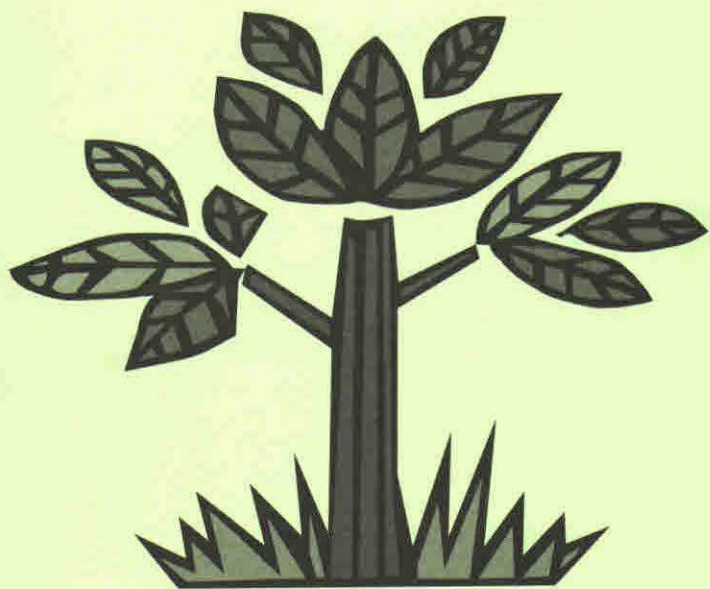


# education otherwise



No. 169 - April 2006

£2

## **DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2006**

Please mark material **'for publication'** and include your name, address, phone number and email (if you have it) as we may need to contact you to discuss your contribution (though details may be withheld from publication on request). **Email contributions will be acknowledged within a few days. If you require a postal acknowledgement please enclose ssae.**

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

**Please send contributions via the most appropriate section editor below:**

### **LETTERS AND ARTICLES**

Sue White, 2 Pretoria Villas, Eye Road,  
Brome, Eye, Suffolk IP23 8AL  
01379 870036 [sue\\_white@lineone.net](mailto:sue_white@lineone.net)  
or [sannw@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sannw@tiscali.co.uk)

### **BOOK AND SOFTWARE REVIEWS**

Sally Hall, Nant-y-Gareg Farm, Saron,  
Llandysul, Carmarthenshire, SA44 5EJ  
01559 370908 [sally@aecb.net](mailto:sally@aecb.net)

### **HOME EDUCATION in the NEWS**

Tanya Heasley, Amberley Lodge, Common Lane,  
Great Witchingham, Norfolk, NR9 5QH  
[tanyaheasley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tanyaheasley@yahoo.co.uk)

### **COMPETITION**

Tracy Coates, 79 Cumberland Avenue,  
Cleveleys Lancs. FY5 2DS 01253 858840  
[tracysoloooney@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:tracysoloooney@tiscali.co.uk)

**ADVERTISEMENTS/FLYERS** (Acting)  
**(subject/envelope "EO Advertising" please)**  
Justine Kinney-Graham 020 7328 643311  
Donaldson Road, Kilburn, London NW6 6NA  
[justinekinney71@hotmail.com](mailto:justinekinney71@hotmail.com)

### **EO BUSINESS**

Pam Bellingier, 56 Beech Drive, Braunstone,  
Leics, LE3 3DA 01162 827929  
[pam@phonecoop.coop](mailto:pam@phonecoop.coop)

### **REGIONAL DIARY**

**Tel:** Jo Borthen on 01392 438876  
[jo4eo@aol.com](mailto:jo4eo@aol.com)

### **ARCHIVE SELECTIONS**

SARAH GUTHRIE. 01379 783678  
*(NOT for back copies of NLS - see Publications,  
inside back cover)*

### **CHILDREN'S PAGES** ***N.B. deadline 20th April***

Molly Whitehall, 28 Cozens - Hardy Road,  
Sprowston, Norwich NR7 8QF  
Email: [simon.whitehall@tesco.net](mailto:simon.whitehall@tesco.net)

### **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.

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OR IF YOUR NEWSLETTER DOES NOT ARRIVE**

*please contact the* **DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR** *(See inside back cover)*

## CONTENTS

AGM & GATHERING: 15-22 May	2
VOLUNTEER VACANCIES	3
LOCAL CONTACT UPDATE	4
ARCHIE	5
LETTERS	6
ARTICLES	
Dilemma of Sophie's Ed'n	9
HE 3 years down the line	11
Violence in School	12
Geocaching: Hi-tech Game	15
Diary of HE Nobody	16
Dealing with the LEA (LA)	18
Thoughts on HE Journey	19
ADVERTISEMENTS	22
COMPETITION PAGE	24
REVIEWS	25
REGIONAL DIARY	31
EO ADVERTISEMENTS	37
NOTICES	38
USEFUL CONTACTS	40

### Co-ordinatorial

Hello, I'm back – hopefully not for long! Edana, having struggled on valiantly long after she really needed to retire, finally had to throw in the towel for this issue.

**Edana – THANK YOU SO MUCH** for looking after the NL all this time. You did a grand job – you are missed!

If anyone sent something to Edana for this issue and it isn't here, we apologise but she had a computer crash and wasn't able to recover lost items. Please send again for June NL.

*Anne Rix 13.3.6*

### STOP PRESS –

#### Review of Scottish Guidance

A motion is currently laid before the Scottish Parliament by Robin Harper MSP supporting a call for amendment to the withdrawal clause. EO submitted a call for amendment before the last Education Act and stated its disappointment that this anomaly was left in the primary legislation at that time. EO also pushed for the consent process to be made automatic by the guidance, but unfortunately although the guidance states that consent should be given immediately in most cases, it stopped short of making consent automatic on request. EO still supports amendment of the primary legislation to remove the need for consent to withdraw.

A review of the Statutory Guidance is starting in a few weeks and this is an opportunity to reveal the difficulties in the

current practice of granting consent to withdraw. This review should strengthen the case for calling for amendment to the primary legislation, and EO encourages all Scottish home educators to contact the Scottish Executive about their experience with this issue. The guidance can be found at [www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/education/gcech-00.asp](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/education/gcech-00.asp).

Feedback on review to  
[governmentpolicy@education-otherwise.org](mailto:governmentpolicy@education-otherwise.org)  
**marked Scotland.**  
or direct to Scottish Executive at  
[Nicola.radley@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Nicola.radley@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) Or  
[Home.education@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Home.education@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)  
EO Scotland Group

## **EO Council Meeting and AGM**

*(modified from Jacqui Houlding's account in the EO Bulletin)*

The Council Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February took place as planned and went very well with a lot of business being covered in the day, which started late but finished virtually on time. No earth shattering events took place – but all the business of running EO was completed. Julie Ridley and Rowenna Williams had resigned from Council and Pauline Butterworth was co-opted on to the Council to enable the meeting to continue.

There was a problem with the AGM in that we were not quite quorate. We had enough council members but just one too few other members turned up to enable us to hold the AGM. There was much frantic reading of Articles of Association and Charity Commission papers. What has happened now is constitutional procedure: the AGM was adjourned for one week, then reconvened, being judged to be quorate as long as two members attend.

Our two members (Sarah and Martin) duly ensured that the legal side of things has been done – and set a new date to reconvene the AGM for a third time, this time allowing enough time for EO to announce the meeting to members, enabling them to attend should they wish to.

### **Please note the EO AGM is now on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2006 at 2pm**

For detailed directions to venue, please contact  
Pam Bellingier: [pam@phonecoop.coop](mailto:pam@phonecoop.coop)  
0116 282 7929 / 07733 081475

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

**more details on following pages**

# EO National Gathering

~ 15<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 mins from Leicester city centre by bus and 5 mins from M1. Situated in countryside close to Bradgate Park, Beacon Hill & 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](mailto:kissit@yawot.me.uk)

The campsite can be viewed at [www.jlw.me.uk](http://www.jlw.me.uk)

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

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

~~~~~

## The **Annual General Meeting** of **Education Otherwise Association Ltd**

will be held at John's Lee Wood Campsite, Leicestershire  
on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 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. As at April 2006 there are 14 members in post (see inside back cover), five of whom must stand down, but may seek re-election. The Council may recommend other candidates for election. Signed-up members (i.e. 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 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2006 and no later than 14<sup>th</sup> May 2006.

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 at the back of the April 2006 EO Handbook or contact the Company Secretary, 56 Beech Drive, Braunstone, Leicester, LE3 3DA

~~~~~  
There will be an

**Open Council Meeting of Education Otherwise Association Ltd**  
On **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2006 from 10am** at John's Lee Wood, Leicestershire  
**All members of EO are welcome to attend.**

For copies of or contributions to the agenda, please email Jacqui Houlding (Virtual Administrator) [jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk](mailto:jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk) or send a large stamped SAE to:  
38 Garwood Close, Westbrook, Warrington WA5 8TF

# EO VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

(WE NEED YOU!)

## NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council must be staffed by a minimum of 14, under EO's Articles of Association. At the forthcoming AGM, two CMs are resigning and we may have two more to propose – so we shall still be right at the lower limit! We really need more people to take some of the load. The job involves collective responsibility for making decisions and ensuring they get carried through, and an ongoing commitment to being involved in the legal requirements of Companies House and the Charity Commission; but we work as a team and share these responsibilities. Could you consider becoming a CM? The formal requirements are given in the Handbook and you can contact current CMs if you have further queries or to discuss the job. It's not essential to travel to every meeting, though it helps if you can attend some of them.

*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!'

### **Treasurer for the Trading Company**

(no one has offered to fill this post - please give it a try!)

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. 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 enquire about this from Terry Scott-Alexander, 01749 343355 Terry@croscombe.fsife.co.uk He will be able to tell you more.

### **Newsletter Co-ordinator**

To liaise with other members of NL team, prepare copy and ensure it is delivered to printer on time ... further details of what actually happens in practice and FAQs available from Anne Rix (Publications Secretary – see inside back cover)

### **Media Contacts**

As an area media contact, you will agree to be available for interview, or to give support and information to other EO members who have agreed to be interviewed by the media. For more information please contact Claire Turnham, new Media Co-ord (details back pages).

We currently need Media Contacts for: Scotland, Northern Ireland and London

# MORE VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

## 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.

## Fundraiser

Pamela Walker has retired and has material to pass over, but we need a volunteer to take this on. Anyone interested please contact Lynda Hitchman, EO Database (see back pages)

## NCVO's Freephone Helpdesk

NCVO's HelpDesk is a free telephone, email or textphone service for anyone involved in the voluntary sector, whether as a volunteer, paid worker or trustee. It gives advice and support, signposting and information about the voluntary sector.

Experienced staff will answer your call.   •Freephone: 0800 2 798 798  
•Textphone: 0800 01 88 111 (minicom)   •E-mail: helpdesk@askncvo.org.uk

## LOCAL CONTACT UPDATE

### if you want to volunteer

or would like to know more about being a local contact  
please contact the Local Contact Co-ordinator (see inside back cover)

### AREAS NEEDING A LOCAL CONTACT

**OVERSEAS** - Europe  
                  - America

**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**

Mid Glamorgan  
Vale of Glamorgan  
West Glamorgan  
(excluding City and County of Swansea)  
Gwent

### RESIGNING CONTACTS

Emma Cooper - Isle of Man

Louise Martin - East Devon (joint)

### NEW ACTING CONTACTS

Debbie Pritchard – Anglesey  
Judi Jones - Blackpool (joint)

Gaynor French - North West Norfolk  
Louise Haywood-Samuel - City and County of Swansea

# Educating Archie: the rights of spring

by SEG



# Letters Pages

## Thank you

I would just like to say a quick 'thank you' to all the people who took the time and effort to reply to my advertisement in the December '05 issue. I didn't realise there were so many autonomous home educators out there.

Anyway thank you all for your words of encouragement. I no longer feel alone in my choice of education for my daughter (and my daughter's choice).

People are still welcome to phone.

*Lisa and Laura Gowing, 33 Toker Street, Southsea, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO4 9PE  
Tel: 07963500840*

## Responses to article on organic structure

Hi to everyone at the EO newsletter. I felt I had to write after reading the article on organic structure.

It really got me thinking about how I've been educating my daughter, Torri, who is 7 ½. We started home-educating three years ago and we started out well. She did lots: the solar system, volcanoes, ancient history, rocks, geology – probably far more than if she'd been in school. Sadly, as she's got older, pressure from me to do some real 'learning' has meant many tantrums, tears and terrible frustration with each other.

Reading that article has really woken me up. It is time to put away the workbooks and start having fun together again, like we used to.

Thank you for a very thought provoking article.

I'd also like to say that if anyone wants to contact me about setting up a social group where children can meet with other local home-educated children, please do.

*M. Lucas, 19 Tabbs Close, Letchworth SG6 1DW  
Tel: 01462 615183*

I would like to thank Ian for his wonderful article, 'Organic Structure' in February's issue. As well as being beautifully and engagingly written, he says so clearly much of which I see as being the heart of home education. He manages to say it with passion and with reason, a difficult balance to find in my experience of trying to share my own views on this subject. Thanks Ian, I plan to have a copy of your article close to hand the next time I encounter someone who wants to know more about our choice to home educate.

*Deborah Short Notts*

I read with interest the letter from Ian Wild in the Feb 2006 issue of the EO magazine.

I have home educated for the past 12 years (is it really that long), and have at times despaired that my children were not doing all the work set for them. Our eldest daughter would do everything set and enjoyed writing and endured maths. She went on to go to college and did a 2 year media studies course and became a journalist.

Our second child, a son, was a totally different kettle of fish. He would do as little as possible and it often felt as if he was not learning a thing. He would watch T.V. for hours on end and also mess about with the computer. I would set him work that he would have to do 'by the end of term' but he would not do it. It seemed no amount of threats or treats would work. At aged 13 he got a paper round and would be cover boy for all the other rounds, if someone did not turn up, often doing 5 or 6 rounds a morning. He would always get up, do the rounds and then go back to bed or lounge in front of the T.V. I despaired.

Need I have worried?

No, he went on to get a window cleaning round where he earned as much money as he needed for anything he wanted to do. He even paid for his own GCSEs. He sat 4 GCSEs and passed all 4. He did Maths, English, geography and Physics.

He was interested in Physics and decided to enter the exam to see how it would go. A week before the exam he decided he ought to look into this exam and read a book on Physics. He passed.

He then went on to do evening classes at college, studying computer maintenance, building and repairing and it was on this basis that he was offered a job at a small company who do direct marketing. Within a week of working for the company they had sent him on a fork-lift course, which he passed. He is now 21 and is second in charge of the company and often runs the company, hiring and firing, getting new work /contracts etc, while the boss is in Spain following another venture.

