

education otherwise



Joe Coyle, aged 14

No. 171 - August 2006

£2

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS 1ST SEPTEMBER 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:

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Nobody seems to send Tanya anything for this section – do you still want it, people?

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OR IF YOUR NEWSLETTER DOES NOT ARRIVE**

please contact the DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR (See inside back cover)

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Co-ordinatorial

It's me again – but hopefully this is the last one; Beth has been 'shadowing' me on this issue and will do the October issue (and hopefully carry on after that). Many thanks to Lynda and Jacqui who are helping with final work on this issue, because tomorrow I'm off on a cruise to Iceland with my mum for two weeks (though I'll be back by the time you read this).

Anne Rix 6.7.06

EO TREASURER NEEDED

Martine will be retiring as EO's Treasurer as from July 2007. This is a crucial post, and we would like to recruit someone as soon as possible so that they have time to learn the ropes before the handover. The Treasurer is also a Council post and the postholder would need to attend some of the Council meetings. If you are interested, please contact Martine for further details.

The Second Home Education Fair !!

23 September 2006, 1-5pm

Westbourne Grove Church, Westbourne Grove,

Notting Hill, London W11 2RW

(corner of Ledbury Road and Westbourne Grove)

Location is 5-10 minutes walk from Notting Hill (Central, Circle) and Westbourne Park (Hammersmith) tube stations.

Free Entry!

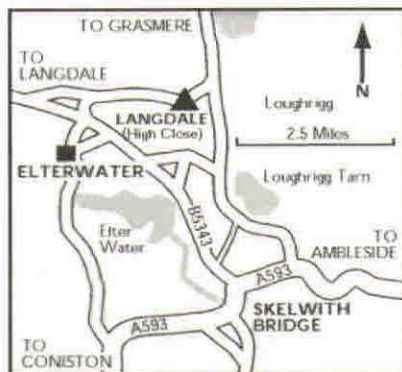
Contact: homeeducationfair@hotmail.com Tel: 020 8969 0893

- Stalls: Education Otherwise, ARCH, Choice in Education, Home Education Advisory Service and others with book stalls and Information about all aspects of Home Education
- Talks and workshops on different aspect of Home Education
- Information about Home Education Groups all over London and the South East
- Children's Room
- Book Swap - bring any books you don't want and swap them for books you do want!

EO National Gathering (Advance Notice!)
Friday 10th - Wednesday 15th November 2006

Langdale Youth Hostel, Ambleside, Cumbria

This Victorian mansion with open fires is owned by the National Trust and stands in its own grounds between Elterwater and Grasmere. Close to the Langdale Pikes, it's an ideal base for anyone wanting to explore the Langdale valleys



Come and join us at this wonderful Youth Hostel situated in a truly magnificent part of the country.

Facilities include: Lounges, TV, dining room, games room, showers, toilets, cycle store, and large grounds to roam.

Provisional prices dependant upon numbers

Over 16 - £15 per night

10 - 16 - £11 per night

under 10 - £8 per night

under 2 - free

This is based on a full board vegan/vegetarian diet

Come for the full gathering or just the weekend, but most of all come and enjoy yourself!

An **Open Council Meeting** will take place on **Sunday 12th November** 10 am for 10.30.

All members of EO are welcome to attend.

For further information and booking forms please send S.A.E. to

Lize Stevens, 96 Ivanhoe Street, Leicester, LE3 9GW or email kissit@yawot.me.uk

Even more advance notice !!! Dates of the Okehampton Youth Hostel (Devon) gathering have been brought forward a week from those agreed at the Leicester meeting, due to the hostel's commitments. The gathering will now be **Thursday 8th Feb to Tuesday 13 Feb 2007**. It will include an Open Council Meeting and EO's AGM.

