*

New home-education social group

A new home ed. social group has been organised for the Harrogate area. It is at Hookstone Chase community centre, and will run weekly on Tuesdays 2pm-4pm.

If you are interested in coming along to play and chat, or need any more info. please call either Liz Robertshaw on 01423 340321, e-mail blessingway1@aol.com or Kate Scott on 01423 865777, e-mail ksbtscott@aol.com. We look forward to seeing you there!

Thinking of setting up a new local group

I have a 3 ½ year old girl and I would like to set up a weekly local group in Brentwood, Essex, in the near future (1 year or so from now) with HE children.

I do not drive, therefore I don't want to travel if there could be a chance for us of meeting some local families.

The group would be open to any ideas and suggestions for projects, outings etc.

If you are from Brentwood or nearby and interested in discussing this idea further, please ring me or e-mail if you prefer.

*Roberta, 132B London Road, Brentwood, Essex
CM14 4NS Tel: 01277 218661
E-mail: robertaesandy@yahoo.co.uk*

Diary of a Home Educating Nobody

I know it's now February but Happy Home Educating Year to you!

As I start writing this I realise that I have been doing this 'diary' for nearly three years now and HEing for six! And guess what? I still feel like a complete Home Educating beginner, a novice, still fumbling in ignorance as much as ever was. It seems that the more I do and learn, the more in ignorance I feel of all there is to do and learn. Which actually sums up education really doesn't it? All education whether home based or not, is a continuing process.

When I look back at some of the earlier 'Diaries' I'm not sure I still agree with myself! But that's also part of becoming educated; having opportunities to relearn, rethink, review, adjust, and move on. And some of the things I've said over the years actually make me cringe now, but at the time they seemed right and true - for me, that is. For, or course, what's right and true for one person may not be so for anyone else. That's another wonderful advantage of HE; you can do what is right and true for YOU. You can follow your own styles, beliefs, theories, practices and the personal needs of your children. A tailor made education. What could be better than that?!

But that's a pretty scary concept really! It's always scary to step off the main line and do things independently. Pretty scary to tailor education to your own children and their needs, as you've no guarantee that you're doing it right, or how it's going to work out. But if you're really terrified by that thought just now, as you embark on another HE year, or indeed if you're just starting out, remember that it would also be true if your child was in school. There are never any real guarantees with that either. No guarantees that your children will come out of school educated, happy, or successfully set up for life.

We might argue that there is bound to be more certainty with them being in school, surely? But is there really?

The longer I've Home-Educated, the more I realise that actually there isn't. Now I'm used to being a HEer I tend to feel that there is much less certainty that my children would have achieved the standard of personal development and fulfilment, happiness and confidence that they have enjoyed over the past six years if they'd been in an institution they hated, doing things they found irrelevant and pointless, with people they didn't choose to be with, and at the mercy of some who were not always as respectful as they should be! (This is just

how it was for us - I know it's not like that for everyone). So I do feel a little more certain these days. But no future can ever be guaranteed. The deal you get in school can never be guaranteed. HE can never be guaranteed. Some schools work brilliantly. Some do not. Some children thrive in schools. Some do not. No guarantees anywhere.

No one can ever guarantee success. No one can ever guarantee happiness or health. And there is always only a very fine line between that and the opposite. Surely it must be possible for you to tip the balance more in your child's favour with a tailor made education, than with a generalised one? Keep your focus on that, and it might not be so scary. Always remember you CAN enable your child to be educated just as well as schools can if you keep their needs as a priority. For it must be true that your child's personal needs will not be as much a priority for a teacher of twenty nine others as they would be for you! That must be worth something.

The ideas I have shared here have not been certainties. They are only ideas - not necessarily truth. I've only ever hoped that within these articles members would find some support, lots of comfort and hopefully plenty of food for thought.

So at times it has been a difficult and frightening venture to submit this 'Diary' to the newsletter. As difficult and uncertain as HEing! I've often worried myself sick about saying the wrong thing - just as we worry about that with our kids! And since I've been doing it so long I also wonder if it is time for change. What you might like to read in a newsletter instead. Who reads it anyway? And what works for you?

I do wonder if some of you realise that this newsletter is a direct reflection of WHAT YOU WANT. In fact, EO is a reflection of what members want. But unless YOU let people know what you want how can all the wonderful volunteers who give up so much of their time - and I'm not talking about me here, I'm talking about those who have the more gruelling, mundane and intrusive amounts of work to do for EO than me - how can they know what it is you want? How can they run EO to suit if you don't make contact?

We certainly need more voices. EO needs your voices to say what you want. The newsletter needs your experiences about your HEing as well as mine. We need to offer assurance to one another, encouragement to those who are starting out and to those who are flagging along the way as I have done at times - and still do! We need positive encouraging stories.

For maybe we can create some certainty within these pages despite the uncertainty of HEing! Perhaps we can be certain that among these pages we can always find support, a sense of community, shared experience and inspiration.

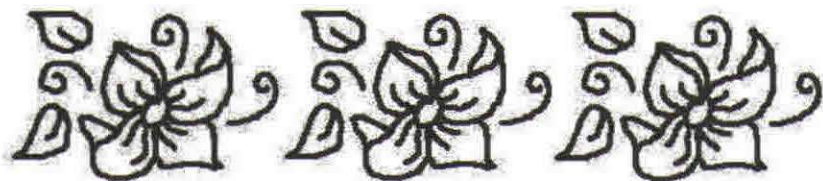
Go on - start this year by putting pen to paper or fingers to keyboard and sharing some of yourself. It all helps to know what another is doing. This organisation is to help and support us as we Home Educate. We can all share in making that help and support at least one certainty!

Please send your stories, letters and articles by the deadline, to the relevant coordinator whose details are inside the front cover.

If you want to give me some feedback on the 'Diaries' that would be great as I am considering collating these and more into a book.

Ross Mountney.

Email: Rmountney@lineone.net



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, and 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

Childcare for Home Educators

Recently, on a home ed. internet forum, someone was lamenting the fact that they couldn't get a childminder to take on their home ed. child. It made me feel quite sad. I've got a foot in both camps - I HE and I am a childminder. So I asked on two childminder lists: 'Would you childmind a HE child?' Hey presto, a list of HE friendly childminders! Several HE childminders have helped me to keep the issue live so that lots of childminders now **know** HE exists - lots of them sort of knew already because I don't shut up about it - and they have been reading the EO website = result!

Apparently childminders who have been approached by a HE parent automatically think that they, the childminder, would be expected to do the 'education'. They go into 'headless chicken mode' and turn down the enquiry.

I just thought it would be worth letting HEers know that if they made it *very clear* that they are primarily looking for CARE, (but would be delighted if their child happened to learn something whilst they were there ;-)), they may well receive a favourable response from a childminder.