Our third child, a girl, also did little work and sat with her brother and watched TV most of the day. She decided that she wanted to be a hairdresser, and managed to get a job in a local salon. Along with working in the salon she would have to attend college 1 day a week. The college were at first not sure whether to offer her a place as she had no

GCSEs and had not been to school. She had to sit a couple of tests to see if she was literate/numerate. She passed with flying colours and was given a place at college. She went on to win the most dedicated hairdresser award for the year.

She has since given up hairdressing (her back was not strong enough) but now works for an insurance company in their claims department.

We have 2 other sons, one of whom is home educated at the moment (the other one wants to be) and I can definitely see that what Ian said has merit. It is very difficult to break from the mould of feeling that if you have no written work that the child is not learning, but if you can do it, it can work.

I am still fighting with myself on that one, but will say, they will learn despite us. One thing I do, is to write a diary of what he has done that is not reflected in written work. Then I have something to show the dreaded inspectors when they come to call.

*Diana, Peterborough*

### Smallholding venture

I have been home-educating my two children for just over two years, after they were both bullied at their schools.

We live on a smallholding in North Cumbria, where we have goats, chickens and ducks. We also breed budgies, canaries, parrots and rabbits. Both children love to get involved and are very active around the animals and learn a lot about them all.

It occurred to me how privileged they are, and how there are loads of children who don't get a chance to get close to animals. I have been thinking of offering my smallholding up to children and their parents, both local and visitors, so they, too, can experience the joy and excitement that our animals can bring. All my animals are regularly having babies so the children could really get hands-on and have fun while they learn.

Are there any home-educated parents who think this would be a good idea and would be interested in this venture?

*Angela Osborne, The Beeches, Hayton, Aspatia, Cumbria CA7 2PD*

*Well Red books*

We Are "WELL RED" Books

Well Red is an embryonic small (home educating) family book exchange with a bit of a twist; we are not interested in buying or selling mainstream books but source alternative /green/red/pink/home education/ natural parenting/ political etc. from small publishers and co-operatives, and also used

books in excellent condition as above. The twist is, you can BARTER! Similar to a LETS scheme, we accept local time exchange credits. To swap/ barter/get details or to be sent a list of our current titles please contact us.

*Well Red, Cal Baines, 23 Belsay Place, Fenham, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 5NX T: 0191 2414870*

### Sharing our personal experiences

In response to the request for personal experiences (which always encourage me) I thought sharing ours might be of help.

Ben's maths was never very hot. Still isn't but neither is mine. A familiar story so far! His reading was very advanced but his writing was a problem. In a twenty minute writing session at school he would write the date - sometimes only half the date. If he wrote the date **and** the title, the teacher would write 'Good Work' in his book. It was a problem.

When Ben was eight and showing no signs of improving, the school asked my permission for him to see an educational psychologist. After much debate, I reluctantly gave it. Ben was ten when the appointment date came. The psychologist told me that Ben was very well mannered; very well spoken; very well behaved; he was lovely to talk to because he showed an interest in whatever subject was raised; he was bright. He described him as an 'adult's dream'. His conclusion? 'All these qualities set him apart from his peers and you ought to encourage him to rebel!!!!' What all this had to do with handwriting wasn't made entirely clear, but I was to receive his report shortly so I assumed that would be a little more helpful.

Two months later I was still awaiting the mysterious report and on enquiry was told that his computer had crashed that day and if I wanted a report I would have to agree to have him re-examined. NO WAY!

In Ben's first year of high school his writing problem again became an issue. He saw an occupational therapist, who said there was no problem with Ben. He was doing everything right; he just wasn't getting the desired result. The school asked if he could see an educational psychologist and said that as they had no evidence he had seen one before (remember the missing report?) they couldn't help him any further. I felt backed into a corner with no way out and eventually agreed to it. This time a report was produced which informed whoever cared to read it that Ben had an unhelpful mother and should try harder in his written work.

Then I discovered home education. By this time Ben (who was putting almost all his energy into school work with very little result) had lost interest

in almost everything else. He would literally come home and lie on the sofa. He didn't watch TV; he didn't play; he just slept, ate, slept some more and went to school.

I haven't asked him to write for a while. He loves joinery and is perfectly capable of making the appropriate marks on wood. We've also done some structured work in science and maths, which has mainly been on the computer.

A big breakthrough is that he is able to organise himself. He knows that he has to be up on time for his paper round; that if we are going swimming later he needs to put shorts, towel, locker money etc. in a bag without being told or reminded and re-reminded – he just does it! That might sound basic but this is not how he was in school. He cooks, cleans (occasionally) and plays guitar and clarinet.

He has read 53 novels in the past 8 months, from Dick King-Smith and Enid Blyton to Jules Verne and Jane Austen, to Orson Scott-Card and Douglas Adams. He has read a number of autobiographies and poetry books and together we have just started Shakespeare's Julius Caesar.

He's not writing yet but he's happy; he's interested in life and he's learning. Hope this experience helps somebody somewhere.

*Janet Farnworth, 57 St. George's Street, Tyldesley M29 8HY*

### **Mid-Powys / Borders - Steiner / Waldorf 'Inspired' Home Education Group**

As a home educating parent of two children aged 7 and 8 years, I am keen to get together with other families in Mid-Powys / Borders who are interested in following a Steiner / Waldorf 'inspired' approach to their home education, or just to meet up with like minded families, for friendship, mutual support and celebrating the turning of the seasons together. If interested please contact me.

*Glenn Ashbrooke, Powys Tel: 01686-688771 E-mail: [glenn@powys.gov.uk](mailto:glenn@powys.gov.uk)*

### **Anyone interested in on-line tuition?**

My daughter Dide, aged 10, is looking for 2 or 3 children of a similar age who would like to work online together with a maths teacher once a week for a trial period. He is a trained online teacher and will charge £10 for an hour's session. This will be in addition to the maths work that she does with her Dad and is as much for the social fun of working together in a group as for the maths. It will be more like guided work - project work plus a bit of 'homework'. The sessions will be conducted with Skype, which is a simple bit of software and is free

(if you are using broadband). A good headset and microphone are also useful. If you are interested, please contact [domknowles@yahoo.com](mailto:domknowles@yahoo.com) To find out more about the service he is offering, visit [www.doms-house.co.uk](http://www.doms-house.co.uk)

We have worked with Dom before with our older daughter and she enjoyed her sessions. You can contact me too, but probably best to direct questions about the group directly to Dom.

*Jane Tengiz (Turkey) [tengize@superonline.com](mailto:tengize@superonline.com)*

### **Building a house in Spain**

Greetings,

We are new members of EO living in Bilbao, Basque Country, Spain. Robert is English, a freelance ecologist, translator and writer; Almudena is Spanish, a university administrator and community organizer. We have a daughter, Sofia (2) and expect another baby in April.

Here in Spain free state schooling starts at age 3, although it's not "obligatory" until age 6. Although there seem to be quite a few un-schooled children in other parts of Spain, we know of no one else in Bilbao (a city of 1 million) who practices home-based education. Nonetheless, after reading about it and talking to EO members in the UK, we are determined to make a go of it. The fact that one of us works at home should be a big help, we hope...

At the moment "home" is a flat in an area of Bilbao that is scheduled for redevelopment, with a lot of ruined factories and weedy vacant land, and few services or shops – rather difficult when you have a small child! But this year we are building ourselves a house in a small village near the coast. This is a project that's been in our dreams for years, so we're very excited about it. The walls will be of cob (a mixture of soil, sand and straw that's strong, tough and very easy to work, plus being just about the most planet-friendly material imaginable). We're planning to have wood stoves for heating, solar hot water and electricity, greywater recycling... basically, it'll be as ecological as possible.

If you are interested in this kind of experience – in building, houses, ecology, or playing with mud – then you would be welcome to come and work with us. We look forward to hearing from you!

Hasta luego,

*Robert, Almudena and Sofia, Ribera de Zorrozaurre 4, 3 izq 48014 Bilbao, SPAIN*

*Tel: +34 944 750 534*

*E-mail: [www.lesspress.com/ecodesign](http://www.lesspress.com/ecodesign)  
[ecodesign@lesspress.com](mailto:ecodesign@lesspress.com)*

## Interested in meeting up?

My son Christian has just turned 11. I removed him from school five months ago following three very traumatic years. Suffice to say that, as a result of his experiences, he has been diagnosed with school phobia and post traumatic stress disorder. Now that he is at home, his confidence is slowly returning.

He misses his school friends, but he is initially quite shy (though lots of fun once he relaxes!) and so I think would find it difficult to attend established larger home education groups. SO!!! We both think it would be a good idea if we started a small local informal group where hopefully he will meet some kids around his own age (and mum can make some new friends too!).

Christian loves drawing cartoons, making movies with his camcorder, mucking about on the computer, his pets, karate, and generally having a laugh with his friends - he has a wacky sense of humour!

We'd love to hear from you if you're fairly local and would be interested in meeting up for bowling, swimming, walks in Knoll Park, the beach, London Aquarium, museums, just letting the kids relax together, or anything else that appeals!

*Sue and Christian Green, 7 Cabul Cottages, New Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 0DX  
Tel: 01689 823479 E-mail:  
[greeniehouse@ntlworld.com](mailto:greeniehouse@ntlworld.com)*

## Contact wanted

Parents of a sixteen-year-old boy with 'specific language impairment' would like to make contact with other parents in a similar situation in any area.

*Please ring Lynda on 01507 33 89 63 (Lincs)*

## A weapon against our critics!

Readers might be interested to hear that my daughter Rachel, who was home educated from the age of eight until joining a Sixth Form at 17, has just been offered a place at St Johns College, Oxford, to do a degree in Classical Archaeology and Ancient History. Another weapon against our critics!

Best wishes, *Heather McCombie, 15 Haygrove Cl, Warminster, Wilts. BA12 8S . 01985 217600*

## Interested in living in a community?

Hello. We are a family of 3 - one nurse, one Alexander technique teacher and Tom, 3 years. 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 reply.

*David and Micky Tel: 01462-422734  
E-mail: [dauidingemarsson@hotmail.com](mailto:dauidingemarsson@hotmail.com)*

## Dyspraxia Contact

I have home educated my son for two years and have set up a group for children and adults with Dyspraxia in the Coventry and Warwickshire area, and am looking for people who would like to come along to our meetings. There will be activities for children and help and advice for parents/adults. There will be a day session which I am hoping to aim at Home Eds as well as an evening session. If interested, please tel: 02476 337737

*Val Alleyne (on behalf of Coventry and Warwickshire Dyspraxia Society)  
[val.alleyne@btinternet.com](mailto:val.alleyne@btinternet.com)*



# ARTICLES

## The dilemma of Sophie's education

I have just enjoyed reading the EO newsletter over morning coffee. As Edana says in the editorial, "it is really good to share all our unique experiences of HE", and after reading what Ian Wild has to say, I am inspired to share ours.

Sophie is 12 and we have been home schooling since moving to New Zealand from Scotland five years ago. My partner, Bruce, home educated his 3 children with his first wife, so he is comfortable with the concept of 'organic structure' but I struggle with it from time to time.

I 'succeeded' in school - learned things by rote and passed exams, and had I not been through that system, I believe (although I can't prove) that I would not know what a logarithm is or the difference between a cumulus and cirrus cloud formation, I would not have a clue what the pancreas does, the rules of tennis or how to conjugate a French verb. I enjoy knowing those

things, even though they are not 'useful' on a daily basis. I like having a wide range of facts and information at my fingertips.

So now I am home educating my own child and she does not conduct her learning in a way that remotely resembles school. All she does is read. As I write that, I hear you say "If she is a reader, she will learn anything and everything she ever needs to know." And of course that is true. But as Ian Wild says, because there is no external structure in her life, it looks awfully haphazard and I have no way of measuring what she knows or does not know. All I see is this: she lies in bed reading all day, emerges at dinner time which may be the only meal she eats in a day (she snacks on fruit at other times, which she takes to her bedroom), she is monosyllabic with us, she goes back to her room as soon as dinner is over unless it is her turn to wash up, which she does grudgingly, and reads until late. I don't know the exact time because we are asleep well before her, but sometimes I wake up in the middle of the night, 1 or 2 am and her light is still on. She sleeps through until midday at least.

This does not seem a fulfilling or rounded lifestyle to me. But every few weeks I will ask her directly "How is your life? Are you happy?" And the answer is always 'yes'.

What would I rather she was doing instead? Joining a drama group perhaps; playing an instrument; being involved in a sport; making her own clothes; being more active and involved. But, as Ian Wild says, "Nobody can know the inner structure of a child's mind". Every now and then I get a glimpse of what may be going on in Sophie's. She has reread the Harry Potter series at least half a dozen times recently, and the other day she gave me a long speech about how J K Rowling has structured the characterisation. And last month she told her father that she is making up plots and story lines in her head all the time. At this news, my achievement-oriented personality perks up and I tell myself I am cultivating an author, and in time her genius will emerge!

I am aware that I spend more time focusing on what is NOT happening in her 'education' than I do on what IS happening, because what IS happening is just daily life, which I take for granted. But every so often I remind myself that how we live is incredibly healthy and this must rub off on Sophie. We live on 420 acres of land with 15 other families in an eco-village. We grow our vegetables organically; we rear cows for meat and chickens for eggs. We have planted thousands of trees including olives, bananas, peaches, figs, almonds, oranges, lemons etc. and trees for firewood. Our land includes wetlands and mangroves on a tidal estuary where we moor our little boat in which we frequently go out to neighbouring beaches. We do not have television. We do not have Internet access.

There are two other girls in the village who are home educated and with whom we interact regularly. We designed and built our own house with ecological materials, which included making 3000 mud bricks ourselves. We often have woofers from around the world to stay. I play the piano and flute and Bruce plays the guitar. I knit and sew; Bruce spins wool on a wooden spinning wheel. We live off the grid and get our power from solar panels and a small windmill. My step daughter built a clay oven in the garden when she visited so we get that going every so often and invite the neighbours over for home-made pizza. Aran brings wine he has made himself. Another neighbour grows lavender for essential oil and we always help with the harvest. Another is a Greenpeace activist who shows us slides of his latest sea expeditions. All are talented, committed, interesting people with lots of stories to tell.

So the full picture is not one of deprivation and lack of stimulation. And when I review the choices that Bruce and I have made for us as a family, which I consider to be really positive ones, I must assume that Sophie is making positive choices for herself too. Despite the lack of evidence (in either direction) I must trust that she is building her own organic structures, which work for her. And also that this time of being intensely inward will not last forever.

So thanks to all who share their stories, they remind me of my own truths.

*Lori Forsyth, Awaawarua Bay Eco Village, R.D. 1, Waiheke Island, New Zealand Tel: [+64] (09) 372 5541*

### ***Thoughts on home education three years down the line***

I can't believe it's almost been three years since I took my son, Matthew, out of school, but I'm so glad I did. We sent off our deregistration letter during the summer holidays following Matthew's eighth birthday in May 2003. He'd just completed Year 3 – his first year of the local Junior School. Matthew had never really enjoyed school and from his first day had complained that he found school boring and he hated going. He never really talked about what went on, but he had made friends and his reports indicated that he was making good progress.