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 - America

ENGLAND

Cheshire
Derbyshire
Dorset East
Dorset West
Durham
East Sussex – Brighton
Gloucestershire North
Hampshire West
Herefordshire
Hertfordshire
Kent (excl. SE & NW Kent)
Lancashire – Blackpool
Lancashire - Bolton
London - Central
London – North West
London - Enfield
Norfolk – Breckland

Norfolk - Great Yarmouth
Norfolk - West
West Midlands – Birmingham & Solihull
West Midlands – Wolverhampton & Walsall

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

Janine Blecker - Birmingham
Tracey Coates – Lancashire – Blackpool
Gaynor French – Norfolk – West
Joanne Collett – Lancashire – Bolton

Judi Jones – Lancashire - Blackpool
Alex Caldwell – Leicestershire
Leanne Ashdown – Kent – South East

NEW ACTING CONTACTS

Shirley Smith - Essex South East
Shyrley Williams - Gloucestershire South
Donna Springett - Kent South East

Ann Newstead – Kent North-West
Lorna Tucker - Shropshire
Gaynor French – Somerset

LOST PROPERTY

Did you leave anything behind at the end of the Johns Lee Wood Camp in May?

We have the following items of lost property:-

Nomads turquoise/purple stripe hooded jacket	Black Nike jacket
Adams 9-year-old grey & blue fleece-lined jacket	Green 42 wellies
Blue hot water bottle with tartan cover	N-tropy boxed game
Ladybird umbrella	

If any of these belong to you please contact:

Lize Stevens on 0116 2425802 or email kissit@yawot.me.uk

LETTERS PAGES

Follow up to bullying letter

My child has now seen the Educational Psychologist and has been officially de-registered. Hey, party time! After two years of horrendous bullying that was ignored by the schools and LEA, you would think that de-registering him would be the most sensible, safe thing to do. Apparently not! The school feel that de-registering him is a backward step; the LEA agree and think I should reconsider. Which planet do these people live on?

I have been given yet another excuse about the bullying. It wasn't, in fact, bullying, it was just (unwanted) aggressive play. I think that daily bouts of unwanted aggressive 'play' inflicted on a small child by a big thug might just be described as 'bullying'! It is in 'Respecting others – a guide to bullying'. Do teachers actually read these circulars?

Home education has been the best medicine in the world for my child. The emotional support given to me and my son from other home educating parents has been the greatest gift we could have had. My son is starting to trust and have fun again. He even sleeps in his own bed and has found the confidence and courage to start going out into the garden without me being two steps behind him.

We could not have got this far without the emotional support, understanding and kindness freely given by other parents. A massive thank you and a big hug to my new (home educating) friend and her boys. You live near a roundabout and will know who you are – you're the best!!

Thank you to the parents who wrote wanting to help with the book about bullying. I'm working on it – hope we can make it happen! Time is the problem. As any one who has ever made a complaint about school bullying (and refuses to drop it) will know it is an emotionally exhausting, extremely stressful, depressing, full-time job. There is support out there though and school bullying does need sorting out. Our kids might decide they want to try school again sometime in the

future; they ought to be able to do it in an abuse-free environment. A lot of kids are not as fortunate as our own home educated kids; they have no escape.

Christine Jones Fishguard

P.S. The first 6 months of home education were hell. I did wonder if I could do it. Things seemed to magically fall into place after that and now I love it. It is exciting, satisfying and 'educational'. Wish I'd known it was legal years ago!

You may have tangible wealth untold
Caskets of jewels
And coffers of gold
Richer than I you never can be
I had a mother who read to me
*Strickland Gillilan (submitted by K.
Thompson)*

Request for information

(This request is an on-going one and has therefore been repeated from the last issue)

Over the past 5 months I have been making a lot of enquiries into the way hospitals treat children who are injured at school and the way they treat children who are injured at home.

The situation has long been clear that where a child receives an injury at home and is taken to A & E if the injury may be non accidental and the parent does not give a satisfactory explanation, then the Social Services would be informed. However if a child receives an injury at school which may be non accidental, it seems to be taken for granted that this is acceptable and it is left to the parent to take up the problem with the school. No outside organisation investigates incidents of bullying, but when the parent takes the child away from school for its own protection, the parent is the one who is viewed with suspicion.