There are childminders who would positively glow if they could childmind a HE child. I hold a list of contact details of childminders who would happily care for a HE child in following areas: Burton on Trent, Staffordshire | St Albans | Sidcup/New Eltham | Vale of Glamorgan, South Wales | Horsham, West Sussex | Horsforth, Leeds | Liphook, Hampshire | Harlow | Steyning, West Sussex | Dudley West Midlands | Sheffield | Scunthorpe | Basingstoke, Hampshire | Colchester Essex | Basingstoke, Hampshire | Oswestry, Shropshire/Welsh Border | North Somerset | Wickford, Essex | Caerphilly, South Wales | Wirral | Manchester | Potton, Bedfordshire | Macclesfield, Cheshire | Newton Abbot, Devon | St. Neots, Cambridgeshire | Eastbourne | Tadley nr Basingstoke | Weston-Super-Mare, Worle | Cardiff | Coventry | Great Dunmow, Essex | Skegness | Leek, in Staffordshire | Worthing, West Sussex | Bridlington East Yorkshire | Bolton | Derby | Skegness | Doncaster | Dagenham, Essex | Anglesey, North Wales | Hastings, E Sussex. | Basildon, Essex | Basingstoke, Hampshire | Ivybridge, Devon | Bradford, West Yorkshire | Doncaster, South Yorkshire | Shropshire/Staffordshire border | Huddersfield | Keynsham, Bristol | Manchester | Hertford, Herts | Reading | Oxfordshire | Ruan Minor, Cornwall |

Yes, in some areas there is more than one HE friendly childminder!

If any childminders would like to be added to the list please let me know your name, the area in which you live and give me any contact details you'd like me to hold.

A search for childminders in your area can be made via
<http://www.childcarelink.gov.uk/index.asp>

I have tried to keep this short – not easy!

I'll just mention that increasing numbers of childminders are joining childminding networks and becoming 'accredited.' We can draw funding for providing early years education; therefore provide free care for your 3-5 year old child in a stimulating environment. Yes, we use the foundation stage curriculum, and no, a skilful childminder won't make a child jump through hoops to meet its expectations. Of course many excellent childminders don't 'do' the network and accredited thing – isn't diversity a wonderful thing? The numbers of HE childminders is growing too!

If anyone wants details of a HE friendly childminder near them or would like to discuss any aspect further they are welcome to contact me.

Sue Barnicoat, Mill View – Childcare & Holiday Apartments, Ruan Minor, Cornwall TR12 7LH
Tel: 01326 290512
E-mail: suebarnicoat@yahoo.co.uk



Organic Structure

A situation in which children are felt to be '*without structure*' makes for a lot of tutting. When children are doing something adults have planned and set them to do, there's a hum of approval about young people doing something 'structured', which has an aim, a purpose. Yet children I meet who get a lot of this adult-driven 'purpose' always seem lacking in vitality. Moping, sullen, resentful. All that purposeful structure seems to leave is a pile of rubble.

I'm not against structure in my life. I happen to like it. Just so long as it's my own, or it is structure I have willingly entered into. If I go to a class, I'm happy to let the teacher structure the experience in any way they see fit. If I don't like their approach I don't have to go again. There's the rub. If I don't like a structure I can opt out of it. But a child often cannot. What if I had a learning situation imposed on me that I couldn't see the point of or disliked? How much would I learn as my hackles rose up past my ears?

Conventional educators would say that as a grown up, it is fine for me to feel that way. But children are different. They need to have a curriculum and education structures forced on them or they won't learn essential life skills. The three R's at the very least. They would argue that these essentials must be ordered by a responsible adult (an expert no less) into a body of learning and fed to children in bite-sized chunks, until they have worked their way through it all. Without this structure, the child would

wander off, like a wild goat, grazing on anything (Pokemon! The Beano! Gameboys!), leaving great gaps of knowledge.

One problem I have with this is that children learn things at different times; have different abilities, come from different homes and cultures. They are not all *ready to receive this knowledge at the same time*. In school, one body of knowledge is set out and is expected to fit everyone. Like some mass produced garment one size only. The child often cannot see the point of the body of knowledge. In trying to make sure that children get this body of knowledge, with threats, forcefeeding, or boring delivery schools turn the child off learning. Or destroy the child's ability and confidence so that even if they wanted to they couldn't receive the knowledge. Imposing structure has the inbuilt problem that a child often cannot recognise the use of adult structures, nor interest themselves in imposed knowledge.

After fifteen years of being at home with my children without lessons or curriculums, I know that *imposed structure* is not the only way to learn those 'essential skills'. The three Rs and more. Somehow, my own children absorbed those things with virtually no 'teaching.' I don't even know how my youngest son learned to read. I caught him one day aged about nine, laughing at a Tin-tin book. I asked him if the picture was funny and he said - '*no, the joke is*'. And he read it out loud to me. I was astonished. He'd never asked for any help with reading. I would gladly have given it. I suspect he must have learned reading over his brother's shoulder.

Children learning things in their own time, as they learn to walk and talk, learn things when they feel they need them. True, this sometimes happens a good deal later than schooled children, (making some HE parents understandably edgy), but it comes at less cost in terms of emotional damage. I've met home-learners who were not reading till they were twelve and thirteen. By the age of seventeen, these children were very literate. One is now in university, the other, on the way. With my own children, I gave them no lessons, only *time*. Whenever they needed it and as much as they wanted. In doing what they wanted to do, they learned all they needed to know. It was and *still is* fun. It might look like to messing around to some. In truth it is children building their own vitally important inner structures.

The idea that a child will only learn things according to a planned curriculum in a classroom situation is very Victorian. That it is a poor method of structuring learning ought to be obvious by the high number of people who are turned off by it. One of the reasons it is still prevailing, despite evidence that children dislike it, is that it is very *visible* method. You can easily *see* what is being attempted. A curriculum can be mapped out for years ahead. There can be highly visible goals, targets, directives. With a teacher stood in front of rows of children, you can look on and say, '*By golly there's some powerful educating going on there.*' But just because somebody's teaching, doesn't mean anyone's learning. Maybe that's the biggest lesson the system has to learn.

Had conventional educators transmogrified into bluebottles and hung around on the walls in my house over the past few years, I dare say they would have frowned at the

apparent lack of structure, in a situation that allowed my youngest son to walk round the kitchen table like a monk for hours at a time apparently doing nothing (in fact doing an awful lot internally and meditatively). They might have buzzed and chafed their wings at my eldest son playing so much soccer in the garden – perhaps missing the training drills that he devised and carried out himself for improving his shooting, passing and co-ordination. A conventional educator might have come into my home and presumed there were no learning structures at all. *Just because they were not visible.* But it is not true to think that where there is no outside structure being imposed on the learner there is no structure at all.

Nobody can know the inner structure of a child's mind. That is perhaps the scary thing for a parent. If you don't impose a structure – which gives the illusion that you know what is going in to your child's being – then you often don't have a clue what is going on in there. For some years, maybe until a child's mid-teens, it comes down to a matter of trust.