However, once he started Year 3, things began to slide. It was obvious from looking at his exercise books at parents' evenings that he hadn't produced much in the way of written work (usually he'd written just the date and title) and his teachers were complaining that he was easily distracted or inclined to daydream. His SATs scores were excellent, however. His headmaster's response was to put him on report. At the end of each day Matthew had to trundle off to the headmaster to show how much or how little work he'd produced. The 'carrot' if he did well was that he could spend more time on the computer. If he didn't achieve what was expected, then he had to forego playtime and stay in to complete his work. My partner and I were uncomfortable with this and then became annoyed when the promised 'meeting' to discuss how being on report had helped or not was mysteriously 'forgotten' about. By this time we'd more or less decided to home educate anyway, so whatever the outcome of the meeting it would have made little difference.

Obviously we asked Matthew why he was so easily distracted in class and why he didn't knuckle down and produce the work required of him. 'It's boring,' was his response. Basically he couldn't understand why he had to sit and write out reams of exercises on a particular maths problem, for example, when he understood it straight away. He said he was fed up with waiting for the teacher to explain things over and over again to those who didn't pick it up quite so quickly. He said he didn't want to 'listen to the teacher droning on and on' and be expected to sit passively while she did so.

The other things Matthew found frustrating about being in a classroom situation was that he rarely got to answer a question even though he put his hand up immediately so that in the end, demoralised, he gave up even bothering. He was also fed up with having to work on an art project as a group as there weren't enough materials to go round (there were 36 pupils in his class) and fed up with there not ever being time to finish anything. I found it sad that an intelligent, lively boy was losing his love of learning; that an articulate boy was fast becoming monosyllabic; that a boy with lots of interests was becoming one who got bored easily. This wasn't right.

De-registering Matthew from school was straightforward. Apparently, the headmaster had phoned the LEA on receiving my letter asking if I was entitled to withdraw Matthew to home educate. We'd already written to the LEA and sent them a copy of our educational philosophy, which we'd spent several nights sweating over and which ran to several pages of A4. After a few weeks we received a letter from the headmaster wishing us all the best.

It was several months before we received a visit from the LEA inspector for our area. We're lucky in that she is very pro home education and very supportive. On her first visit she quickly put Matthew at ease so that within a few minutes he was chatting away to her and telling her all about the things he'd been doing. He was eager to show her the freezer alarm he'd made with his father's help and to explain how it worked. He had created a wonderful display of Bionicle models, most of which he'd adapted from the original instructions to create something of his own. He showed her the Powerpoint presentation he'd done on the PC and photographs of his other practical projects.

Matthew had worked through several assessment papers for Maths, preferring them to straightforward text books and he was working at least a year above his age. The inspector was particularly impressed in that he was using practical maths in his electronics projects. She said in her report that Matthew was very self-confident and an excellent conversationalist, that he was very creative, happy and thriving. She summed up by saying that he was making excellent

progress and that the range of work he'd completed since he'd been out of school was too broad to do justice to in her report.

Naturally we were delighted at how well our inspection had gone, and it was good to hear that someone else thought home education was obviously the right thing for our son.

It hasn't all been plain sailing, of course. There have been days when I've wished he were back at school and days when I've doubted my ability to home educate. There have been days when my patience has worn very thin and I've wanted to get in the car and keep driving! Nearly three years down the line, however, and we're much more laid back about home education. We've become more confident in ourselves and in Matthew's ability to learn for himself. As parents our roles have shifted slightly in that we're doing much less 'teaching' and are becoming instead facilitators for Matthew's learning. In other words, he is becoming more autonomous.

Relatives and friends are always concerned that when we take children out of school, that they won't have any friends. This certainly hasn't been true in our case. Missing his friends was also Matthew's main concern when we discussed whether he liked the idea of being educated at home instead of going to school. Fortunately, this hasn't been a problem. Matthew is still in touch with some of his school friends and has made lots of new friends in the home education community. He has a terrific social life and regularly gets invited to friends' houses to play, as well as for sleepovers and parties. He goes swimming every week at the local leisure centre with a couple of older home educated boys and does a climbing session every week there, too. He's been able to try heaps of new activities, thanks to our wonderful local EO group, including skiing, skating and go-karting.

Matthew still doesn't like writing and at first resisted any sort of written work. We haven't pushed it, although he was reduced to tears when I asked him to do a 'prediction' for an English assignment. It turned out that the teacher had got very cross with him in Year 2 when he 'didn't do his prediction properly'. I explained to Matthew that there wasn't any 'right' or 'wrong' when it came to the written word. It was simply another way of communicating our thoughts and ideas. It proved to be a major turning point. Since then Matthew has been more enthusiastic about writing, but still would rather avoid it if possible. Our inspector didn't seem too worried and seemed to think it was a 'boy thing'.

We also have a daughter, Megan, who is four. Naturally she's been with us on our home education journey, attending all the various EO meetings (and there have been an awful lot!) and making her own friends. She's at an age now where she is eager to learn more and more. However, Megan has to do things on her own terms. She isn't keen on Mummy or Daddy helping her. It's fascinating to see how a child who has never been to playgroup, nursery or school learns at her own pace. All we do is put the resources at her disposal, always ready to help her if she needs it, and she's away. She has been able to use the PC for well over a year now. Her mouse skills are excellent and she is able to print documents without help (it's costing us a fortune in print cartridges, as she's printed dozens of colour pictures from the Dr Who website!). Megan is wonderfully confident both with children and adults. She had no qualms about going up to a National Trust volunteer last summer to ask what something was.

Megan even did a mini presentation on Dr Who at our EO meeting recently, confidently standing in front of about 30 people explaining who the various monsters, villains and main characters were. She can also tell you the names of the actors who played each of the ten doctors.

Okay, so Megan is not yet able to write her name and no, she can't read as such. However, she loves books, makes up her own stories from the pictures and knows some of her books by heart. She does recognise most letters and numbers, and she does the most wonderful drawings (usually of monsters like yetis or rather unflattering pictures of Mummy!) We're confident that she will be able to read fluently at some stage, but what's the rush? Why is it so important in our society that children should be reading by the age of five?

It's not only the children who have been learning in our household. I, for one, have learned an enormous amount. My maths skills have improved considerably for a start! My knowledge of history has also come on apace. Most importantly I've learned a lot about how children learn. It's

not something which can be measured by tests or exams. Seemingly, this is something schools and the government haven't yet cottoned on to.

I believe that when a child is happy and relaxed, then learning comes naturally. If you follow your child's interests then the sky's the limit. Our wish is that our children are able to find a job or career they find fascinating; one they love, so that they wake up every morning excited about going to work. It's something I've never experienced, sadly. A string of 'O' levels, 'A' levels, an Honours degree and a postgraduate degree have been worthless in that respect.

Home educated children will grow into adults who don't take everything at face value. These are the people who will question governments, the law and the way the world works. And this is why governments like schools so much, because in school, children are trained to jump through hoops and to follow the party line. Free thinkers, on the other hand, are dangerous. Heaven help a child in school who is intelligent and asks too many questions. They are soon quashed.

So what's my advice for home educating parents just starting out or to those who are thinking about home education? Obviously to go for it and look at the long term picture. What do you want for your children at the end of the day? There's so much more to life than exam results and university degrees. Home education requires a whole new mindset. It teaches us as parents to question traditional methods of 'education' and learning, and that's got to be a good thing. Remember: Flexibility is the key. Evaluate what you're doing on a regular basis and be prepared to go in a different direction at any given time. Allow your child to lead the way and hold your nerve. It will be well worth it!

*Jo Good (Warwickshire) jo.good@ntlworld.com*

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### ***Violence in School***

I was listening to a parent sounding off about violent video games the other day. About how they forbade their children to see such things – those nasty shoot-em-ups where characters go round annihilating everything in sight. The adult in question worked himself into a quite lather about the subject, and I had to keep biting my tongue. It's not that I'm in favour of such things. It's just that this man sends his sons to school and there they endure *real* violence. They suffer *real* kicks and punches and brutality. If you're so bothered about exposing your children to violence that you'll ban them *seeing* it, why would you let them *feel* it? This seems to me far, far worse.

There are not many places on earth better at teaching a violent way of life than the jungle of a school environment. This is definitely true for boys. There are few schools where a boy will not will not be spat on, mocked, kicked, punched, humiliated. And that is just the everyday stuff. At the more extreme end there is actual physical torture. Compared to what goes on in the school environment, a video game – even the very worst – is *civilised*.

Despite all the anti-bullying programmes that schools initiate, it seems clear to me that violence is getting worse in schools. As a peripatetic teacher, I go into a variety of schools regularly, and the *routine* violence is appalling. By routine, I mean the violence that is considered acceptable to everybody in that environment and is tolerated as 'normal'. The '*ah we're only messing about*' violence that consists of kicking up the bum, dead arms or legs, mock punches thrown an inch from the face that must be taken without flinching, chinese burns, nuggies (rubbing the knuckles hard on the head of another child), headlocks, etc etc. These 'minor' acts of violence are the everyday life of thousands upon thousands of schoolchildren. Only avoidable if the child makes himself so hard (i.e. violent) that others are too scared to do these things to them.

To give just one small example of a recent event: I was approaching a bus queue and saw a crowd of boys – maybe twenty or more, tugging, kicking, punching, jeering at one boy. As I neared they stopped. They let go of the boy. He ran off to a far part of the queue. I went past him and saw in his face: shame, humiliation, anger, suppressed tears. I wondered if he would tell his parents when he got home. I guessed not (I hope I was wrong). What could he say without losing even more self-esteem? His only hope would be for his parents to take him out of school, and that is unfortunately a futile wish even now for most children. More likely he'd be told to stand up for

himself. Hit back. Be a man. Really quite hopeless advice. More likely, the trauma would all be kept a secret. Perhaps though, what struck me most forcibly about the entire episode *was the other children in the bus queue*. Their faces and attitudes suggested nothing had happened that was at all unusual or reprehensible. The act of violence that had just occurred was as ordinary as paying for a bus ticket or eating a Mars bar.

Every violent act on a child breaks an unwritten, unspoken code in their unconscious. A child comes into the world as a peaceable, pacifistic being. I know this because I have lived with and around boys and young men who have been brought up in non-violent homes, outside of school, and they don't get a (literal) kick out of hurting people. *That* is normal. Their inner selves have not been violated. They have neither the desire nor the necessity to respond to people in an aggressive or sadistic manner. Nor are these young people weak craven ninnies unable to stand up for themselves. Quite the opposite. School desensitises a child. Because their own pain is not taken seriously, they stop being able to take the pain of others seriously. In a very real and physical way it hardens and closes the heart. People are not born in expectation of violence, but if it happens often enough, inescapably and without succour, acts of violence get written onto the unconscious until they become like commandments written onto stone. *'It's okay to hurt people and you don't have to help victims because nobody helped me. Other people's pain doesn't matter because nobody cared about mine.'* The heart becomes a locked and bolted door. Hands may beat upon it but it will not open.

Parents should be clear that in sending children to school their offspring are getting rather more than the three R's and some eminently forgettable exam subjects: their children are internalising a great deal of damage to their heart and soul. It's a kind of hidden curriculum. They are cooped up with others, many of whom are disturbed and hurt (by school or poor parenting or both). Adult supervision – even if it is well meaning – is unlikely to be present at all times. Often it is not present at all. Damaged children will pass their pain on in a vicious circle of transference. It is a sad truth of human existence that hurt people hurt people. The school system is hopeless at dealing with the insidious, ever-present violence that results. Inevitably, what children learn above all from school, is that their pain is unimportant, and therefore nobody's pain is important. That violence is acceptable. That tenderness, love and mercy are not worth spit.

This aspect of schooling, the fact that schools harden and distort the souls of children, is vastly underplayed by those who support the system. A blind eye the size of Cyclops' is turned to the level of violence that children endure at all levels of school. Though universal schooling is a fairly recent invention, it is now so embedded in our culture and so 'useful' as a childminding service, any number of screens are drawn across its brutality. A sort of conspiracy of blindness. Seamus Heaney when interviewed for RTE's *'My Education'* programme, likened sending children to school to an early experience of seeing unwanted kittens drowned in a bucket – 'you were initiated into the cruelties of human society'. His daughter said after a couple of days of school: 'A lot of girls cried and said they wanted their mammy. I didn't, but my heart thought it.'

It is typical of a great poet like Heaney that he should cut so cleanly and honestly through to the truth of the matter. Schools are usually pitiless places. Parents must battle against society's collective denial of this fact. They must battle against a host of specious arguments that insist that the violence in schools is beneficial:

- *They have to learn to stand on their own two feet, or they'll never be able to deal with bullies later in life.*
- *Children have to be socialised. They have to learn to get on with all types of people.*
- *There is no other way for children to pass exams and get to University.*
- *Life is cruel. The sooner children learn it the better.*

None of commonly expressed ideas above are true. That they are accepted by many people as truisms is a sad expression of how desperate many people are to brush the pain of their own children (and childhood) under a psychological carpet.

A glance at any newspaper will bring home the depressing fact that the world is drowning in violence: Physical, emotional, psychological. This won't be changed by putting shoot-em-up

games in the bin. It will only be changed by ensuring that a generation of our young people are protected from *real* violence until such a time as they are old enough to protect themselves. It is impossible to do this if a child is living most of their waking life away from the immediate protection of those who care for them and love them. It is impossible to do in a school

*Ian Wild*

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### **Fancy a Hi-tech Game?**

#### **How about using billion dollar satellites to find Tupperware in the woods?!**

If you've not heard about Geocaching I hope this article will introduce it. Why in EO's newsletter? Well, I think it fits rather well with HE since it calls for a wide range of skills and info, encourages discovery and adventure, and is very flexible.

**What is Geocaching?** It's a hi-tech treasure hunt. Geocachers hide containers in interesting locations throughout the UK and other countries. Once a cache is hidden its location is published on a website ([www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)) and other Geocachers use a GPS receiver to try and find it. The GPS unit uses signals from a range of navigation satellites to calculate its position to within a few metres (no, the Govt can't track you, unlike mobile phones!). A quick search at the location is usually needed to find the box then you note your visit in the logbook and can swap some 'treasure'. You also log your visit on the website. Although, in theory, you know the location of the cache very accurately, the last 10 feet can often be the challenge!

**You can both seek and hide.** There are nearly 12,000 caches in the UK to go and find. They are on the tops of mountains, under park benches, deep in the woods and in the middle of towns. Wherever you live in the UK, the chances are pretty good that you're not too far from a cache. Often they take you to interesting places that you might not have visited otherwise.

If you want to hide your own cache there are guidelines for where they can be placed but there's lots of scope. It's interesting to read the logs posted by the visitors to your cache and hear about their adventures as they discover a place you've invited them to visit.