I have raised questions as to who is responsible for all this but the DfES says the Dept of Health is responsible and they say the DfES is responsible. I have had contact

now with my own MP and this is being thoroughly investigated [so I am told] with both these organisations but I fear they may still try to blame parents in some way.

Has anyone had any experience of taking a child from school to A & E who may be able to tell me first hand of the way bullying or non-accidental injuries were handled?

Anything at all, which may be helpful, would be much appreciated.

Please telephone or email me as soon as possible.

Kathleen Thompson Tel: 01942 795 975

E-mail: ktmusic59@yahoo.co.uk

New to home education

I'm new to home education, having removed my son from primary school in March. He was a nervous wreck, and so was I! Oliver has just turned 11 and received his diagnosis of Asperger's Syndrome three years ago. We live in Mansfield, Notts. I would love to chat to/meet up with anyone in a similar position. Please feel free to phone me on (01623) 658002 or e-mail me at christinemorton1@btinternet.com.

Christine Morton

Make your voice heard

I am on some home ed mailing lists (EO & UK home ed) and every now and then policies that affect HE are discussed.

There are some very experienced and well informed people who put a lot of time and effort into trying to ensure that our right to HE with the freedom we currently have remains intact. I know that most people aren't too interested in following the debate or expressing opinions and are generally glad to leave it to people who they feel "know more" but there seems to have been a trend over the last 5 years where decisions by government, perhaps deliberate, perhaps not, will mean our children won't have the choice to HE in the way we have.

It is complex, it does mean arguing over semantics but surely the freedom to do what

we do is worth a little effort on our parts. As an individual how robustly do you want EO to defend our rights to the government? What approach do you feel is best? Firmly stating the case, being reasonable (what would that look like?), trying to modify legislation that may affect us but carefully so as not to draw too much attention to HE or refusing to debate with them because their attitude is so disrespectful and making a stand so they come to us on our terms?

These questions matter because a lot of time and energy is taken up trying to guess what the silent majority actually want. I hate seeing people who have so much commitment to HE wear themselves out trying to decide the best approach to government. I have become far bolder in my beliefs that we can stop legislation that would be detrimental to us thanks to the people who have patiently explained what our rights are and are prepared to read the small print of all new legislation not to mention scores of LEA responses in various consultation exercises and summarise it for those of us who don't have the time or inclination to do so.

Should silence be taken as agreement with a moderate view or are those that are silent happy for those who are willing to make their voices heard to be the views that are considered and responses in future should just be based on those who actively follow legislation and express opinions on it?

Please feel free to respond to me (or any of the people on the small group that deals with Government policy. I'm sure they'd like feedback too) so I can add to the melting pot a snapshot of opinion today... and then perhaps all home educators efforts can be directed more fully on protecting our rights with those whose actions can affect us than clarifying issues amongst ourselves.

*Wendy Knight, 35 Hornbeam Road,
Stowupland IP14 4DL*

Tel: 01449 614772

E-mail: wendy.knight06@btinternet.com

HISTORY

Home educated children are being given the chance to learn more about World War II by firing questions at a Land Army girl during a hot seat chat session. The free-to-use, BAFTA-winning website is running the 20 minute chat session on August 17, at 3pm. www.headlinehistory.co.uk

The site is aimed at seven to 14-year-olds and the chat session will be fully moderated, with questions pre-screened before being put live. Anyone wanting to take part should click on the chat button on the website's homepage.

Headline History, which was Government funded, brings four periods of English history to life using Flash technology.

Julie Bayley
Project editor
Northcliffe Electronic Publishing
Direct line: 0116 227 3126
Mobile: 07980 989 434
www.headlinehistory.co.uk
www.nep.co.uk

THANKS

I would like to thank everyone who looked after me when I was taken ill on the night of the Open Council Meeting in Johns Lee Wood. Particularly Louise, Lize, Sue and Pam who all went beyond the call of duty to help me.

I would also like to apologise to all the children that got turned away from the toilet because I had kind of taken it over.

Hope to meet you all again soon...looking at least half way human and the right colour!
(Mixed green and white is not that attractive!)