I don't impose school-like 'structures' on my children, yet I believe there is a good deal of meaningful, positive structure in their learning and their lives. They have structures they have built themselves. Sometimes with my help, but more often not. I have let them get on with their own lives, doing pretty much what they want to do. Not judging, not interfering. I let them get on with Gameboy's, Beano's, Manga, Warhammer and many other things, as well as letting them share my own life and preferences. With no formal learning they are as literate and as educated as their peers – often more so. And unsurprisingly, they are not turned off learning things. Socially they are communicative and outgoing, well-liked by their peers. When they want to learn something, they are confident they can do so. They have created their own learning structures, *organically*. They have grown, much I guess as a rain forest grows, seemingly at random. Yet ultimately these structures are rich, varied, complex, strong. They are capable of extraordinary personal development and growth. In contrast to this kind of *'organic structure'*, an *'imposed structure'* is like a pine forest plantation. Ordered in rows, often for commercial reasons, in the wrong soil. Degrading the environment in which it is sown. Dead inwardly, and denying growth to everything else.

Children who develop organic structures, get continual practise in structuring their learning and so become very good at it. Imposing outside structures on children in the way that schools and National Curriculums do, young people lose the opportunity to build their own far more fruitful and relevant inner lives. To many children school feels debilitating and disempowering. And no wonder. How can young people ever learn to structure their lives when every second is spent fulfilling somebody else's learning and life objectives? Universal education was supposed to help abolish child slavery. But when I look at what young people have to do in schools and the amount of time they have to devote to homework, all I see is children pulling 21st century coal trucks. What children learn from outside structures is a sullen dependency. Is it any wonder that when all this structure is removed in holidays or on leaving school, young people feel at a loss or bored. They are so used to other people structuring their lives they don't have the foggiest how to go about it themselves. They are so turned off with everything, nothing seems interesting any more (except things that adults don't approve

of.) This imposition of learning warps a child's inner being. What they are learning is that learning is a chore. A worry. A thing of league tables and tests. Of fists and punches in a playground. Of humiliation and torment. Throughout their formative years, they are being prevented from finding out what they really love and enjoy and want to learn about, and how to find out who they really are.

There are people who might be said to have poor ability to structure their lives and learning, who live moping listless lives without any interests and who don't know what to do with themselves. These are people who have had enough of all the structures that have been imposed on them ruthlessly for years. Parents making them do things, teachers making them do things.

Young people can and will structure their own lives and learning. The two ought to be inseparable. School separates them. Doing everyday things shopping, listening to music, chopping wood, looking after pets, answering the telephone, cooking, travelling from one place to another and taking in all that is going on whilst doing so. Making decisions about what to do next when there is no pressure to do anything next, reading because the book looks interesting, being in positive emotional contact with other people rather than continual negative emotional isolation. In doing this, children learn all they need. We may not agree all the time with the choices young people wish to make in organising their lives. It bothers many adults to see a child seemingly inactive lying on a bed, staring up at the ceiling, though many interesting ideas and thoughts come to me whilst doing this! Left to their own devices young people will not want to watch TV all the time or play Gameboy all the time. They might binge out on such things for a few weeks or a few months. But hang in there. In the end, balanced children, like balanced adults will find out there is more to life. Given time and trust, young people make pretty good decisions about what to do with their time. They may not seem to do very much that is overtly educational for months or years, yet somehow all the things that others spend years slogging over in school appear as if by osmosis. Being in control of their own time and activities is very empowering and provides a very solid platform for a lifetime of personal growth

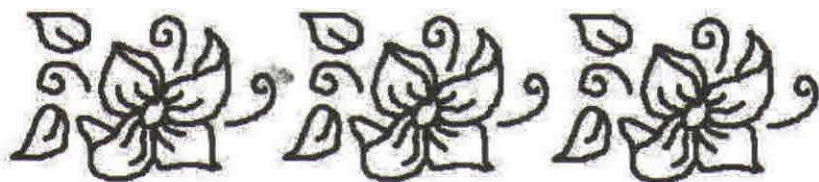
The *invisibility* of this process means that some parents, who feel instinctively that the organic approach is the right way, feel more nervous about it than they should. Essentially this is what happened with us. Our children rejected formal educational approaches. No matter how softly, gently, kindly, imaginatively we approached formal subjects, our children rejected them (rightly) as a violation of our normal family life. It didn't feel right to us because they didn't want to do it. My instincts told me to wait until the children wanted to approach these things of their own free will – reading writing, numbers history maths etc. Sometimes I worried it might not happen. I needn't have.

I've written this piece because I'd like to support people who are considering bringing their children out of school and who are discouraged from doing so by a misapprehension that they would have to be teachers in their own homes – with desks, workbooks and imposed structures. This is absolutely not true. To those who say:

'Oh I could never do all that, you must be so patient , I haven't got the time, the energy, the commitment'. I would reply you don't have to do very much apart from enjoy being with your children. Be with them when they want you and help them do what they want. Sometimes put things in their way or take them to places they might be interested in. Nothing could be easier or more fun. As a loving parent you probably already observe your child with an affection no teacher could match. Find out what your child is interested in and help them find ways to engage with their interest – even if you disapprove of some of those interests. My youngest son was interested in Gameboys. This took him into Japanese culture. Then, he developed an interest in learning Japanese. This branched out into collecting porcelain dolls. Then to reading advanced adult books about Japan. I bought him endless magazines about Pokemon and Gaming software. He indicated the ways he wanted to go; I helped him go there any way I could. He went to lots of other places on the way.

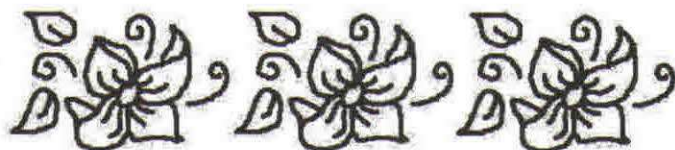
The ideal conditions for learning are not found in schools or schooled situations, they are found in everyday life. Children who live around sympathetic adults who do interesting things for the love of doing interesting things, will build structures robust enough to stand elephants on. To do it for them, is like dressing a ten year old in a bib, squashing them into a high chair and cutting up their dinner before spooning it in. Humiliating. Disempowering. *Ridiculous.*

Ian Wild, County Cork, Ireland (Republic)



Jo Borthen is pleased to announce the marriage of her daughter Amie Louise Borthen to Dean Edward Hinton on 14th February 2006. Jo is also looking forward to the birth of her grandson in May 2006.

*Thank you to everyone who is being supportive.
Jo Borthen, 57 Florida Drive, Exeter, Devon EX4 5EX
email: jo4eo@aol.com*



MY DAY AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

By Azaria Rees.

I am Azaria Rees, a homedicated ten year old and this is the story of how I sang in The Royal Albert Hall.