**Why go Geocaching?** Different people play the game for different reasons (bit like HE!). Some enjoy finding fiendishly difficult caches, some like long walks in the mountains and others like 'drive-by' caches. Yes, it could seem as a bit 'nerdy' but it can also be fun, takes you to new places and you can even meet new people. Many caches involve finding out about a bit local of history.

It helps geographic and computer skills, plus there's useful exercise, a bit of adventure, finding 'treasure', the idea of 'equal' swaps, perseverance and dealing with frustration when finding a cache proves difficult. No doubt it covers a whole host of 'curriculum' areas! It may also suit certain special needs as it's very ordered and logical, and can be done at any pace. A lot of families go caching, enjoying the hunt together, and not a fox to be seen!

**What you need.** Basically, all you need is a GPS receiver. There are various makes but Garmin are pretty good. A basic unit (a Geko 201) costs about £85. A unit with more functionality (Etrex Legend) costs £120. They should last quite a few years. They can be found on Amazon or from outdoor shops. If you already have a car GPS you can probably Geocache with it.

To get details of the caches you need to register with [Geocaching.com](http://Geocaching.com), which is free, although if you wish, you can also pay a subscription of \$30 a year to access more functions. The website has lots of info to help get started and you can also link up with local Geocachers if you need help.

**A year of discovery.** Our daughter is 10 and we HE up here in Cumbria. We discovered Geocaching about a year ago. So far we've discovered 80 caches and been to beautiful and unexpected places. We've found them in Isle of Arran sea cliffs, in volcanoes on Lanzarote during a holiday, in Oxfordshire hedges while visiting grandparents, and at Paddington station after the last EO Council meeting! Of course we've also found many around the Lake District. We've also

hidden 11 caches in interesting corners near where we live. Plans for the next few months include getting the canoe out so we can find a couple of caches hidden on islands in the middle of lake Windermere!

If you're looking for a family friendly hobby that can be done anytime and almost anywhere, with a sense of adventure and discovery, then Geocaching could be for you. After all, it would be a shame to let those billion-dollar satellites go to waste!

*Freya finds a bear in a Lake District cache.*

*Martin Wise, Kendal Email: [geoseek@mac.com](mailto:geoseek@mac.com)  
See [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) for more information*



Three of the caches we've placed:  
Castle Howe:

<http://tinyurl.com/sx8za>

Lift Thine Eyes to the  
Hills:

<http://tinyurl.com/p82zb>

Middle of the  
Motorway:

<http://tinyurl.com/dmr6y>

## Diary Of A Home-Educating Nobody

I just want to say a big thank you.

Thank you to those of you who sent me feedback. I'm so glad to know my words have helped. And it's also reassuring to know I'm not the only one suffering from the HEers plague: self-doubt!

I have two doses of it: self doubt with the Home Educating and self doubt with the writing about it. So I know exactly how you feel! And talking to my friends they have times of self-doubt too. We all do! You are not alone!

I was reading the other day about thinking! I read how many of our problems as a society come about through mass thinking instead of thinking things out for oneself and taking responsibility.

Most people think like other people most of the time. I think like other people much of the time. But some of us think independently too. And Home Educators must surely be some of the most independent thinkers there are.

The trouble with independent thinking is, of course, that it is usually radical. And as such not only are people wary of you, you're also at the mercy of self-doubt more than anyone else too! You can feel very alone.

So independent thinking is tough. It is very, very brave too. So congratulations to you all for your independent thoughts about education!

As HEers we're doing something so wildly different that this threatens what others are doing, for it makes them ask questions they would perhaps rather not face. This is sometimes going to disrupt relationships with family and friends. That's quite hard to deal with. Can be very hurtful, especially if it is close family members who cannot accept that

you want to do things differently.

But not only that, not only do we independent thinkers educate our children in a completely different way, we seem to be having a nice time doing it - and not a lunch box, a gruelling timetable, a uniform, or a homework book in sight!

That's going to really challenge the mass thinkers! And it's going to make us very unpopular. And when people feel challenged they often attack. Like you I do feel attacked sometimes. I don't mean physically, but judgementally. It's not a nice feeling. It makes sticking to your personal beliefs very hard. So is it any wonder we have self-doubt!

This is why it is so essential that we keep in contact with one another.

The worst thing of all about self-doubt is that it is encapsulating. It encapsulates you in the feeling that you are the only one fumbling along not doing it right when everyone else is. You can soon think that everyone else is progressing and you're stuck. That everyone else has motivated, mega-bright children. And it's just you who's bungled it!

Well, I don't know what everyone else is doing obviously, but I'd guess that pretty much everyone who has HEed has experienced self-doubt. It's not just you! And no one gets it right all the time, everyone gets stuck sometimes, everyone bungles and everyone's kids can be unmotivated! Mine too.

Whenever I'm with people who are not Home Educating, or do not understand or are not even prepared to listen and accept that I value different things to them, I have needed to come back and get with someone who does. Just to heal my self-doubt. For it is like some kind of disease that infects my thinking and tries to bring it in line with mass thinking. I begin to think: should I be doing this? Am I just hoodwinking myself that we have the ability to educate our children outside a mass system? Who am I to think that I know better than thousands of others? Am I a total nutter?

I have thoughts like this all the time. Even though I can see my children are healthy, happy and intelligent. Even though in my rational mind I know I am doing the right thing for them. But our minds aren't always rational, are they?

I am so lucky that I have some terrific friends who support my independent thinking. Both Home Educators and non Home Educators. In fact it is my non Home Educating friend, who has gruellingly pursued an education in school for her children, who supports me the most. As she has gone through it she has encouraged me every step of the way as she confronts the pointlessness of curriculum, the lack of attention to her children's needs, the poor relationships her children encounter, and the failing of the system to educate her children well in school. I have lived her frustrations with her and it has helped me feel grateful that my children have not been subjected to that. She helps me over the self-doubting times.

So do all the other Home Educating friends who I chat to when I start worrying.

We all need to fuel the fires of our independence sometimes. We need contact with others who support us. I don't look upon it as a weakness, I look upon it as a facilitating tool.

There is no mass encouragement to Home Educate like there is to send your children to school. So we need to find concrete ways of keeping faith with our beliefs and contact helps with that.

The other thing that helps is to keep your objective in mind. Everyone probably has a different objective when they HE. Some of us have academic objectives. Some of us have lifestyle objectives. We're a diverse lot. But probably there is one objective that we all have in common; the happiness and health of our children.

It is so long since my eldest child was in school I had forgotten her grey and stressed little

face that met me a half past three. I had forgotten the constant colds and infections she had. I had forgotten that she no longer smiled. As soon as I remember that I ease my self-doubt. For now her face is bright. She seldom has infections. And she giggles all the time - even as a teenager! As soon as I remember the crushed spirit of my youngest when she was at school, as soon as I remember how she had to sit still for ages and write and read at five and when she couldn't she was punished, and as soon as I remember how she clasped me in desperate gratitude when I told her she didn't have to go to school any more, I get over my self-doubt.

The children are happy. They know how to be happy. They know that they are working towards having a happy fulfilled life. And they know that there are as many ways to do so as there are people in the world. They know that they have the right to have their wishes and feelings respected wherever they are and whomever they are with. Our objective is to show the children that they have choice, that they can be in charge of their lives, and that they don't have to take any stick from anyone. Children don't learn that in school!

That's why we Home Educate. In order to overcome my self-doubt all I have to do is look back and remember.

Take courage! Self-doubt is not only part of a Home Educating life; it is part of life in general. Life can be doubtful whatever we do - it isn't just to do with HE. Overcoming self-doubt is a life skill! As you learn how to cope with it then you'll be able to teach your children how to do it and what a great gift that will be!

And thanks to you all for your encouraging words which have helped me to overcome mine!

*Ross Mountney*

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### ***Dealing with the LEA<sup>1</sup>***

As a member of the Education Otherwise telephone helpline/enquiries team and long-term home educating parent (of sons who have been free to learn from life experiences, with no lessons, coercion or "well-meaning" interference - other than during the 5 years the eldest spent in primary school) I am often frustrated by the number of calls I deal with from people who are being intimidated (I really don't believe this is too strong a word for it) by members of the LEA.

Parents are told a range of untruths about what they "should" be doing with regard to their child/ren's education, with no regard whatsoever to the wording of the education Act which allows for the parents themselves to "choose the type of education their child shall receive". These range from being told they should produce written work done by their child, as "proof" they are following a curriculum to saying children taken out of school after long-term truancies due to bullying must still work for GCSEs or be sent back to school.

This treatment often starts when the child first starts being home educated; a letter arrives on the doormat containing either a questionnaire or a form which the parents must, supposedly, fill in. In general, there will also be a date and time when they will visit you, and the implication is that you must be in, with your children, so they can see what you are doing and whether or not it is sufficient. Many families have been through some really difficult times when their child has been at school, with some parents telling me of children who have been suicidal; little wonder that deregistration is a last resort for many parents, who really believe that they face prosecution for not making their child attend school (because no-one has told them that only parents of registered pupils can be prosecuted, even when they have told the LEA representatives they have been involved with that they want their child to come out of school).

Even if they agree to a home visit (and there are many reasons why this is not a good idea, which I shall explore in the next newsletter) they find themselves being dictated to about the need to produce timetables, details of exactly what they intend to teach their child, details of an organised

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<sup>1</sup> Note that from April LEAs will be re-named LAs as part of local govt. restructuring

social life and other unnecessary demands, none of which the LEA is really entitled to make. I have asked a few people over the years why they put up with this sort of thing, including panicking about "the next visit", why they don't just ignore the letters once the LEA has had their first enquiries answered, and the reply is generally that they don't want to rock the boat.

I'd like, here and in the next newsletter or two, to make people more aware of their rights as far as their status as home educators is concerned. Briefly, once you decide to home educate, just do it; if your child is in school you must deregister them (sample letters in the EO handbook, and on the website along with other useful sample letters) but if they have not been to school yet, even if you have accepted a place at a school, you need inform no-one.

When the LEA are made aware that you are home educating (by the head teacher, or a nosy neighbour!) they are entitled to make informal enquiries to satisfy themselves that an education is taking place which is suitable for their age, ability and aptitude (this is their duty). You don't have to fill in forms, accept home visits, provide a timetable, or indeed any details of what your child will be doing. It is enough that you are causing them to receive an education as per the terms of the Education Act, and this can take any form you want it to. You don't have to teach them anything formally and they do not have to do any written work if that is your choice. You don't even have to explain your education philosophy (or even have one) to them if they want an explanation of why there is no "work".

As the article in the last newsletter shows, many children can and do learn very effectively indeed even when it doesn't appear much is going on. Many children, including my own, have grown up to young adulthood without necessarily producing loads of meaningless writing (which only shows they can copy out of a book; it doesn't show understanding or learning). Such children ought to be celebrated by LEAs, and their parents praised, but instead they are harassed endlessly.

It's time we all started sticking up for ourselves, saying no to their demands, and telling them, "actually you aren't entitled to do this or that; there's nothing in the Education Act which says we must..."

The more people give in to them for an easy life (for themselves, but not for their children, since it is they who are still pushed to do things which mean nothing to them; if they were interested they would not have to be coerced and they would learn it themselves), the more the idea is perpetuated that the LEA are "in charge". This is not the case. The next time you are asked to accept a home visit, or send in/show written work etc (which belongs to your child, not to you!) say "no" for the sake of all home educators.

*Cal Bailes, 23 Belsay Place, Newcastle upon Tyne*

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### **Thoughts on our home education journey**

We are a home educating family of five. Mum, Dad and three blossoming daughters. We began home educating four years ago after much frustration with the education system.

Our eldest daughter started 'state school' at four. Although we ourselves thought this much too young at the time, we were persuaded by her playschool teacher that it was 'normal' and that she would 'thrive' with the challenge. Besides all her friends were going, did we want her to be the odd one out?

Well she didn't thrive and after just one term we removed her from the school. She was mercilessly bullied by other children in her class. Incidents ranged from cutting her hair, pulling her eyelashes out, to being kicked, stomped on and biting her on the back. When we complained to the headmaster we were told that this was 'normal' play and that our daughter was just not used to rough play. His solution was to keep our daughter in at break times, thus socially isolating her even more and, in her young mind, punishing her for being the victim of classroom bullies! He refused to talk to the parents of the other children or suspend them from the school. I was also refused knowledge of the children and their parents so that I could not complain to the offending children's parents myself.

As I said before, after several weeks of this we pulled her out of school. The school telephoned us

and informed us that they would be contacting the local council and that we could be prosecuted for taking our daughter out of school. I contacted the local council myself and explained the situation. When we declined to go back to the school the council threatened to prosecute us. We asked for an alternative school in the area and were told they were all full. We were told either to move out of the area or to put our daughter back into the school we had just removed her from.

Luckily at the time a chance conversation with a friend informed us of a very small private pre-prep in the small village we lived in at the time. The Head was very selective and didn't advertise - only taking pupils on an introduction basis. I went to her house that very day and knocked on her door to explain our situation to her. She was very helpful indeed and admitted our daughter to the school the very next day. Although it was expensive it was well worth every penny to see our child's confidence return under the care and guidance of that lovely elderly woman. She had a staff of three teachers including herself and the school was run from her own home, where she had converted the ground floor into a school with three classrooms. The total number of children in the school was twenty. Two older classes, and the kindergarten class, which my second daughter joined a year later.

We were very happy with the school where there was such care and attention to detail - it was like a family. At Easter she would hide named Easter eggs around her garden for each of the children at the school. At Christmas they would have Santa visit and give each child a present. Birthdays were a special event and a mini party was held at lunch. For sports they spent their day on the beach running races. Sound ideal? It was!

Unfortunately when my daughter was six and a half her headmistress became ill and was forced to retire, sadly forcing the closure of the school. She recommended good schools in the area, both private and state, and we duly went to visit. We couldn't possibly afford the private schools as we had daughter number three by now and private fees for one would have stretched us to our very limits, let alone three.

The state school she recommended was church funded and the best in the area. We viewed it with our eldest daughter who was the only one of age to attend. The sheer size of it made her nervous. There were ninety children in each year, (such was the demand for such a good school education in our area), and this was split between three classrooms, each containing a little over the allotted thirty children. Being a church funded school this required us to attend church every week and receive a recommendation from our vicar. We were not of that faith and it would have meant sacrificing our principles as well as our pride for our daughter. This we would do at a push, having desperately looked at all the other ill-fitting alternative schools.

However our daughter was not so sure. She began to have panic attacks about the thought of having to attend such a large formidable school. She was convinced that she would become lost; that no one would listen to her thoughts and opinions as they did at her current school, (being one of five in a classroom had it's advantages). She wanted to know if they would still do the Easter egg hunt and sports on the beach.