Jacqui, Warrington

Flexible home-education

Well hello,

New subject: flexible home-education. Or perhaps it is an old subject, so just to make it interesting, let's have some new ideas.

Home education will remain the preserve of a few, unless a more rational approach to utilising the system that is already in place is thought about.

The system that is already in place has the advantages of: a) equipment b) other people c) group cohesion. This is what the government education attempts to provide. But who are the government? Isn't that us, the people, or is that only other people?

The tensions come with extended home-education situations where provision of services for children rests solely with the parents, and no other. This does have some advantages, as it continuously provides momentum to manage better. So is it possible to move this through our individualistic, monochrome, single-unit of our own family status?

How, exactly, would we like to be able to integrate? Are the forces of the other members of the government, i.e. everybody else, interested in discussing opportunities?

The value of home-education becomes treasure if it is shared with the school-educated, and vice-versa. So let's change the law or something; why not?

H G Mansfield, Hebrides

Exchange networks

Does anyone know of any exchange networks within EO? I would like to find a way of building on what we have; still being as competent as we can be in leading our own lives, but also being part of others' lives.

I am wondering if others are able to contribute to a summer network situation, which could be set up for families from outward-bound areas to intermingle. This could involve some kind of 'LETS' system, if it could be made user-friendly.

It might look like a local group offering bunkhouse accommodation at their local meeting hall. This could be on a roll-over timetable so that family accommodation problems could be alleviated. Or maybe weekend or week-long courses, with enough going on that workshop providers are needed.

Please get in touch if you have any ideas, or know of where this is going on already.

H G Mansfield, Hebrides Tel: 01851 672210

EDUCATING ARCHIE

BY SEQ

Mrs G and Archie prepare for the annual HE camp



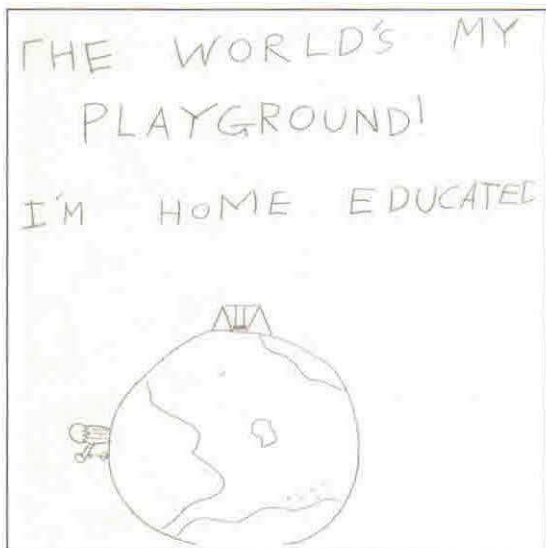
Informal Account of Council Meeting and AGM, 20 May 2006

What can I say? Johns Lee Wood is as beautiful this year as it was last year. It was also as wet...if not wetter...than last year! The big main hall was being used for crafts this year and the meeting was held in one of the cabins. Personally I preferred this. It felt cosier; it felt like there were more people there than when we're in a big room, and it was warmer! Even sitting next to the door while taking the minutes!

Anyway...Jill Fisher was nominated to chair the meeting and I had volunteered (why do I do this?) to take the minutes of the meeting. For those who don't know, EO does minutes differently to any other place I've ever worked/volunteered. In EO, we discuss the item from the agenda, then we decide a minute there and then so that everyone is agreed prior to us leaving. Means the meeting tends to last longer but it does mean that, unless there are typo's, the minutes will be correct.

Anyway...on to the meeting. Although there are the usual number of 'Ongoing' items, a surprising number of things were closed out as being done/satisfactory. Our Local Group Guidelines are now published as is the information leaflet on Parental Responsibility. The revised Home Education cards (truancy cards) are now being used and match the plastic membership cards. Other 'completed' items were the 2006 Handbook and Contact List. Although there had been discussion on having an outside company produce our Handbook as a glossy mag which was paid for by advertising, the company who were interested have not contacted us after EO's conditions were passed on. Due to the deadlines EO was given and the fact that they have not come back leads us to believe that they are unlikely to want our business as it won't be sufficiently profitable for them. So, the 2007 Handbook will be similar in format to the current one. The Display Materials which could be used in libraries or at 'events' are now available to download from the Members Area of the website...but we'd still like some photos of HE in action which can also be used.