I woke up at around seven and I just couldn't believe it! Today I was going to sing in The Royal Albert Hall! I just hadn't thought Wednesday 9/11/2005 would ever come! I got dressed in my special Hampshire Massed Choir T-shirt, my black velveteen trousers and my Andover Youth Choir sweatshirt and went downstairs. Mum had got out the usual cereals and bowls, but this time, she was also cooking bacon, eggs, sausages and toast, saying that this was going to be my only cooked meal that day.

After breakfast, I put on my new shoes and we all got ready to go. I was so excited! When we got to the meeting point, Dad dropped me, Kira and Mum off and went back for Nanny, Grandfa and Saphia.

When Dad was gone, Libby, (my conductor) took the register and took our packed tea bags to look after them. Then I found Vikki, (one of my best friends) and when it was time to go on the coaches, me and Vikki, along with two others, had to go on the coach with the younger choir. Well at least that was the coach Mum was helping on.

We had lunch on the coach at about twelve-ish. Vikki and I shared our lunches. After lunch, we played I-Spy.

When we finally got there, it was huge! I don't know how big it was, I felt like this was a gigantic mountain, hollowed out by who knows what! You could fit one hundred large Tescos inside with room to spare!!!!

We waited in our places for 2 hours before the rehearsal began, whilst these two strange bands were practising. Vikki showed me this gigantic net of balloons hanging from the ceiling about a hundred miles up. It looked kind of ominous just hanging there for a big netful of balloons.

When it was our turn to rehearse, The Hampshire Massed Choir Conductor, Mike Brewer kept playing one half of us against the other and criticising almost everything - he was still an excellent conductor though.

At teatime, we went really, really, really high up, so high we could see almost level with the net of balloons! Then they handed out the teas. Me and Vikki shared again - Mum had packed some really tasty stuff. If you looked over the edge of the balcony up there, you'd feel like you're about to fall!!!!

After tea, it was the real thing! First, ***EVERYONE*** started singing the National Anthem, then a whole load of different bands and one choir performed, including an Award Winning Brass band and a Special School band, the Original Quintet, a Jazz quintet and a really high up band. I thought that they were quite good.

When the Award Winning brass band was playing, an important staff member sent round little baby torches from HALIFAX and told us that the brass band would be playing a certain song and he told someone to turn off the lights, divided us and the audience into thirds and when the band played the song, he pointed at each section in turn to switch on our torches - it ended up looking like fairyland! That was AWESOME!!!!!!!!!!!!

Then it was our turn to perform Worldsong, we sang Hey Motswana, a Zulu wedding song first, then we sang Holday Danaa, Tahora Nui, Vem Kan Segla, El Cascabell and then Hey Motswana again. The crowd loved it!! I just felt so pleased!!!!

While we were singing, dancers were acting out what we were singing with vigour, you could really see what they were trying to tell you!!!!

When we were done, two other groups of performers did their bit and then the Union Jack hats and flags were passed around. We liked the flags, but Vikki suggested that they had sent us sick-bowls by mistake when we got the plastic hats. They were uncomfortable too.

Then everyone sang Land of Hope and Glory **ATROCIOUSLY** and the balloons were dropped. **FIREWORKS** went off and some of the audience popped the balloons. The fireworks were so cool, I didn't think that they were allowed to let fireworks off indoors.

When that was done, it was time to go, so we waited until the lady from the staff called the name of our individual choir, then we filed out to go on the coaches home. On the way to the pick-up point, me and Vikki fell asleep on the coach and soon we were at the place that our parents were going to collect us. I said goodbye to Vikki and fell asleep in the car - no wonder really, because it was nearly one a.m. when we got home.

It was a brilliant day - well worth all the effort. So now you know all about my trip to The Royal Albert Hall.



COMMUNITY LIVING

We are a family of 3. One nurse, one Alexander technique teacher and Tom, 3 years old. We are currently living in Hitchin, but are interested in living in a community, preferably with home educated kids. If you are living in a community somewhere in Britain and are interested in new members, please get in touch.

*David and Micky. davidingemarsson@hotmail.com
tel: 01462-422734*

The Archives

Some case histories taken from the early 1980s newsletters:

Although Jane was 16 last October she cannot 'legally' leave school until next Easter...Towards the end of the summer term she became very irritable, 'at odds with everyone'. Crying for the smallest thing and begging us to let her stay off school. Jane and her Dad had terrible scenes because he couldn't understand what she was going through, He wanted her to have the sort of education that he never had the chance of..... The deputy head teacher could only offer 'counselling in school'! Jane, by now convinced that she was some kind of freak, refused to go anywhere..(An appointment had been made to see the psychiatrist and all her hopes were set on this). (The psychiatrist) told Jane she was school phobic, and that the way she treated phobics was to make them do what they can't by submerging them in their phobia and using force if necessary. It was sheer luck that I picked up a copy of Woman's Realm the next day and found out about EO. Jane is a different person now – she is happy and relaxed and more able to get on with everyone. In her own words "if only we'd known about EO sooner."

(Ann Greenop)

Soon after (the arrival of a new baby and other factors) Julie's school phobia erupted with a vengeance. She refused to attend school, The psychiatrist pronounced her immature and backward, which was rubbish. We were told that to make her 'normal' she would have to go to a boarding school for children with emotional problems. It turned out to be a school for the mentally sub-normal. We removed her from school. (The other siblings were subsequently also taken out of school). My family did not have a 'pathological dysfunction'. Their problems were a result of experiences within the school system. The cure? Removal from that system.

(Lois Cook)

The educational welfare officer became a regular visitor to our home and twice made Christina get out of bed to be taken to school. Quite often she would be sent home as she would faint in class or be sick. I have had to carry her home many a time if she fainted on the way to school. (The beginning of a painful case history of Christina Dewar, written by her mother, which ended in victory for the family at the end of a long court battle. Christina was finally allowed to be home educated).

And on a lighter note...

On 24 March they (the inspectors) arrived again! We stated that since visiting the maths centre we had taken Jason off a planned maths scheme, e.g. Peak, Nuffield, etc. due to his extreme dislike of a scheme method of learning. Jason was busy building a radioset at this time and baffled the inspectors at his second sentence of explaining what he was doing... We said that Jason would get all the maths he needed through practical experience. The inspectors agreed! They gave all four children an Easter egg and left.

(The Adams family)



February Competition

Closing date is 3rd March

Hi all, hope you all had a great festive period and are ready for everything the new year brings you, including a sudoku puzzle!

Well the winner of last issues competition is Priscilla Park Weir, congratulations Priscilla you are now in receipt of a years subscription to Juno magazine.

This months prize is a subscription to Learn Premium, which is an excellent learning facility. Check it out on www.learnpremium.co.uk
If you aren't lucky enough to win then feel free to contact Sue Radford to enquire about a subscription.

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

All entries to be sent to EO competition, 79 Cumberland Ave, Cleveleys, Lancashire. FY5 2DS – Remember to include your name, address, telephone and email if you have one.