At our wits' end we talked about our concerns and fears to her wonderful headmistress. She thought the best option for our daughter was home education. This is something we had never even heard of before, let alone considered. Knowing full well how our child had suffered in the school system before this lovely lady (to whom we owe so much) gave us the courage to search the web for such a thing as 'home education'.

That night we typed in the magic words 'home education' and the site 'Education otherwise' appeared before us.

Convinced that we were not breaking the law, and filled with hope from the other home stories on the site, we began to home educate our daughters that Easter. We have never looked back! When it came to informing the authorities last September that our youngest would not be attending the local school, we did so knowing with full hearts that we were doing the best thing for our child. If only we had known about home education in the beginning, we would never have sent any of our children to school.

We have a wonderful relationship with our LEA officer, and we look forward to his yearly visits. It is like catching up with an old distant friend. He is always full of positive praise for the children and the latest education gossip. The children enjoy showing him their work and a pleasant morning/afternoon is spent nattering about topics, visits and books over tea and biscuits, (which are made by the children of course).

Our family and close friends have been extremely supportive. I am not saying that home education has been an easy option - far from it. A lot of work and dedication is taken to educate three individual children at home. I try to cater to their every need, stimulate them, motivate them at times, be a general all round quizmaster and multi tasked information machine when a million and one questions are being fired at me on a daily basis. But I would never change a thing about the way my girls are educated. They are happy, healthy and alive with knowledge and the thirst to learn. They are confident and assertive when needs arrive. They are not afraid, like their school friends, to question a leader or situation. They have learnt to be themselves.

In fact the only downside to home education as far as I have experienced is the well meaning general public, with their ever-observant comments: 'No school today?' 'Are you ill? Is that why mummy keeps you at home?' 'But what about socialisation?' 'Aren't you worried they'll be socially stunted?'. A million and one insulting comments every time you set foot outside the front door during school time.

It doesn't matter if you are at a museum, castle or social club - the questions are always the same. No doubt they are well meaning, or so I keep telling myself. More often than not it is their child who is shy and retiring, standing in the back ground and wishing the earth would swallow him whole whilst mine are engaging the parent in conversation about any manner of topics. No, I do not worry that my children will be 'socially stunted' because they are home educated. Anyone who knows a home educated child knows a full and happy child who thrives in the outside world and who is at ease conversing with adults and peers alike.

The other comment that is raised on a regular basis is: 'How can you stand to be around your children all day! Doesn't it drive you mad! I can't wait to send them back to school!'. I feel sorry for these people. I never wanted to send my children to school. I loved them the moment they were conceived. I never had children for someone else to raise, especially the school system. Unfortunately, like so many others before me and since, I didn't have all the knowledge at my fingertips - although now I hear about more and more families who home educate. Thank goodness people are beginning to see the light.

And for those parents who can't wait to get rid of their children, I suspect they are secretly envious of those of us who do home educate. Those of us who have been brave enough to step outside the box and takes society's scathing comments on the chin.

We are free to explore on the beach on a sunny day, climb hills and valleys and attend museums without the pushing and shoving summer holiday crowds. My children have the freedom to learn and explore the world with theories and endless questions. No one here thinks them silly or a swot when they want to disappear for a few hours into a mass of books.

Yes home education is all consuming, but it is hugely rewarding. No school or teacher would care for our offspring as we do. None would make the sacrifices we do, put in the extra effort we do, listen to our children as much as we do. A child in class who asks continual questions is an annoyance. One to be silenced quickly or ignored completely.

There are many pitfalls to home education and I expect us to hit every one on our long and tiring journey, but we shall do it with the knowledge that it is by our own choice and free will and that it is a path that many have walked before us and survived. We know that by walking this path we will trample the grass and weeds down sufficiently for others to follow our footsteps more easily. Because each and every one of us who home educates is a real trailblazer.

*The Hills Family, West Sussex.*



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**Chrystia and Keith warmly welcome**  
**all home educating families.**

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We provide canoes, cargo net, rope swings, craft materials, marquee or bender, fire barrels off the ground. Bring bikes, drums, other instruments.

Morning ~ acapella/gospel/taize singing

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

Teenagers welcome, with families only.

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

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Contact as above

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## April Competition – Issue 169

Hi all

Well Spring is upon us once again, and as I write this we have snow on the ground, something not heard of very often on the North West coast but welcome by the little ones, all the same ☺

We didn't have many entries for the last competition, so thought I would do something different for a change and remember all members young and old can take part ☺

The winner of the last issue is Michelle Bardis with Jake age 9 from West Sussex – well done! – they win a subscription to Learn Premium till the end of October – check out the new pro rata rates for this great service that EO have negotiated for all its members. The winner of this issues competition will win a choice of books that have been kindly donated – thank you, you know who you are ☺ - any other donated prizes more than welcome.

All entries have to be in by the end of April – to: EO Competition, 79 Cumberland Avenue, Cleveleys, Lancashire. FY5 2DS

The competition is open to all members of EO, except members of the Council and EO's paid contractors.

	X		/		8
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+		X		-	
	-		-		-7
5		15			-8

Try to fill in the missing numbers.

Use the numbers 1 through 9 to complete the equations.

Each number is only used once.

Each row is a math equation.  
Work from left to right.

Each column is a math equation.  
Work from top to bottom.

*(numbers in squares at right and bottom are answers to equations)*

## Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

I work at Sainsbury's and last year when the Active Kids vouchers came out I asked if HE kids could be included. They hadn't even thought of them. I explained things and was told next year possibly.

I've chased this and we can, as groups, become part of the scheme. I will have to register any groups that want to collect so please email me and I'll do it as quickly as poss.

You will need to have a contact name and address so it will have to be someone who doesn't mind them knowing this but it's for delivery and post etc.

If groups are small it may be worth several getting together and sharing equipment/vouchers.

You can have a look at the catalogue at the customer services desk if you want to see what's on offer. There are small things like footballs and hoops etc.

I would love to prove to them that loads of groups want to do this as it may mean we can point to it when Tesco's relaunch next year and any other voucher schemes too.

Claire W [philipakwade@ntlworld.com](mailto:philipakwade@ntlworld.com)

## REVIEWS

### **Make Your Own Princess Palace**

*by Clare Beaton*

Katie loved this. It was very easy to do with good, clear instructions, great for working independently; bright, colourful pieces to make the palace and grounds along with figures for you to colour. Wonderful for creating puppet shows when made. Princess stories to read, ideas for cakes and princess jewellery... what more could you want! Now just where to store it ..

Denise with Katie (7)

£4.99 ISBN 1-902915-25-9 B.Small Publishing

### **Winter Bringers by Gill Arbuthnott**

This is a fictional book, with sections based on real historical events in the eighteenth century. It's a story about a boy, Josh, who goes on a summer holiday to Fife. He gets to know a local girl called Callie and events take a strange turn. The weather turns cold and, it snows and the sea freezes, even though it's July. Josh begins to uncover the story of Agnes Blair and the fantastical *Kingdom of Summer*. He finds the Winter King in a cave and he and Callie begin an adventure to save the dying Queen of Summer and defeat the Winterbringers. The chapters are interspersed by pieces of the diary of Agnes Blair from the eighteenth century, which is based on reality. I thought this book was extremely good and very exciting and I would recommend it.

Molly (12)

£4.99 ISBN 0-86315-530-8 Floris

### **Mr Ben - Gladiator by David McKee**

Another magical adventure for Mr Benn when he gets involved in tricking the Roman Emperor into keeping all the prisoners alive and seeing how the Emperor likes being chased by the lions himself. This is a good first book for an early reader and excellent pictures.

Carole with Luke (6)

£5.99 ISBN 1-84270-372-2 Andersen Press

### **Little Tim and the Brave Sea Captain by Edward Ardizzone**

We all loved this exciting adventure about the little boy (Tim) who ran away to sea. The illustrations are reminiscent of AA Milne's *Winnie the Pooh* books and have a timeless quality that both the young and old will appreciate. Granny did wonder why his parents didn't chastise little Tim on his return! We'd love to read more about Tim's adventures. Others in the series include *Tim and Lucy Go to Sea* and *Tim to the Rescue*. The series was first published in 1936.

Granny Nora (90) with her grandchildren Robyn, Max and Oliver  
£10.99 ISBN 1-84507-456-4 Frances Lincoln

### **Snakes Alive by Hazel Townson**

This is a collection of three stories with a touch of magic. *Snakes Alive* is really funny. It is about a boy called Bobby who bought a snake to teach it to dance and do tricks. The snake was a magician's snake and the wizard wanted it back. There is a very funny moment when Great Aunt Alice gets into bed and finds the snake in it. What will happen to Bobby's aunt? Will the Wizard get his snake back? The other stories are *Through the Witches Window* and *Amos Shrike the School Ghost*. The first one is about a girl who kicks her brother's football through a witch's window. The witch enchants the hole to follow the girl everywhere. The ghost story is about a teacher who seeks to get his own back on a boy whose great grandad had caused him problems. The stories are funny and the pictures nice as well. The stories will appeal to all ages, they are good for reading out loud to a younger child or for someone who is gaining confidence in reading. I would recommend it for 9+.

Karis (11)

£4.99 ISBN 1-84270-508-3 Andersen Press

### **Dragon Keeper by Carole Wilkinson**

Ping is a slave in ancient China. Her master is the incompetent Imperial Dragon Keeper whose laziness has allowed all but one dragon to die. Ping decides to rescue the remaining dragon, Long Danzi, who insists their destination must be the ocean and that they must bring with them the dragon stone - the reasons for this are a mystery until the last chapters. The story follows their journey to the ocean pursued by Diao, a Dragon Hunter. The pace was slow at the beginning although towards the end it gets more exciting. It is an interesting story and I enjoyed reading about some aspects of ancient Chinese culture.

Alex (10)

£8.99 ISBN 0-330-44108-6 MacMillan

### **Sobibor by Jean Molla**

Sobibor is a death camp in Poland where over 250,000 people died. This book goes behind the scenes, showing what people really saw at death camps and how their minds work. Anne is anorexic and bulimic; she goes into a deep depression after her grandmother dies and discovers a small diary in her grandmother's closet. Was this what her grandparents have been keeping from her? The only way to find out was to read. This book has lots of twists and turns, like a detective story. It reveals lots of things you wouldn't have known before reading this, and how life really was back then. I would recommend this book for older teens, some chapters become graphic and disturbing. Over-all the book is very good and interesting.

Tracie (13)

£6.99 ISBN 0-9546912-45 Aurora Metro Press

### **Silly Mummy, Silly Daddy**

*by Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick*

This book is about Beth who has decided not to smile. The story shows how each member of her family try to make her smile. The only one who can is her big sister, of course. We loved this book, the pictures are very bright and drawn from a low down perspective, ie a child's view. The story is written so it is very easy to involve the child with lots of text which involve making sounds. Kai laughed a lot at this book and keeps crawling over again and again to pick it up - although Rowan thought it should be about brothers rather than sisters.

Kathleen with Kai 14 months, with a little help from Rowan 7  
£10.99 ISBN 1-84507-350-9 Frances Lincoln

### **Be in the Place by Helen Hobden**

Laura is a typical middle-class schoolgirl until her friends abandon their plans to go to Glastonbury together and she goes on her own. She meets a family of travellers and has to stay on their bus when she loses her tent. This is a totally new experience for her and her time at the festival ends up being completely different to what she expected. I thought this was a really good book, it has just the right amount of sad bits, happy bits and funny bits. And ignore the parental advisory sticker, it isn't any worse than lots of books that don't have them.

Emma (15)

£5.99 ISBN 1-84270-460-5 Andersen Press

### **Three Monsters by David McKee**

Anyone who enjoys David McKee and his vividly illustrated stories will not be disappointed. Although primarily for the younger age group, the story of the two rude and arrogant monsters and how they are taught their lesson can work on all levels. Yahya said: "I think the story is all right. It is about two monsters being rude to another yellow monster who wants his own land. He is good and gets what he wants by being nice. It has good pictures in it and children of my age will enjoy it". Musa said: "The book was good in a way, even though it is for a younger age group. I learnt a lot from the moral of the story, which was about manners. I think the reason I liked it, is because I am a bookworm. I read any books except books that have swear words in them. The age group I think it might be good for 5-7 year olds".

Almaas with Yahya (5) and Musa (9)

£4.99 ISBN 1-84270-523-7 Andersen Press

### **Fox in Town by L Peter Jones**

*Fox in Town* is very humble and humorous in approach. Mr Plum, a milkman, retires with his lottery winnings to the countryside. Intelligent, compassionate and steadfast in nature, he will not be tricked nor swayed by the locals by spending his money. This is a story about kindness over greed. The

illustration of the foxes and their characters are very human like, fine text and good quality in appearance, although a bit pricey at £10.95.  
Robin with Isis (6)

£10.95 ISBN 1-85776-919-8 Book Guild

### **Making Waldorf Dolls by Maricristin Sealey**

A very easy to follow and nicely illustrated book, there are lots of patterns for many different Steiner style dolls. There are patterns for clothes, carrycots, hair ideas and saris, plus African dresses for African dolls. It's a really good book for picking out the bits you like to make your own personal doll that would make a very special gift for a child. The dolls are beautiful and have a very appealing quality of simplicity that shop bought dolls never seem to have. These are dolls to really fire the child's imagination and I found them very enjoyable to make.

Hilary with Isaac (5) and Finty (1)

£14.99 ISBN 1-903458-58-7 Hawthorne Press

### **Stanley Bradshaw and the Twenty Two Ton Whale**

This is a charming picture book with tons of illustrations and speech bubbles to keep kids interested for ages. It is based 'up north' and funnily enough I found myself putting on a strong northern accent as I read this to Romy, well stronger than the one I have anyway. The story is told in simple rhyme (although it took us a while to realise that!) and is about a whale that finds its way into a canal. A very topical book but with a much happier ending than the poor Thames Whale.

Hazel with Romy (6)

£4.99 ISBN 1-903015-50-2 Barn Owl Books

### **The Cow on the Roof by Eric Maddern**

Katie and her friend Helen giggled their way through this traditional story of husband & wife role reversal, while the wife happily heads for the field, scythe over her shoulder, her husband, thinking he's in for an easy day, struggles with the butter making, the animals and just about everything. Needless to say he's happily heading for the fields first thing the next morning. Good fun.

Denise with Katie (7) and Helen (5)

£10.99 ISBN 1-84507-374-6 Frances Lincoln

### **Katy and the Big Snow by Viginia Lee Burton**

Katy is a big tractor, which is so strong that she is wasted on little snow, drifts and has to wait for a big snowstorm for her chance to rescue the whole town. This is a reprint of an American book first published in 1943, which gives it a certain old fashioned charm. Freddie has really enjoyed it and we have read it lots since it arrived. A charming detail is in the use of a compass to show which direction Katy is moving in.