Ongoing things – a directory of information for all of our Local Contacts; the search for value for money training courses to help Media Contacts avoid the pitfalls that journalists like to create and help them make real good use of the sound byte. Our media contacts have an awful lot of knowledge and we need to support them to get past journalists with an agenda. Other ongoing items are the collation of information from local contacts related to who is happy to have their phone numbers given out and who is happy to speak with their LAs; preparation of a budget for EO tied in with a '5 year plan'; claiming back Gift Aid on donations to EO; updating of SINC – they now have a budget which they can use to bring in outside help on different aspects should they need to.



The T shirt votes were cast and the meeting was informed that the design by Oskar Hay was the winner. EO is now (well, Lucinda who currently looks after T shirt sales and I) are looking at 'tidying up' the design and having the T shirt made up in three different colours using Fair Trade Organic cotton. Oskar will be receiving a T shirt for submitting the winning design. (Notice how the items which I'm involved in tend to get their own paragraphs? No...not deliberate...but I understand them perfectly!)

Let's see, what else...we still need a newsletter co-ordinator. There was an expression of interest from one of the people at the meeting and there have been two nibbles at the bait since from others. We'll hook someone soon!

Janet Wilkinson is going to talk to the EO Trading Treasurer about internet sales and banking issues. It's nice to see Janet getting

involved again – she's never been uninvolved...but not active on the 'national' scene for a while. For those who like a bit of history, Janet was running the website and the EO lists when I took over. She was also General Secretary of EO and although Phil now wears the 'hat' I seem to have kind of slipped into doing the work for that as well. Dangerous path I'm walking...but I don't have aspirations to political office...so my neighbours can relax. ☺

The role of EO Association Treasurer will be split up for grabs at the moment. After several years, Martine is wanting to put away the Books and develop a life which doesn't involve figures. There are several aspects to the EO Association Treasurer role which will be split up a bit to make the job more attractive. Martin Wise has volunteered to take on the job of looking after the admin stuff for EO groups wanting to take advantage of EO's insurance cover. It is likely that the Gift Aid aspect of the job will also be split to another volunteer as it can be quite a big job by itself at times.

At some point we stopped for lunch which was prepared by volunteers for all those who were attending the Council Meeting. Now that was nice. Home made bread rolls fresh out of the oven, choice of soups, salads, cheeses. At one point home made pizza slices were going around as well. Our volunteers excelled themselves this time.

My normal bit of people watching was seriously limited this time. I obviously have my finger in too many pies...I was working and not just gazing around. What can I say though...it was one of the better meetings for seeing how 'un-chic' home educators look when wet and muddy! I would also say that, the mud there is incredibly dark and erm...can't think of the word. But the result was that, turning up in open toed sandals for the day was a rather huge mistake and I still have one toe nail which is stained with a greyish tinge. Was very black and is fading as the nail grows...but no amount of showers etc. has cleared that up. The other comment I'd have was...'back in my day' we had black Wellington boots and the green ones when they came in were posh! People were wearing wellie boots there with pink flowers on them! What is the world coming to.

After lunch we broke for the AGM. Pretty standard that was. Very nearly a 'blink and you miss it' event. However, we said goodbye to Pam Bellingier, Tracy Coates and Gary Podmore as council members and we welcomed in Emma Birkenshaw, Laurie Charlton and Fizz El Sawah. Sarah Cook was voted in as EO Chair and Martin Wise is Vice Chair. Check the back of the newsletter for all the minor posts (I'll run away from the postholders when I see them as they probably won't be too happy being called 'minor postholders'. ;-)

We also have a new 'small group' which is one of the largest we've had! The purpose is to look at the structure of EO and the remits and authority delegated to all the small groups. Officially this group is called the Strategic Development Group. Unofficially I'm calling it Strategic Command and Phil Hicks is CiCStratComm. Now I'll have to run away from him as well!