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



Encyclopaedia Britannica

contact details in the December newsletter were incorrect
and should have read as follows:

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 go to:
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REVIEWS

Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens

This is a tale of betrayal, friendship and greed. It was written between 1837 and 1838. The Poor Law was then in existence forcing poor children into hard labour. Dickens wrote *Oliver Twist* as a social comment on the injustice and cruelty shown to children during this time. People did not know about the appalling conditions of starvation and abuse in the workhouses. Although it is a reflection of the reality, it is entirely fictional and was originally written as a serial for a magazine and this dictates the structure. Dickens immediately engages the reader in the drama. There are no lengthy introductions to wade through. The characters unfold as the story progresses. The menacing Bill Sikes, the courageous prostitute Nancy, the pickpocket Fagan and his gang of small thieves, led by Jack Dawkins, otherwise known as the Artful Dodger. The descriptions are vivid and immediate. Dickens' writing is powerfully evocative, using sarcasm and humour, he draws readers into his world of criminals. The plot moves at a fast rate and is exciting. When reading you have a strong sense of Dickens as the narrator. He makes comments, which are often funny. This book is well written, funny, exciting, informative and definitely worth reading.

Oliver (12)

Algebra by Graham Lawler

Although I have not yet finished every chapter in this book, I will certainly do so in time. What to many may be a boring subject becomes more 'real' with this book. There is a section on 'Why Learn Algebra', 'Mind Mapping' and planning revision. While I didn't exactly relate the information to my 7 and 11 year olds, it certainly helped me to help them understand simple equations. This book starts at the very beginning and slowly increases your knowledge painlessly - thumbs up for lapsed mathematical adults and parents of math-haters!

Becky

ISBN 1-84285-068-7 *Studymates*

The Stolen Sun - A Story of Native Alaska

by Amanda Hall

This is a lovely book, filled with magical illustrations. It is based on a Native Alaskan folk tale and tells the story of how Raven creates the world and fills it with people and creatures. However, after a time the people begin to get greedy and violent so he plunges the world into darkness by taking away the sun. Raven's son, Little Darkness, brings light back into the world and there is a nice happy ending. A lovely picture book to share with children of all ages.

Hazel with Romy (6)

£5.99 ISBN 0-7112-1844-7 *Frances Lincoln*

Mike Mulligan and his Steam Shovel

by Virginia Lee Burton

What a lovely book. This book was originally written and published in 1939 and reminds me a bit of the

original *Thomas the Tank Engine* books. The story is about Mike Mulligan and his steam shovel Mary Anne. When gas and diesel engines start to replace the steam shovels they end up with less work, even though Mary Anne has been well looked after. Then they get a very special job, which has an unusual and happy ending. The illustrations are typical of the period that the book was written; Rowan thinks that they are good as the vehicles look as if they are moving. I like them as they only use basic colours and are simple but very effective. Generally I think anyone who loves the original *Thomas the Tank Engine* books will love this book which I think will become a favourite.

Kathleen with Rowan (7) and Kai (1)

£10.99 ISBN 1-84507-459- *Frances Lincoln*

A Bridge To The Stars

by Henning Mankell

This was an unusual book that plodded on slowly throughout. A young boy living in Sweden with his father describes it in the present tense. The book tells of the boy's night-time activities and the people who he meets along the way, as well as showing the changing relationship between him and his father. I found this book unusual as the whole story is described from the point of view of a young boy, which creates things that child-readers can relate to. It is not particularly exciting, is very slow and has an uninspiring crescendo. I'd recommend this to anyone above the age of ten.

James (13)

ISBN 1-84270-439-7 *Anderson Press Limited*

The Fire Thief

by Terry Deary

This book puts together Victorian and Ancient Greek times. It's about Prometheus, a Titan who stole fire from the Gods to take down to the humans. He is punished for this by being put on a rock for two hundred years and tortured daily by an eagle. Zeus sends him into the future to find a hero. The story tells of the terrors of a crowded Victorian city with great humour. Terry Deary (author of the *Horrible Histories*) does a brilliant job of describing both historical eras. It took a little time to get into the story as it rapidly switches between eras and could be a little confusing. I would recommend this book if you are into history but not if you want an action packed adventure story.

Jake (12)

£7.99 ISBN 0-7534-1148-2 *Kingfisher*

Spring, Nature Activities for Children

by Irmgard Kutsch and Brigitte Walden

A very exciting book full of wonderful activities and information. The authors have worked with children for many years and the photographs are proof of just how much the children gain from experiencing nature through their sense, learning to love and respect their environment. For anyone with room in their garden there are brilliant ideas for landscaping, building seats with stone, tree trunk spirals, herb gardens and many other ideas for making a garden an interesting and

stimulating place for children to explore. There's a section on plant-based dyes, making butter and bee keeping, plus some lovely pages on making nest boxes for birds, insects and bats. Ideal for HE'ers and a must-have for any children's group. This book is totally inspiring and fills you with enthusiasm for the new season!

Hilary

£12.99 ISBN 0-86315-544-8 Floris

Pharaoh's Egypt

by Mick Manning & Brita Granstrom

This is another book from the *'Fly on the Wall'* series of educational and informative storybooks aimed at Key Stage 2 development readers. You'll either love or loathe these titles. This one is packed with a wealth of beautiful illustrations. There is not really an easy criticism to level at this book, which is designed to draw in young inquisitive minds; however on occasions this book over-amplifies the discussions we can have about these beautiful illustrations with pointless annotations that add nothing in terms of real quality to an already content-rich book, and in fact may put some readers off owing to its "cluttered" presentation format. However, study it like you would decrypt hieroglyphics, and the effort is rewarded. Are we satisfied in the end though? Value-wise this book does not have any competition per se, since it tries to be a great number of things, which no single small volume could possibly accomplish - or could it? This is a great attempt and is not a simple book to read, but one which actually succeeds in rewarding the readers' efforts, with excellent eye-catching illustrations full of colour, good for kids with low attention span, BUT this requires multiple sittings though because the facts on each page may be analysed in more detail as required (there is LOADS more to this book than immediately apparent). You won't gain anything like the potential this book has to offer if you read it all in one sitting, this is more than just a storybook. It is more useful as a source of reference especially to accompany project work.

Michael and Robin with Isis (5)

£10.99 ISBN 1-84507-100-X Frances Lincoln

Creative Fun Egyptian Activity Book

by Sue and Steve Weatherill

This is a very exciting book, which has lots of activities to do with Egypt in the past. I thought this book was great, especially for people who enjoy doing different crafts, like me. It was great fun to make things such as amulets and to be able to learn to write as the Egyptians used to. The book also features a map of Egypt and lots of interesting Egyptian history. This book was very inspiring and I highly recommend it.