Jane with Freddie (3)

£10.99 ISBN 1-84507-460-2 Frances Lincoln

### **Adrian's Ghost by T C Hudson**

A delightful period book set in 1908, Adrian's Ghost is aimed at children aged approximately 10 – 12. It tells the story of Adrian, a young boy who forms a friendship with a ghost. The story begins when Adrian and his brother and sister move into a house with a resident ghost (Lorna), a little girl who recently died there. Only Adrian is aware of her presence – he can hear her and sense her, but cannot see her. When the children discover Lorna's diary, Adrian falls and breaks his leg. Whilst he is recuperating Lorna visits and chats to him, and even plays the piano for him. Lorna is pining for her cat and, in return for Adrian's help in finding him, she agrees to help him with a ghostly trick or two. Lorna is reunited with her cat, and is no longer sad and lonely. Adrian and Lorna's unusual friendship is the basis of this charming story of bygone times, written with an authentic period flavour.

Caroline

£9.99 ISBN 1-85776-924-4 Book Guild

### **Astonishing Art with Recycled Rubbish by Susan Martineau**

Hamish says: "I think this book is exciting. I like it because you use rubbish and if you just throw it away, you pollute the earth. I liked the self-portrait with rubbish and the original bum bag!" Holly says: "It is really good, there are lots of exciting things to make. Also you are not polluting the environment. I quite like the sock dinosaurs and I think the box crocodile is a good idea". Mum says: "This book has proved very popular. It is good because the material needed is readily available. I particularly liked the idea of using eggshells for mosaic and onionskins for fish scales. The ideas are not overly challenging and have certainly inspired my children (the bum bag made from old pants raised lots of giggles). At £3.99 this is good value too".

Karen with Holly (8) and Hamish (6)

£3.99 ISBN 1-902915-55-0 B Small Publishing

### **Crystal Beaded Jewellery by Christine and Sylvie Hooghe**

I loved this book, it's really inspiring. The jewellery is made using a form of bead weaving, using glass beads in interesting and unusual patterns. The fourteen sections include: 'Dewdrops', 'In the Pink', 'Edwardian' and 'Frost Flowers', and they are all splendid designs and I would happily wear most of them. The photos, diagrams and instructions are very clear, so that making the jewellery is enjoyable instead of frustrating, (as a lot of craft books can be!). The only moan I have is that the beads they use are very specific and also expensive. I found that any beads will do though, and found some old bead jewellery in charity shops for only 50p, so it's worth looking! I have made one of the bracelets, and can't wait to make more. This book is definitely worth it's

price or find it in the library. I give it 9/10, and recommend it to anyone over the age of about 8 interested in crafts and design.

Jenny (14)

£9.99 ISBN 1-84448-106-9 Search Press

### **You Can Draw Monsters by Martin Ursell**

I love to draw and I thought this book would help me to improve my technique but it hasn't been much help at all. Some of the monsters drawn in this book are good but the tips and techniques showing you how to draw them yourself aren't very useful. For most of the examples it shows a very simple stick outline, a stick outline with a little more detail and then the final completed drawing complete with colour and shading. I don't think that there are enough steps or information for you to get good results yourself. I do like some of the ideas like the inky ogres where you splash some ink on a page and then turn the shape of the splash into a monster. Some of the tips for keeping your own sketchbook are good too.

George (9)

£4.99 ISBN 1-902915-26-7 B Small Publishing

### **All Seasons Craft Book**

We have a number of craft books on the shelf, many of which stay there, as they are not very inspiring. This one is a bit different as it is divided into the seasons. It is the bumper edition, which includes all six books in the *Seasonal* series (these are £3.99 each). There are 24 pages for each season plus Halloween and Christmas. Alongside the detailed and nicely illustrated project ideas there are lots of interesting facts such as how Christmas is celebrated around the world, how different animals hibernate and how the date for Easter is chosen each year. There are also pages of seasonal jokes, which Ben loves, plus games to play, spot the differences and cookery ideas, all seasonally appropriate. We have tried a number of the winter and Christmas activities, many of which Ben was able to achieve independently and the hot spiced milk has become a favourite bedtime treat. As ever with these books there are a number of ideas that you've seen many times before but all in all this is a useful addition to the book shelf and one that will get regular use.

Kerry with Ben (6)

£12.99 ISBN 1-902915-94-1 B Small Publishing

### **The Jungle House**

This book contains two stories. My favourite is *Jungle House*. I read them to myself and thought they were easy to read and good fun. The second story has got some very funny bits in it because the pets cause so much trouble.

Celest (7)

£4.99 ISBN 1-84270-519-9 Andersen Press

### **Myron's Magic Cow by Marlene Newman**

Barefoot Books do it again! A really great story about the cow that Jack swapped for the magic beans and how the cow helps little Myron with milk for pancakes. Families with more than one child will relate well to Myron's problem! Set in New York, Goldilocks and the three bears make a guest appearance too! Good fun! This is Marlene's first book so worth watching out for the next one! Jane with Robyn, Max and Oliver  
£10.99 ISBN 1-84148-495-4 Francis Lincoln

### **Crow Girl by Kate Cann**

This book is about a girl called Lily. Girls bully her. Boys don't know she is alive. She starts to go in the wood and meets crows. Everyday she feeds them and finds out about herself - and develops a burning need to show everyone the new Lily. Can she do it? Will this Halloween be a night to remember? Will the bullies get paid back? I like this book. It is a gripping reading and it is like a vortex of words. It is a story that can happen to anyone. May be you can become a crow girl too. This book is good to show that if you are bullied don't hide. Remember there is no light without dark. A good read for everyone. Karis (11)  
£4.99 ISBN 1-842993-46 Barrington Stoke

### **Promoting Childrens' Well-Being in the Primary Years Ed by A Burrell and J Riley**

This is a massively interesting book that both inspired and depressed me simultaneously. Primarily aimed at those in education, it is a comprehensive account of tried and tested tools, techniques and ideas used to encourage and develop emotional, social, physical and personal intelligence in young children. The authors have collated lots of examples and practical ideas on a vast range of subjects from emotional literacy and conflict resolution to meditation and movement. It was a timely reminder, to your average slightly worn out and guilt ridden HE parent, of the enormous talent and potential that our children arrive with and of our duty to nurture and protect that inherent natural intelligence. How easy that is to write and how hard it can be to implement! It was sobering too as it brought home the reality of what is happening to most young children today, given the national obsession with educational targets and measurable achievements in schools. Having said that, there are lots of examples of good practice in the book. It was heartening to see that there are people out there trying. But I wonder if the Education Secretary (whomever he/she is at the moment, I have lost track) has read a copy?

Hazel  
£18.95 ISBN 1-85539-119-8 Network Educational Press Ltd

### **Hieronymus Betts and his Unusual Pets**

**by M. P Robertson**

"I didn't like the drawings in this book as they are really yucky with slimy bits dripping out of made-up animals. They didn't look very nice and gave my brother bad dreams. The animals were smelly and scary and pets are not. I didn't think the story was that good", says Hayden. This is a slightly wacky book about a young boy with lots of weird pets - the strangest of which is his younger brother. I'm not sure about the messages in it but maybe that's trying to read too much into it. Hayden, as a younger brother, was not impressed.  
Hazel with Hayden (6)  
ISBN 1-84507-289-8 Frances Lincoln

### **The Boy who grew Flowers by Jen Wojtowicz**

"This book is really nice", says Hayden. "I liked drawings of flowers and nature things. The story was good as the boy made shoes for the girl so she could dance better. They both grew flowers out of their heads so they got married and had seven children." Interesting use of language, thoughtful and unusual storyline, good artwork - an HE kind of book!  
Hazel with Hayden (6)  
£10.99 ISBN 1-84148-497-0 Barefoot Books

### **Tutor Master Helps You Write Stories**

This is a booklet to help children aged 7-13 with story writing. The author works as a private tutor and this book has resulted from teaching and learning strategies that he has developed with his students. The book enables young writers to transform their own experiences into stories and promotes independent learning. There is a useful glossary of the main terms used to describe different words in sentences and it gives 20 different story frameworks to get young writers started.  
Sally  
£4.99 ISBN 0-904775-38-0 Tutor Master Services

### **The Children's Year, Seasonal Crafts and Clothes by Stephanie Cooper, Christine Fynes-Clinton and Marje Rowling**

A wonderful book packed full of things to make and do. There are some lovely patterns for simple clothes; a nice knitted, hooded jacket, summer dungarees and play clothes. All the patterns are very easy to follow and despite being first published some twenty years ago, do not look at all dated. There are some simple crafts to make with children. We liked the ideas for summer grass horses and table mats made by sewing bundles of long grass together. There are ideas for puppet dolls and indoor dens; plenty for every level of ability.

Hilary  
£12.99 ISBN 1-903458-59-5 Hawthorn Press

### **From Acorn to Zoo. and everything in between in alphabetical order**

*by Satoshi Kitamura*

We liked talking about the (often small) pictures in this book, but I wouldn't use it as a tool to teach my child how to read. The author has used a wide spectrum of birds and flowers to find words starting with the appropriate letter of the alphabet. My son said 'dinosaur' to the brontosaurus, 'bird' to the jay, 'flower' to the forget-me-not, 'duck' to the eider and 'house' to the picture of a temple. The pictures are accompanied by the words, which are in relatively small print. The author could have been more imaginative, when choosing the words for this book.

Miriam with Raphael (3)

£4.99 ISBN 1-84270-519-9 Andersen Press

### **Beginners Guide to Feltmaking**

*by Shirley Ascher and Jane Bateman*

I first became interested in felt making when I went to a workshop when I was 9 and made felt. It was great fun and quite easy to do. The cover of this book just makes you want to look inside and wow, all the brilliant projects you can make and they all look very professional. I have tried several of the pictures and used ideas to create my own scenes. It tells you all the equipment you need, the types of wool available, dyeing the wool, making the felt and using it for projects. A brilliant book.

Sarah (13)

£9.99 ISBN 1-84448-004-6 Search Press

### **Little Grey and the Great Mystery**

*by Rachel Rivett and Dubravka Kolanovic*

Little Grey is a squirrel with a question that sends him on an adventure about the Great Mystery and where we all come from. During his day of play he asks his question to animals and things around him, such as the stream, a crow and the tree where he lives, of what they know of the Great Mystery. A lovely gentle read for younger children with beautiful soft illustrations which I think is ideal for bedtime. Lydia loved the 'soft kiss goodnight' that 'little grey' got at the end of his adventure but Stan showed no interest, not even the pictures tempted him to look. There is a deeper meaning to the story which older children and adults may wish to delve deeper into.

Julieann with Lydia (4) and Stan (2)

£5.99 ISBN 0-7459-4909-6 Lion Children's Books

### **Celtic Knots for Beaded Jewellery**

*by Suzen Millodot*

Search Press is one of my favourite craft publishers and I have got lots of their books. This book has eighteen fun projects, some of which include: *Turk's head ring, Celtic cross and two heart brooch.*

For the last couple of years I have been very interested in Celtic knots and I've been looking for a very good book showing how to create them. Now I have finally found one. The diagrams are clear and easy to follow, the colourful photos are very helpful and show the finished piece. In this book the projects get more beautiful as you progress.

Keith (12)

£9.99 ISBN 1-84448-054-2 Search Press

### **Calligraphy; techniques to get you started**

*by Maureen Sullivan*

This is an interesting book if you want to take pride in your writing. It tells you about the different papers, pens and inks. It shows you how to write so each letter is an art and formed beautifully. It gives a list of the basic equipment you need (which is not much to get you started) and shows you clearly how to hold the pen and to create each letter in the alphabet. There are lots of tips to ensure you get good results. Several different styles are included. I like to make my own cards but my writing is rather untidy so this book has really helped me make the writing inside much neater. My favourite style is 'italics'. This used a pen with a flat, straight nib. This is a very useful book and one that I will use again and again.

Helen (14)

£8.99 ISBN 1-84448 104-2 Search Press

### **What did you say? What did you mean?**

**An illustrated guide to understanding metaphors**

*by Jude Welton*

There are about 100 idioms using metaphors in this illustrated guide. It begins with an introduction for parents/carers explaining why metaphors may be a problem for our children with Asperger Syndrome – due to the literal interpretation of language characteristic of Autistic Spectrum Disorders; and one for the young people themselves, using clear, precise and non-patronising language. For every idiom, there are examples and an explanation, sometimes with an interesting story about the origin of the saying. The illustrations are funny for the parents/carers and are an interesting insight into how our children's minds may work. I wondered however, if the pictures would reinforce their misunderstanding, or if the children/young people would respond to this kind of humour? This is nevertheless a great reference book to keep on your bookshelf, as an excellent starting point for discussion. There is a problem on page 42 – the last point has been erroneously moved to the next page, making page 43 confusing at first and shifting its last point onto page 44, wherefrom it all goes back to normal.

Laura

£12.95 ISBN 1-84310-207-2 Jessica Kingsley

## Different Croaks for Different Folks

by *Midori Ochiai*

Lovely book aimed at children with autism and related spectrum conditions, for the parent to read to them to help them understand their differences socially and physically. It gives general practical advice by using frogs as opposed to humans, to show the problems that can occur and practical advice on how to get around these difficulties. The illustrations are simple, fun and easy to follow, with actual reading kept to a minimum and the diagrams assisting in the understanding of each problem. After the story there is a section at the back, for caregivers/ parents to read to give more detail about special needs, giving some facts and figures of interest. The story itself could become a favourite bedtime story for your child to give them comfort that they are not the only ones struggling.

Sally

£12.99 ISBN 1-84310-392-3 Jessica Kingsley

## Different Like Me

**My book of Autism Heroes**

by *Jennifer Elder*

*Different Like Me* is a well-written, informative book that introduces children – aged 8 and up – to quirky famous people: people who excelled in their chosen field, be it music, art, science and even comedy, but didn't quite fit in. I particularly enjoyed the descriptions of what made them tic and the fact that there were a good proportion of women. The illustrations are a little odd: the people have pale faces and big black iris-free eyes - a bit like an artist's impression of aliens. Don't let that or the American enthusiastic lingo put you off though (for the more restrained Brits among us). This is a great confidence booster for children with a 'high functioning' Autistic Spectrum Disorder, an opportunity for them to show off, and an enjoyable read for every one, to boot!

Laura

£11.99 ISBN 1-84310-815-1 Jessica Kingsley

## CONTACTS

### Note

Prices quoted are the publishers' recommended retail prices (rrp). Shop around for lower prices - try discount book shops, mail order discount book clubs and the internet. Some contact details are set out below but many titles can be ordered from your local book shop. *The Book People* (0870 607780 [www.thebookpeople.co.uk](http://www.thebookpeople.co.uk)) and *Red House* (0870 1919980 [www.redhouse.co.uk](http://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. Remember 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](http://www.dk.com) offer a 20% discount to home educators. Follow the online instructions to register and contact [bodcustomerservice@penguin.co.uk](mailto:bodcustomerservice@penguin.co.uk) if you need any help.