JJ (10)

£4.99 ISBN 1-902915-35-6 B Small Publishing

Creative Fun Roman Activity Book

by Sue and Steve Weatherill

'Interesting, informative and educational' were the words Connor and Jamie used to describe this. A book that not only tells you about the Romans and their ways, but it also provides a series of projects relating to the Roman way of life. Both children were interested in *'How to Make a Shield'* but you can also learn how to make Roman Panis Dulcis (Sweet Bread), a fort, a water clock, a toga, Roman border, mosaic, abacus or a tabular. There is also a timeline and information about the Roman Empire as well as Roman numeral stencils. Each project is well laid out with easy to follow step-by-step instructions as well as accompanying diagrams. All in all a very useful and fun addition to your bookcase!

Caroline with Connor (12) and Jamie (10)

£4.99 ISBN 1-902915-34-8 B Small Publishing

Gruesome Grub and Disgusting Dishes

by Susan Martineau

I love cooking so this book is just right for me. The recipes include cowpat pudding; deadman's hand; eyeball cakes; sick on toast and beheaded alien! It has an amazing collection of tasty recipes but not for the squeamish! All the ingredients can be easily acquired from your local store. Some of the recipes are not suitable for vegetarians (like me) but can be adapted. The drawings are very funny. This book I would give 10 out of 10. If you enjoy it there are 5 other books in the series.

Oliver (10)

£3.99 ISBN 1-874735-45-X B Small Publishing

Dinosaur Dishes and Fossil Food

I really like this book. It has some very good recipes including *Flies In Amber*, *Dino Hatchlings* and *Ice Age Bowl*, I have tried a lot of them and the *Dino Hatchlings* were very tasty and they are all fun to make and easy too. Most are vegetarian. This is an extremely good book.

Tom (8)

£3.99 ISBN 1-902915-96-2 B Small Publishing

Slimy Science and Awesome Experiments

by Susan Martineau

I have always liked science so when this book came I thought what can this teach me? Actually a lot! My favourite experiment was *'The Incredible Rubber Egg'* - the result was very weird and showed what can happen to an egg when it is immersed in a certain type of liquid! I also liked the one that made ectoplasm out of cornflour and this had some very peculiar properties. It does not flow like a liquid and behaves like nothing I have ever come across before - a sort of liquid/solid combination! The experiments are easy and use easily available household items. A very good book.

Kim (10)

£3.99 ISBN 1-874735-73-5 B Small Publishing

Mad Machines and Dotty Devices

by Susan Martineau

My friends call me 'the mad professor' so when this book arrived I wondered what this book held when I opened it. It is wonderful. Some aren't what I expected but were still fun. The one I liked most was the *Kinetic Capers* which uses toilet rolls and marbles and is good fun to make, although I had a bit of trouble getting the tape to stick to the toilet rolls. I hope this review has aroused your interest. One other thing I would like you to know about the book is that all the experiments use ordinary household items.

Kim (10)

£3.99 ISBN 1-902915-91-7 B Small Publishing

Seige! by Ann Jungman

I enjoyed this book. It was a moving, emotional story of a boy and a girl living in Russian during World War 2. Their lives are changed forever when the German army attack their city. Although this is an easy to read book, I think the subject matter makes it more suitable for older children, aged 9 and over. I would definitely recommend it, especially if you like novels based on historical fact.

Ethan (8)

£4.99 ISBN 9-781842-99335-4 Barrington Stokes

Zoo in the Sky by Jacqueline Mitton and Christina Balit

This is a joyfully illustrated book with wonderful colours and patterns. It has lots of snippets of information about the animal constellations, along with the history of their naming, what stars are, etc, and these led (and I'm sure will continue to lead.....!) to lots of other questions from Aidan. It is a lovely introduction to stargazing for children, and it inspired us to get outside and find the stars for ourselves! "I really liked the shiny stars, and the dragon with its glorious colours. I learnt that the Little Bear swings from the Pole Star by his tail."

Merayah and Aidan (5)

£5.99 ISBN 0-7112-1319-4 Frances Lincoln

Sensational! -Poems inspired by the Five Senses- chosen by Roger Mc Gough

This is an attractive paper-back edition of a compilation of poems celebrating the five senses. It is divided into six parts with the first part being a general section whilst the other five senses have a section each. There is something for everybody here with some witty, profound and insightful poems from a great range of poems from such notables as TS Eliot, Christina Rossetti, William Wordsworth, Gerald Manley Hopkins and Edward Thomas, combined with some anonymous ditties and a great number of modern and informal poets. These include some poems by Mc Gough himself and others such as Michael Rosen, Carol Ann Duffy, Adrian Henri, Benjamin Zephaniah and many others who I had never heard of. Whilst it is aimed primarily at children, the

poems that have recently won the CLPE Poetry Award 2005 have an enchanting simplicity that has a universal appeal. It is attractively packaged-silver cover with multi-coloured letters and I would recommend it as a useful and entertaining compilation of poetry for all ages. It has recently won the CLP.

Anne

£4.99 ISBN 0-3304-1344-9 Macmillan Publishers

Robin Hood All At Sea by Jan Mark

Robin is getting bored with robbing the rich and giving to the poor so decides to see if the grass is greener and takes a trip to the sea where he gets a job as a fisherman. Things don't go too well under his alias of 'Honest Simon' until pirates attack the fishing boat he is on when he comes into his own. This is a very well written book which both my sons enjoyed, very humorous with funny illustrations. A new author for us but one we shall look out for again.

Carole with Jack (9) and Luke (6)

£4.99 ISBN 1-842993-32-1 Barrington Stoke

Terrible Tricks and Devious Disguises

by Susan Martineau

This book I found extremely inspiring as I enjoy drama and dressing up. It has loads of tricks and disguises in it. I had fun making the various fake moustaches and trying them out. These were simple to do. My favourite is 'Headless Horror'. I did this one and mum photographed me with our digital camera and printed off copies to show my friends. I looked grotesque - weird but realistic - a bit like Nearly Headless Nick in Harry Potter but no bit attached! There is a page on secret codes, which I found most interesting. The little tips and facts were also interesting and enlightening. The most difficult thing to find will probably be latex.

Keith (11)

£3.99 ISBN 1-902915-63-1 B Small Publishing

Murderous Maths Sudoku

I go this book for Christmas. Have you got the Sudoku bug like me? This is just right for a Sudoku maniac like myself. The puzzles start at dead simple and progress on to diabolically hard. I particularly liked the tips in some of the sections. This book is brilliant as a gift.

Keith (11)

£2.99 ISBN 0-439-950457 Scolastic

The Doomsday Virus by Steve Barlow and Steve Skidmore

What a great book for computer mad children! As soon as we had taken this book out of the packaging Hamish sat down and started to read. He didn't put it down until it was finished. Holly enjoyed it too. Tim is a young hacker who finds himself in trouble with the authorities - will he be imprisoned forever or will he help to save the world from the Doomsday Virus? With twists and turns, the story is fast-paced and exciting. It also has educational value with a glossary of computing

related terms at the back - but don't worry - it won't teach your children how to hack, and in any case they can teach themselves that!

Thoroughly recommended.