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

## CONTACTS

A & C Black 01480 212666

Andersen Press 020 7840 8701

[www.andersenpress.co.uk](http://www.andersenpress.co.uk)

Aurora Metro Press 020 8898 4488

[www.aurometro.com](http://www.aurometro.com)

Barefoot Books 0800 328 2640

[www.barefootbooks.co.uk](http://www.barefootbooks.co.uk)

Barn Owl Books 0208 883 7063

[www.barnowlbooks.com](http://www.barnowlbooks.com)

Barrington Stokes 0131 557 2020

[www.barringtonstoke.co.uk](http://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk)

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Floris (Book Source) 0870 240 2182

[www.florisbooks.co.uk](http://www.florisbooks.co.uk)

Frances Lincoln 020 7284 4009

[www.franceslincoln.com](http://www.franceslincoln.com)

Hawthorne Press

[www.macmillan.com](http://www.macmillan.com)

Jessica Kingsley Publishers 020 7833 2307

[www.jkp.com](http://www.jkp.com)

Lion Children's Books 01865 302796

Kingfisher [www.kingfisherpub.com](http://www.kingfisherpub.com)

Macmillan 020 7014 6000

[www.panmacmillan.com](http://www.panmacmillan.com)

Network Educational Press 01785 225515

[www.networkpress.co.uk](http://www.networkpress.co.uk)

Search Press 01892 510850

[www.searchpress.com](http://www.searchpress.com)

Tutor Master Services 020 8930 9157

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

## Regional Diary

Events organisers please remember when giving full details of events that the newsletter can be read by people who are not members of EO.

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

All regular meetings listed below (alphabetically by country first then by county) are included automatically in every issue.

Changes to Jo: 01392 438876 or  
email: jo4eo@aol.com

### ENGLAND

#### BATH

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

#### BEDFORDSHIRE

For full details of events programme contact June on 01234 341375 or email info@Bedford-HomeEd.org.uk "Horticulture/Agriculture" theme for summer months. Lots of related art and craft sessions and many workshops with plant life in mind, plus theatre trips and other planned visits including Kew Gardens, The Chelsea Physic Garden and Garden Organic Ryton. Also regular swimming, multisports, gym, chess club, carpentry group, funded GCSE groups, etc. Website: www.Bedford-Home-Ed.org.uk

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

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 from 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](http://www.bristolhomeeducation.org.uk)  
Bristol Home Education Learning Place, Friday afternoons. Ring Carla 0117 9354389.

#### 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](http://www.mkhen.co.uk) (and another Milton Keynes HE group...)

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

South Bucks: meetings for craft, activities, play, speakers, drama, trips etc. Contact: Jackie 01753 886924 or Gail 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 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 786720 Email: home.ed@ntlworld.com

CLEVELAND AND DURHAM (see also DURHAM) email list: <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/tvhe/>  
Billingham Forum, Ice Skating first Tuesday of every month (term-time only) £1.85 per person, contact Linz 01642 800940

#### CORNWALL

Free events sheets every two months via Email or SAEs. Contact: Anna Wheeler, Camrose Farm, Redruth, TR16 4HT 01209 890378 [Annawheeler.cam@btinternet.com](mailto:Annawheeler.cam@btinternet.com)  
Local information on our local home ed website: [www.freeewebs.com/cornwallhomeed](http://www.freeewebs.com/cornwallhomeed)

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

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](mailto:cumbria.otherwise@dsl.pipex.com)

**Kendal** 3rd Friday each month 'Castle Art', held at Castle Street Centre, 10.30-2.30. HE visitors to the Lakes welcome too. Contact Jayne 01539 534541 or email [jaynewoodbank@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jaynewoodbank@yahoo.co.uk) for more details.

**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, Suzy 01246 240917, Alastair 01246 520820.

### Chesterfield - Hasland Village Hall

**NEW ART CLASS** - Ages 10 and over, 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Derby Group**, 4th Thurs of month. Contact Andy 01332 752998 or [andy@derbyhe.co.uk](mailto: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, call 01297 625439 E-mail copies free from: [news@ed-he.org.uk](mailto:news@ed-he.org.uk)

**National Trust (Devon)** card is held by Louise, 01392 275426, email: [louise\\_239@fsmail.net](mailto:louise_239@fsmail.net)

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

**Exeter** Wednesday, Free Range Learning, all ages., Spanish, Yoga, science, music, cooking, art + craft

**also**, fortnightly EO social meetings, contact Annie 01392 434167 for both

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

**Exeter** Friday, Pottery Workshop with kiln and wheels, fortnightly 1-3pm contact Neil 01363 82314

**Exeter** 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** 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** EO Local Contact Bridget 01803 862158 Meetings with loads of activities for all ages, see Devon Newsletter (details above) for more info.

**South Devon** For those who want an alternative to big groups but would like help contacting families with similar interests, or need legal or general support. Call

Gordon and Hannah 01803 762788 or email: [gordon@staverton.com](mailto:gordon@staverton.com)

**Devon East/Dorset West** Lyme Regis, Axminster, Bridport, Chard. Contact Habiba 0845 4582984

**Dorset/Somerset/Devon borders** Regular meetings on Tuesdays, Karen 01460 30461, on Thursdays, Ali 01297 443816

## DORSET

Regular meetings, Rosemary 01747 853593

**Bournemouth** area: local website [www.he-ed.org.uk](http://www.he-ed.org.uk)

Meeting every Monday for crafts, games, play etc.

Friendly, welcoming group. Contact: June

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

## DURHAM

**Durham** based weekly meeting call Juliet 01207 544473

or Beth 07719530472. Yahoo chat group at:

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

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

## ESSEX

**Chelmsford** meetings - monthly, third Thursday 1-4pm, various activities. Email: [Sally@brisley.freeseerve.co.uk](mailto:Sally@brisley.freeseerve.co.uk)

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

**Colchester** Bowling and swimming monthly - also

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

**Southend on Sea** monthly meetings, 2nd Monday. See our website: [www.seeheg.org](http://www.seeheg.org) email: [info@seeheg.org](mailto:info@seeheg.org) or phone Nadine 01702 319682.

**Tiptree** monthly meetings, last Tuesday of month 2-5pm.

Contact Julie, email: [julie.ashton@ntlworld.com](mailto:julie.ashton@ntlworld.com)

**Various venues across Essex**, New Teens Group,

meeting monthly - [Sally@brisley.freeseerve.co.uk](mailto:Sally@brisley.freeseerve.co.uk)

**Around Essex** Educational visits twice monthly, Thurs.

Full details of all Essex groups and visits in *Epicycle* available at meetings - or for more info contact Corinne: [epicycle@wavy.org](mailto:epicycle@wavy.org) or 07802 630693

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE

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

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

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

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

Caroline 01242 890351 [cambrose@ieee.org](mailto: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](mailto:uks_sneaky@hotmail.com)

**Gloucester** meetings & swimming. Contact Dawn

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

or Tracy 07941 612092

### South Gloucestershire

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

## HAMPSHIRE

**Petersfield**, ACTIVEO, 5 events a week within 20 miles, all welcome. 01428 712394 website: [www.activeo.org.uk](http://www.activeo.org.uk)

**Fareham and Gosport**, FAREGOS HE meets twice

weekly for craft, swimming and other activities. Contact

Tracey 02392 551870 or Julie 01730 261468, email:

[jkbar1955@myrealbox.com](mailto:jkbar1955@myrealbox.com)

**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.  
<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/NHEO/>  
Contacts: west; Carol 01264 357650, eo@azakit.com,  
or  
east; Lesley 01420 543414, lmaskell@tesco.net  
**Farnham/Aldershot** Friendly group for under 10s,  
weekly meetings/outings/activities. Contact: Emma  
01483 426277 emmajevons@supanet.com  
**Romsey/New Forest** area, fortnightly - details email  
Karen on karence@btinternet.net

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

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

**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.

<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**

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

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

**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

**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>

**Leham** anyone wanting to meet in this area please  
contact Jayne 01622 859882

**Medway Towns**, fortnightly play activities, fortnightly  
bowling, swimming weekly. Regular shared learning  
days with volunteer tutors. Contact Ann 01634 826188

#### **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 (see also Preston)

**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](http://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

**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, 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

**Kidbrooke** rollerblading Contact: Fiona 020 8852 9756  
[bettleslake@clara.net](mailto:bettleslake@clara.net)

**Lewisham** Thursdays 11-1 then to park afterwards  
Jemima 020 8297 5672 [jemimacornish@tiscali.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:timsharkey@aol.com), call  
020 8954 1885 or Vicki email: [aceva@btinternet.com](mailto:aceva@btinternet.com)

**N London Hornsey** Home Educators Club  
(currently under 10s, meet for arts, crafts, drama, games  
etc) Thursdays 11-12.30 contact: Tina 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. Call Betsy 020 8993 0677 email: [betsyhomeed@yahoo.com](mailto: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 [kathrynvglenn@hotmail.com](mailto:kathrynvglenn@hotmail.com) or [Alison@rothwell1973.fsnet.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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 8830  
Madcow email list from Lesley: [m.samuel@ntlworld.com](mailto:m.samuel@ntlworld.com)

#### **MIDDLESEX**

**Hayes**, We are an informal group that meets at a Church. We have free-play in a carpeted main hall, with a craft table, climbing frame, slides, lego and boardgames, each meeting there is a fun, hands-on science experiment in a smaller side room. We have access to a well equipped kitchen and all the facilities of the church. We meet every other Thursday, from 10.30 to 1.30 For further details please contact: Jenn 0208 573 9042, [Jenn@shadowdale.demon.co.uk](mailto:Jenn@shadowdale.demon.co.uk)

#### **NORFOLK**

##### **West Norfolk**

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/WestNorfolkHomeEducators>  
s Want to meet up with other local home educators?  
Call Lynda 01553 617551 or Sue 01485 544762

**Norwich** area - Free Wheel for under 10s - activity group Weds fortnightly 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. \*

**Norfolk/Suffolk border** craft activities for 5-10 yr olds, contact \* Hilary 01508 518870 \* for both

**Theftord**, Swimming, indoor sports/play at Leisure Centre Term-time Thurs 2.30-4.30 Fay 01953 681785

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

#### **NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

Want to get together with other local home ed teens?

Please contact Lynne 01604 454240 email: [andrew.stewart77@ntl.com](mailto: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, 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. Jane 01283 820642

[christopher.perkins@onetel.net](mailto: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](mailto: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. \*

**Suffolk/Norfolk border** craft activities for 5-10 yr olds, contact \* Hilary 01508 518870 \* for both.

**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 688128

#### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jen9@blueyonder.co.uk)

#### **SUSSEX**

**Regional EO 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:** Jan 01273 514528

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

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

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

**Worthing/Shoreham Beach:** Avis 01273 542589 or 0770 3647954

**Forest Row Area:** Winnie 01342 826087

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

**St Leonards/Hastings chat 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. Joy 0121 585 6450, jb49@blueyonder.co.uk

### WILTSHIRE

contact: Beccy 01985 840174

### Wiltshire - Chippenham and surrounding area:

'Out and About Learning Centre' Tuesdays, termtime only 10.00am - 2.30pm Biddestone. Membership encouraged. Based on the Reggio Emilia approach to learning. Program of activities facilitated by qualified teachers and includes combined Arts, Science and Nature. Currently mostly 0-6 years looking to develop older group 7-11 years. All parents participate and can lead a group using their own skills/get involved with the running etc. Visiting professionals/interesting people/speakers. Trips out. Parents evenings. Contact: Rachel: 01249 890525 or Amanda: 01380 739845  
email: info@outandaboutlearning.org.uk for more details. Please let us know if you'd like to come along and see what we do.

**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

**Swindon** Ice Skating 2nd and 4th Wednesday 10am-12pm optional lesson, phone Susan 01666 510217

**Swindon** meeting: informal get together 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 2-4pm Shena: 01793 334673 or Mandy 2nd Friday of the month 12.30-2.30, Eleanor 01793 616854

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

Join email list at: http://groups.yahoo.com/NWILTS\_HE/  
**Devizes:** Last Thursday of month 11.30-2.30 activities, support, socialising. Tel: Janet 01249 818672 email: janet@eldevist.com Or tel: Jane: 01380 860969

### WORCESTERSHIRE

EO LC Rachel 01527 597809

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

**North Wors/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 kkaresandy@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, email Blessingway1@aol.com, or Kate on 01423 865777, email ksbtscott@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/places of interest and Theatre trips, please contact Sarah (01484) 361206 or e-mail: sl.marshall@ntlworld.com

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

**Huddersfield:** Swimming (every Wednesday - term time except 2nd Wednesday of month) at Huddersfield Sports Centre. Contact Tracy (01484) 317176. Huddersfield monthly meeting (2nd Wednesday of month - except Feb when on 2nd Friday of month) at Paddock Scout Hut, West View Rise, Paddock. Contact Helen (01484) 841041 or Jane (01484) 645034. "Lunch and Chat" (last Thursday of month) at Civic Centre, Huddersfield. Contact Tracy (01484) 317176. Art Workshop (last Thursday of month) at Huddersfield Art Gallery. Contact Jane (01484) 645034.

## SCOTLAND

### ARGYLL

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

### DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

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

### FIFE

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

### HIGHLANDS/MORAY

Informal network for information and support, occasional outings and get-together, suggestions welcome. Contact Toni, email: tee.kay@hotmail.co.uk or 01463 831574 or Rebecca 01343 542245

### IRVINE

For details of regular and one-off activities contact: Rhona 01294 273644, Shirley 01563 540063, 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. Yvette 0845 458 9251

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

## CEREDIGION & CARMARTHENSHIRE

**Lampeter**, weekly meetings on Tues, Laura 01545 580528

**Aberaeron** weekly meetings on Fri, Laura 01545 580528  
**Llandeusanant** monthly meeting - Laura 01545 580528

### GWYNEDD

Weekly meetings for craft, social and other activities. Julie (Gwynedd) 01286 678181 or Nick (Angelsey) 01407 811049

### POWYS

Welshpool on wednesdays, swimming/Tumble Towers, workshops, skateboarding, and events, contact Dee + Dave 01938 590098 email: d.yeoman@tesco.net  
**Brecknock/South Powys area** occasional events in South Powys contact Hela 01874 610190 email: ry.ella@tiscali.co.uk

**Newtown area:** Fortnightly get-together in Newtown, for activities, play and socialisation. Contact Sue 01686 688748 or email: srmw5@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, Llany Cil, Bala. Gwynedd LL23 7YG

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

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## REVIEW - The Electronic Wizards Apprenticeship

This practical postal course starts with the basics but rapidly builds up to more advanced practice. Our son, aged 10, has been doing the course for a year and just loved getting his surprise monthly parcels in the post. The course is divided into 3 terms with 4 boxes for each term at £95 per term. What impressed us the most was the great internet support from the tutors and the secure internet chat room for the Apprentices to share ideas, inventions, problems and solutions. The course is aimed at 11+ years old but younger children can follow it with the help of an adult.