Karen with Hamish (5) and Holly (7)

£5.99 ISBN 1-842992-86-0 Barrington Stokes

The Birthday Book by Ann Druitt, Christine Fynes-Clinton and Marije Rowling

A great new addition to the *Festivals* series, this has wonderful ideas for making birthdays really special. It covers birthday traditions in different cultures, birthday songs and party food, things to make and many great ideas on how to make a special day very special, without expensive presents. We loved the ideas of birthday crowns and trails of rose petals leading from the child's bedroom to downstairs on birthday morning. We also liked the idea of taking a photo each year and writing something in a book to be given to a child on their 18th birthday. There are many cake recipes, party games and an interesting section on astrology and saints days.

Hilary

£15.99 ISBN 1-903458-01-3 Hawthorne Press

LEARNING THROUGH MUSIC

Tom Thumb's Musical Maths

by Helen MacGregor

This is definitely a good one for younger children who enjoy music. It introduces basic mathematical skills through songs and music. The words are given, with the music for the tunes, at the back. Many of the tunes also use games to develop the skills of adding, subtracting, measuring, shapes etc.

Sue with Jenny (7)

£12.99 ISBN 0-7136-7295-1 A & C Black

History Songsheets

There are currently four song sheets in this series; *'Just Like a Roman'*, *'Amazing Egypt'*, *'The Truth about the Tudors'* and *'The Bebob Ballad of Boudicca'* - all by Suzy Davies. Each pack comprises a CD, words plus a music score sheet and hints about how to use the songs for future studies of the subject. Each one received unanimous praise from both the children and adults in our group when we used them for one of our meeting activities. We all loved the music, learnt the songs quickly and had great fun performing each. In a one-day session sixteen children (age range 2-12), made up dances, with very minimal adult involvement, to each of the songs and at the end of the day performed all these for the adults. The tunes are very catchy with words that are easy to learn yet descriptive, giving key historical facts that are easily absorbed by the children. The sheets are now in regular use. Some of the children have learnt to play the tunes themselves on the piano and other instruments. A really fun way to learn history, we just had a couple of criticisms. The music score is more suited to the higher grade musicians and are difficult for younger children and beginners to use, although some of us could pick out the tune with one hand on the

piano. The packs are not cheap and perhaps the publisher could consider putting them together in a cheaper and better value package.

Wednesday Group, Carm's & Ceredigion

£8.99 each A & C Black

That's English - ISBN 1-85539-181-3

That's Science - ISBN 1-85539-170-8

That's Maths - ISBN 1-85539-171-6

Any book that can encourage my reluctant writer to put pen to paper is a winner for me! My son played the CDs straight away. He spent a whole day listening to the music and words whilst doing his other unrelated activities (origami etc!). The books use the 3 'R's of popular song - rhythm, rhyme and repetition, as the teaching tool and it seemed to work well. The tunes are catchy and were enjoyed by him. On his own initiative and without any prompting from me he soon worked his way through most of the worksheets, although he was not keen on any that involved more than a few sentences of writing! Many of the facts he already knew but this encouraged him and gave him the confidence to write in the appropriate spaces. Surprisingly, he particularly enjoyed the English book. The books use members of the fictitious band, *Little Tracy and the Communicators*, to sing the songs, introduce each page and support the user throughout - something my son particularly enjoyed. My only criticism is the price!

Sally with Keith (11)

£24.95 each Network Education Press

Singing French

by Helen MacGregor and Stephen Chadwick

For a child that is interested in languages and music, this is a good way of helping reinforce the French words through songs and chants. The accompany CD makes the package even more flexible. The melodies are given for each of the songs, with the French words beneath. I am not sure I could justify the rrp which I feel is expensive but the basic idea is excellent and we loved this fun way of learning.

Carol with Cathy (9) and Francis (11)

£19.99 ISBN 0-7136-6898-9 A & C Black

Jabulani - Ideas for Making Music

by Carol Shephard and Bobbie Stormont

This book and CD is an exciting and interactive way of getting, particularly younger children, interested in music. There are instructions for making simple musical instruments, such as drums and shakers from recycled materials. There are also innovative ideas for using music with story-telling, drama and sport. There are chants and raps for voice work and rhythm making using finger clicking, marching and clapping.

Sarah with Sophie (9), Robin (8) and Jo (6)

£14.99 ISBN 1-903458-51X Hawthorne Press

Music Express, Year 7

This is a set of six books with CDs (audio and CD-Rom) and includes teaching activities, recordings, backing tracks, midi files, video clips, assessment sheets

and lesson plans. We concentrated on the first in the Year 7 series *Book 1, Bridging Unit* – all forming a structured music lesson for a longer-term project. Book 1 introduces the basic elements of music, rhythmic and melodic patterns, plus improvisation techniques as a tool for composition. It uses a workshop approach and encourages improvisation as well as an understanding of rhythm, metres, beat, melody and composing. There is some vocal work. If you are serious about music (and can afford the price!) this is a good investment.
£34.99 ISBN 0-7136-7362-1 A & C Black

Nature Detectives

The Woodland Trust, UK Penology Network and Centre for Ecology & Hydrology have, for several years now, run the very successful Nature's Calendar recording scheme in Spring and Winter. This is a brilliant, free project where children can record and monitor signs of these seasons. You are supplied with easy to complete survey sheets (or you can complete online) and clear instructions. You can fill in as much of the survey information as you want. There is now an excellent handbook that accompanies the project as well as a guidebook written specifically for teachers but just as relevant to home educating parents (both aimed at primary school age range). The handbook tells you all about the trees, flowers and creatures involved in the survey, with clear, colour pictures. There are also bright, colourful stickers to place on the pages and plenty of space for notes and pictures. The guidebook is particularly relevant for environmental science subjects and is crammed full of activities for the study of nature.

The children's handbook is called 'Nature Detectives' Handbook, ISBN 1-84236-637-8 which retails at £7.99 (available from Ottakers or at www.naturedetectives.org.uk). The teacher's guide is available from www.naturedetectives.org.uk/resources/books.

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 7701

www.andersenpress.co.uk

Barrington Stokes 0131 557 2020

www.barringtonstoke.co.uk

B Small Publishing 020 8974 6851

www.bsmall.co.uk

Floris (Book Source) 0870 240 2182

www.florisbooks.co.uk

Frances Lincoln 020 7284 4009

www.franceslincoln.com

Hawthorne Press

www.macmillan.com

Kingfisher www.kingfisherpub.com

Network Educational Press 01785 225515

www.networkpress.co.uk

Macmillan 020 7014 6000

www.panmacmillan.com

Studymates 01823 432002

www.studymates.co.uk

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



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Regional Diary

All regular meetings listed below (alphabetically by country 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: francfranc100@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

South Bedfordshire Home Education Group, we are a small friendly group covering Houghton Regis, Dunstable and surrounding areas. We meet regularly with a variety of activities inc arts and crafts, educational visits, science lessons, sports and cookery. e-mail: southbeds.homeed@ntlworld.com or Bernie 01582 866207

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

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 Gian 01246 473902.

Chesterfield - Hasland Village Hall

NEW ART CLASS - Ages 10 and over, 4th Thursday of month 12pm-2pm, with professional art teacher. £3.50 per child, £3 per child if 2 or more in family. Term time only. Minimum 3 bookings. Contact Sian or Marek on 01246 473902. 1st class starts 26th January 2006

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.freeseve.co.uk

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

Colchester Bowling and swimming monthly - also informal meetings fortnightly. debbie-m@lineone.net or 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.freeseve.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.lycoo.co.uk/GlosHomeEducators/index.html> also Email list for events and forum for discussions, information and virtual activities. Contact Rob and Fiona 01684 290087 openhazons@ntlworld.com Caroline 01242 890351 cambrose@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.org.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 376650, eo@azakit.com, or east; Lesley 01420 543414, imaskell@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 karen@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 328668 email: tklmisdynomite@aol.com
Wealden Home Ed website: www.when.omnia.co.uk and email group: wealdenhomeeducatorsnetwork@yahoo.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.freemove.co.uk

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

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

SE FLAGS Edenbridge, Kent and Sussex, fortnightly meetings at hall as well as lots of social activities, for details contact: Lucy 01444 483842 or Karen 01732 864524 <http://www.flags-education.org.uk>

Ashford, Maidstone, anyone wanting to meet up call Jane 01622 859882

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

Lincoln new weekly family learning sessions. Currently computers and history, future sessions to include astronomy, geology and languages. For further information contact Kathleen email

ashnkath@shhh.fsnet.co.uk tel. 01522 869239

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

LONDON

Central and East London, Stratford Home-Educators, Bryant Street Methodist Church, Stratford, London E15 Every Friday 12.45 - 2.45. Open, informal meeting for home-educators new and established. Currently ages up

to 11 but all welcome. For more information contact: annalise@tesco.net or phone: 020 8500 1053

Bromley/Croydon Chrysalis Group meets most weeks for activities and outings, age from 0-10. Very welcoming. Contact Jenny 020 8654 3972 or

jen9@blueyonder.co.uk

Clissold Park. Tuesdays . All welcome.

Contact: Charlotte 020 7254 0419

Dulwich, Woodland Club, Wednesdays.

Activities/social, ages 7-16, contact Jo 020 8693 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 020 8402 5831

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

Lewisham Thursdays 11-1 then to park afterwards

Contact: Jemima 020 8297 5672

jemimacornish@tiscali.co.uk

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

Sydenham contact Chrystia + Keith 020 8776 8597

NW London Otherwise Club Contact: Leslie 020 8969

0893 Harrow meetings fortnightly on Fridays

Chelsea Open House Project 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. 020 8954 1885

or Vicki on Acveva@btinternet.com

N London Hornsey Home Educators Club

(currently under 10s, meet for arts, crafts, drama, games etc) Thursdays 11-12.30 contact: Tina 020 8340 4212

N London Barnet Group, meets Mondays, contact

Mirelle 020 8449 7868, email lance.e@virgin.net or

Lynda 020 8368 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 020 8569 9398 or

Kathryn 020 8566 0543 or kathrynvglynn@hotmail.com

or Alison@rothwell1973.fsnet.co.uk

West London (Chiswick & Ealing) home ed group

meets every Tuesday. Outdoor activities in Spring / Summer. Warmer/drier activities Tuesdays during the rest of the year. For full details and more information

about winter activities, contact Naomi 020 8567 7589 or naomisandler@yahoo.co.uk. Also contact for details of

yahoo group membership - discussion and information about events in the area.

MANCHESTER

Manchester, contact Sue 0161 881 4830

Madcow email list 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

Theftord, 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 EDO Friday club: Liz 01444 414058

Hastings HEG 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.org.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.when.omnia.co.uk also email group: wealdenhomeeducatorsnetwork@yahoo.groups.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

Lyneham/Caine/Devizes area, every Weds, visits to
places of interest in and around Wiltshire. Fully inclusive
group aimed at under 8's but all welcome. 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/](http://groups.yahoo.com/NWilts_HE/Devizes)
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 Tutchter
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 karensandy@aol.com

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

Harrogate new group started at the Hookstone Chase
community centre. Meeting weekly on Tuesdays 2pm-
4pm for playing, arts & crafts, games etc. Contact either
Liz on 01423 320341, e-mail Blessingway1@aol.com, or
Kate on 01423 865777, e-mail kbsbtscott@aol.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/venues of interest and Theatre
trips, please contact Sarah (01484) 361206 or e-mail:
sl.marshall@ntworld.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. contact
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 Llanddeusant.
Contact Laura 01545 580528

GWYNEDD

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

POWYS

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

Newtown area:

Fortnightly get-together in Newtown, for activities, play
and socialisation. Contact Sue 01686 688748 or email:
smw5@tutor.open.ac.uk

N.E. WALES / BORDERS

weekly gym/trampoline in Wrexham, Oswestry, West
Cheshire/NE Wales. local newsletter of events please
send your details and £2 payment to; HENWOS, Berlan
Gron, Llanycil, Bala. Gwynedd LL23 7YG

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

More Advertisements

To place: *See main ads page.*

HOLIDAYS IN WEST WALES

for EO families

Inexpensive holidays in converted barn
on organic smallholding

Indoor playspace, fields and woods

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Beautiful beaches, dolphins, seals

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David Witt, Cwmrhaffau, Sarnau,
Llandysul. SA44 6QZ 01239 811118
email: cwmholidays@btconnect.com

www.cwmrhaffau-holidays.co.uk

A2C Tuition & Dyslexia Centre

Tuition and support in most subjects
from early beginnings to GCSE,
daytime lessons 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.

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

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

Grievances and Complaints

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

Lynda Hitchman, 22 Lewis Drive, St. Germans,
Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 3FB. Tel: 0870 765 3650
or 01553 617551

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, Oxfordshire
Tel: 01869 811099 claire.turnham@btinternet.com

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@freeserve484.fsnet.co.uk

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

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

South East: (Acting) Sandra Jones.

Iklemisdynamite@aol.com Tel: 01634 326868.

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.

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
tracycoooney@tiscali.co.uk
Sarah Cook (Cumbria) 01768 896019
sarah@croggies.freeseve.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 Secretary: Gail Borrows (acting)
01628 483895 gail@borrows.plus.net

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 Holding,
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 Berlan Gron, Llanycil, BALA,
Gwynedd, LL23 7YG Tel: 01678 521348
Special Needs: Christine Waterman, 85 Elfrida Rd,
Watford, Herts WD1 8AT 01923 464773

GCSE Contacts: Geraldine Adams 0207 263 4922

Sarah Cook: 01768 896019

sarah@croggies.freeseve.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@lineone.net or sannw@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

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

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

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

Education Otherwise Association Ltd., Registered Charity No. 1055120

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