As a parent who is not gifted in this area I had become increasingly frustrated with the normal electronic kits on the market which we often found did not work and I did not know why. Now Shaun can figure out why and remedy it with a little help from the 'Electronic Wizard'. He has built a solar battery charger, ion field detector, mini electronic keyboard and numerous other functional projects. Basic computer programming is also covered. Our LEA was really impressed when she was presented with the folder and all his electronic projects. I like the fact that he was blogging on a safe and secure site with children from all over the world, most of whom were also being home educated. The Wizard Apprenticeship also run weekend robotic building workshops. After 2 days the students have their own functioning robot to take home with them that they have built themselves.

To sign up for The Electronic Wizards Apprenticeship go to [www.kidstuff.co.uk](http://www.kidstuff.co.uk)

Also look out for their Robotics Workshop.

Our Rating: For the right child - priceless!

*Bridget Steenkamp, London*

[bridgetsteenkamp@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bridgetsteenkamp@yahoo.co.uk) 02077 314714

## EDUCATION OTHERWISE MERCHANDISE

### Resource Texts

Based on National Curriculum materials.

Covering all primary levels  
and some secondary.

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

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

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

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

### **EO Cotton T-shirts:**

Good quality - choice of two designs:

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

(b) navy shirt with white slogan:

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

£5 adult (M, L, XL)

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

Add p&p up to 6 shirts £2,

more than 7 shirts p&p £4

Cheques payable to E.O.Trading Ltd.

Lucinda Smart, 4 Chester Gardens,

Church Gresley, Swadlincote,

Derbyshire, DE11 9PU.

### **EO Car Stickers**

**Help spread the word.**

Please send a reasonably large SAE to:

Gail Borrows, 48 Marlow Bottom, Marlow,  
Bucks SL7 3NB

### EO/NEC vouchers

- £30 discount per course -

A5 SAE to Sarah Cook, The Old Cottage,  
Croglin, Carlisle, CA4 8RZ

(quoting EO membership number)

or sarah@croggies.freeseve.co.uk

### **EO Hoodies - hooded sweatshirts**

with **triangle logo** and the letters **SINC**

now available in navy blue and black  
children's and adult sizes

(£15 for children's and £20 for adults'  
including postage and packaging).

For further details please contact

**alex.Caldwell@tiscali.co.uk**

tel: 0116 2720209

### EO Home Education Cards

*("Truancy Cards")*

Extra cards are available at £1 for each card  
required from:

EO HE Cards, 5 Ridge Way, Aldridge,  
Walsall WS9 0HL

Please send a stamped, addressed envelope  
plus a cheque or postal order or the  
equivalent in 50p or £1 stamps.

Cheques and postal orders made payable to  
'**Education Otherwise Association Ltd.**'

Email queries to

**database@education-otherwise.org**

### Learn Premium

online e-learning website

To find out more about LearnPremium, take  
out a free short trial of the service or solve  
problems with your current subscription

Contact: Lynda, Database Administrator

Email: database@education-otherwise.org

Tel: 01553 617551

Reduced rate of £20 April - October 2006

To subscribe, join from the renewing form  
on the website by completing your personal  
details and ticking the LearnPremium box.

http://www.education-

otherwise.org/About%20EO/Joining/member  
shiprenewal.htm

Alternatively you can send me a cheque or  
postal order payable to 'Education Otherwise  
Association Ltd.' or call me with your credit or  
debit card details.

# NOTICES

## Membership Fee Changes - please read!!

It was decided at a recent Council meeting to introduce a different price for New and Renewing members. Renewing members fees remain the same, see below, apart from Concessionary rate which has reduced. New Members' fees have increased so that the fee we charge covers the cost of sending out information to the new member in their first year. The new rates are below. New Members Fees increased to - £25 for UK members, £30 for European members, £35 for rest of world. New Members Concessionary rates are: £18 for UK members, £25 for European members and £30 for rest of world.

Can anyone who has any yellow New Member Forms please destroy them or change the prices in them for now and also request some new ones from Gail Borrows - Stationery.

Just for info, renewing members fees are - £20 for UK members, £25 for European members, £30 for rest of world. We have reduced the UK Concessionary renewal fee to £14 (or £8 for 6 months) and have introduced concessionary rates for Overseas members who need them; so if you pay by bankers order, please call your bank if you need to reduce your payment. The concessionary rates for renewing members for Europe are £20 and for the rest of the world are £25. If you lapse for a while and then rejoin EO, you can choose whether to pay the New Members rate when you rejoin and receive a full joining pack again including SINC or just pay the renewing rate.

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## PO Box Address

We have a new PO Box address for Education Otherwise and will gradually wind down the London one, though will run the 2 boxes concurrently for a year or two.

The new address is: PO Box 325, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 3XW

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## Lost or Missing Items

If you lose your contact list or handbook or membership card and require a replacement you need to send a cheque or postal order made payable to 'Education Otherwise Association Ltd' along with an sae to the address below.

### Cost of Replacement Items:

Contact List ... £3 plus 50p sae

Handbook ..... £3 and 50p sae

Contact List and Handbook ..... £6 and 75p sae

Membership Card or Truancy card ..... £1 and 23p sae

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

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## LearnPremium

LearnPremium is an online educational service owned by the Guardian Newspaper. EO pays LearnPremium a lump sum and is making a small charge to each user to cover this cost. Access to the service begins from when you join through to 17 October each year. We have recently **reduced the charge to £20** as there are only 8 months of this current year to run.

There are around 130,000 pages of online lessons and resources on a wide range of subjects including English, Maths, Science, Geography, History, French, German, Spanish, Business Studies, Design & Technology, ICT, Citizenship, Art & Design, Religions, Drama, Physical Education and Music. It offers interactive lessons and resources, games and activities, video lessons, Guardian lesson packs, whiteboard activities, randomly generated tests, a daily news service for 9 – 14 year olds and a personalised test centre where you can generate tests.

**Free Trials** - A short free trial with no obligation is available so that you can look around the LearnPremium website and decide if the service is suitable for your needs.

If you want to subscribe or find out more or have any problems with your current membership to LearnPremium contact Lynda – Database. [database@education-otherwise.org](mailto:database@education-otherwise.org)

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## 2006 Contact List

The new contact list is in this mailing. Please check your entry now and contact me if any of the data in it needs altering or if you are listed in the wrong area. The new list is much bigger than in previous years and is getting too unwieldy to print and distribute in this format, hence the bulging pages.

We need to know what you want from the Contact List as we will have to make some changes before next year. Would you be happy if we missed out members' house number, street name and postcode just including village and town/city instead? Do you want to receive a national list or would you prefer a smaller list with areas nearer to you, if so just your county or the surrounding ones too? What are the essential bits of the contact list that you wouldn't like to see change?

Any suggestions or comments to Lynda – Database. [database@education-otherwise.org](mailto:database@education-otherwise.org)

**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 contents to non-members will have their EO membership terminated. Contact Lynda or a Council Member with any concerns.**

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## 2006 Handbook

Also in this mailing is the EO Members Handbook for 2006, including Concessions List. You will find many of your questions as to EO policies, procedures, administration etc. answered here. Please use the handbook for reference in the first instance, although Council Members and others doing jobs for EO are happy to give further information if your query is not covered. Terms of use of the Handbook are the same as for the Contact List (above). Any suggestions for improvements welcomed!

*Anne Rix*

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## Concessions

Many thanks to those who have contacted me over the past year regarding the concessions available to EO members. You'll find an up to date concessions list in your new handbook but any updates will be posted here in the bi-monthly newsletter so keep an eye out for those.

This year I also have some **freebies** to give away to the first to send me a review of a place you've been to visit, from our concessions list, for publication in the newsletter. Reviews are welcomed from children or adults. Send/email me your review and let me know which of the following you would like to win.

- A) 1 child season ticket voucher for Mead Open Farm, Billington, nr Leighton Buzzard, Beds.
- B) 2 adult admissions to the Jubilee Maze & Museum of Mazes & Wye Valley Butterfly Zoo, Symonds Yat West, Ross-on-Wye
- C) 4 Free entry vouchers to Thinktank, Birmingham Science Museum, W Midlands (valid until 31/12/06)

Dawn Waddington, Ty y Llyfrau, Bangor Rd, Penmaenmawr, Conwy LL34 6AF

Tel: 01492 622063

Email: [dawn@home2school.co.uk](mailto:dawn@home2school.co.uk)

## 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, **Phil Hicks**, **Janet Simpson**, **Martin Wise**

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

**Publications:** **Gail Borrows**, **June Wilson-Billing**, Jacqui Houlding, Lynda Hitchman, **Anne Rix**

**Govt. Policy:** Ann Samuel Till, **Phil Hicks**, **Martin Wise**, Julie Ridley, Jill Fisher

**LA/EA Group:** Anne Wade, **Sarah Cook**, Ann Samuel Till, Rob Wade

**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**, 31 Audley St., Reading, Berks, RG30 1BP 0118 961 4466 hitchmans@ntlworld.com

**Celia McDonagh**, 235 Coed y Gores, Cardiff, CF23 9NL 07763 729055 celiamacdonagh@yahoo.co.uk

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

### Media Contacts

Please contact one of the following people if you would like to volunteer to be interviewed or are contacted by the media and would like help/advice/support on giving an interview:

**Media co-ordinator:** Claire Turnham, Oxfordshire. Claire.turnham@btinternet.com

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

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

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

**North East:** Eva O'Rourke, Wilsden 01535 274520 evaandmary@aol.com

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

**Wales (S):** Celia McDonagh, Cardiff, 07763 729055 celiamacdonagh@yahoo.co.uk

**Wales (N):** Edwina Theunissen, Wrexham 01978 661 882 theunissen@freeserve484.fsnet.co.uk

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

**South West: (Acting)** Kay & Simon Smith, Cornwall 01726 842057 smithsontour@myway.com

**South East: (Acting):** Ann Newstead, Kent 01634 826188 thenewstead5@yahoo.co.uk

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

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

**Isle of Wight:** Shara ouston, Ryde 01983 562313 sharaouston@aol.co

## EO Email Lists & Forums

EO runs three email lists with Yahoo Groups. One is for general discussion about home education and would normally be the first port of call for someone seeking advice and peer support. This can be accessed via <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/eol> The second list is for single parents who have some problems unique to single parents. This can be accessed via <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/EO-SingleParent/> The third list is for the children of members only to chat with each other. This can be accessed via <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/EO-Children/> or via the website at [www.education-otherwise.org](http://www.education-otherwise.org)

There is also a **Members Area** on the website with several discussion forums. There is one forum for general discussion on home education; a business forum for discussion of the running of EO and the various consultations to which EO contributes and other forums for EO members who volunteer to do work for EO. To join the Member's Forum, send an email to [forums@education-otherwise.org](mailto:forums@education-otherwise.org) giving your preferred User Name which should be between four and fifteen characters, your Full (real) Name, the email address you wish to have associated with the forum and either your EO Membership Number or your full postal address. 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.

## WHO DOES WHAT IN EO

### Council Members

Jane Bathgate (Borders) 01835 862118  
Pam Bellinger (Leics) 0116 282 7929 (Co Secretary)  
Gail Borrows (Bucks) 01628 483895  
gail@borrows.plus.com  
Pauline Butterworth (Cleveland) 01642 570786  
pollyb47@aol.com (Co-opted)  
Tracy Coates (Lancs) 01253 858840  
tracysolooney@tiscali.co.uk  
Sarah Cook (Cumbria) 01768 896019  
sarah@croggies.freereserve.co.uk  
Martine Frampton (Gloucs) 01608 812411 (Treasurer)  
martine-frampton@macunlimited.net  
Phil Hicks (London Central) 0207 2294385  
phil@hicks-london.com  
Celia McDonagh (Wales) 07763 729055  
celiamcdonagh@yahoo.co.uk  
Gary Podmore (Yorks) 0114 2585702  
podmorefamily@blueyonder.co.uk  
Anne Rix (Devon) 01237 451535  
anne@annerix.demon.co.uk  
Janet Simpson (Lincs) 01427 617313  
HE@hubblesimpson.co.uk  
June Wilson-Billing (Dorset) 01202 827945  
educationotherwise@mac.com  
Martin Wise (Cumbria) 01539 732918  
martlakes@dsl.pipex.com

### Membership

Membership and newsletter subscription enquiries, membership cards, address changes, new member packs, other queries or missing newsletters contact : Database Administrator, Education Otherwise, Lynda Hitchman, 22 Lewis Drive, St Germans, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3FB 01553 617551  
Permanent Tel: 0870 765 3650  
Email database@education-otherwise.org

### Stationery

Leaflets, posters, letterhead, compliment slips, membership forms, car stickers etc: free (donations toward postage welcome); reuse labels £2.50 per 100 (free for EO business use); EO business cards £1.30 for 20, £3 for 50. Gail Borrows, 48 Marlow Bottom, Marlow, Bucks SL7 3NB 01628 483895 email: gail@borrows.plus.com

**Truancy Cards (HE cards)** (free on joining). Extra cards SSAE + £1 per card. P.O./cheque (payable to 'Education Otherwise' or in 50p or £1 stamps, to: EO HE Cards, 5 Ridge Way, Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 0HL

### 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 01202 827945  
educationotherwise@mac.com  
(please ring to check availability of items before ordering)

### Useful Contacts

#### **Contact with LA /Member Support / Other Problems.**

If you need help in dealing with your LA/EA please 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.freereserve.co.uk

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

**College Contact:** Lianne Smith, Ivy Mount, Canny Hill, Newby Bridge, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 8NU 01539 530716 (07717 301 887)

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

**Research Contact:** Sue White, 2 Pretoria Villas, Eye Rd., Brome, Eye, Suffolk IP23 8AL 01379 870036  
sue\_white@tiscali.co.uk

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

**EO Stalls:** Jacqui Houlding 01925 654856  
jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk

**Newsletter Coordinator:** VACANT – *Volunteers please!!* Anne Rix (Publications Secretary) acting (see Council list)

**Small Jobs Coordinator:** Emma Birkenshaw emma-birkenshaw@ntlworld.com 0113 2172795

**Coordinator for Local Contacts:** Pauline Butterworth (Cleveland) 01642 570786 pollyb47Aaol.com

**Membership Secretary:** Gail Borrows (Bucks) 01628 483895 gail@borrows.plus.com

**Enquiries Secretary:** Vacant (to be appointed at May meeting)

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

**Company Secretary:** Pam Bellinger 56 Beech Drive, Braunstone, Leicester LE3 3DA 0116 2827929 Pam pam@phonecoop.coop

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

**Chairperson:** Vacant (to be appointed at May meeting)

# 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 325  
KINGS LYNN PE34 3XW

Helpline 0870 73 000 74

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

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01917107