The rest of the meeting, once StratComm was agreed and all volunteers for the group were recorded (so they couldn't get out of it later) went relatively quickly. It seemed that, every time there was a question it was referred to the newly created Strategic Development Group. They're going to be busy!

There were other issues at the meeting. There was quite a long discussion on the remit and procedures of the Complaints Group. I suspect that discussion might have been shorter if we'd already had the agreement for StratComm.

There were also questions raised about EO's Child Protection Policy and, although this is one of the most important policies EO has, when the questions are raised as part of the Any Other Business section of the meeting, and it is gone 7 pm, there just was not the time to discuss it. So...the person who needed answers will be writing a report on his concerns, which can be looked at by the Child Protection Group, and the issue will be brought back to the next meeting.

The next meeting will be part of a Gathering. To be held in Langdale in the beautiful Lake District. Only one problem...the Lake District in November tends to be cold, wet and windy. So start looking for those flowery wellie boots now!

Jacqui Houlding

New Pupil Registration Regulations

The DFES have recently issued new regulations about how schools should register and de-register pupils. These replace the 1995 version that many HE'ers are familiar with. There is also Guidance that tries to explain what the regulations mean. Both these documents can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/zz6c3>. The new Regulations come into force on September 1st, unless they are kicked out by parliament, which is highly unlikely.

De-registering: There are some changes to how a pupil can be de-registered to begin HE. You should still write a letter to the school telling them that you are now HE'ing and your child's name should be removed from the register. Rather than do this immediately as now, the school will have to send a letter to the Local Authority (formerly LEA) notifying them of your child's imminent removal. They must send this letter immediately and wait 2 days for it to reach the LA. They then remove the child's name from the register. The letter simply needs to tell the LA that child X is being withdrawn by their parents to HE and their name will be deleted on x date (2 days later).

- ❖ The Guidance makes it clear that the school do **not** have to wait for acknowledgment or any sort of approval from the LA before deleting the child's name.
- ❖ The child does **not** have to attend school while the letter to the LA is in the post – the school must mark them as authorised absent.
- ❖ The school must also send a copy of the letter they send to the LA to the parent – so you should know that they have acted on your wish to de-register.

In practice, **if** the guidance and regulations work as advertised, the parent will not notice much difference. You write a letter and deliver it to the school on the day that you remove your child, as before. Two days later you should receive a copy of the letter the school sent to the LA. Everything else is admin between the school and the LA.

It is not clear why the DFES wish to make this change as their stated reasons make little sense and people have been lobbying for simpler procedures. Pupils with other reasons for de-registration are also affected by these new regulations, it's not just HE.

Early notification: There is one other significant change to de-registering. If you inform the school that you *intend* to de-register your child either **verbally** or in writing, say, at the end of the week, or the end of term, the school have to notify the LA in the same way as above when you notify them ie, not wait until you actually do remove your child.

The letter to the LA will say that child x is to be withdrawn next Friday (or whatever). When Friday comes, they simply delete the name from the register. In the meantime the child attends as normally. In some ways this is not a major change, however, the advanced notice to the LA may well be used by them to contact the parent. While some LAs are respectful and helpful, some are not. Some may use any forewarning to put pressure on a parent not to choose HE but to continue sending their child to school. It may well be that giving more than a day or two's notice to the school of your intentions may be unwise, and no notice at all may be the best option, although children sometimes want to say goodbye to their friends.

SEN: The DFES have said that there is no change to the current procedure for de-registering a child with special needs who is at a special school under provision arranged by the LA. The guidance makes limited mention of SEN, but it isn't entirely clear if it has any affect or not. The DFES need to clarify their wording – often their guidance isn't very clear. Children with special needs at an ordinary school de-register in the usual way of course, which will become the same procedure as above.

Registering at a school

One of the biggest concerns about the regulations and guidance is a new approach to registering a pupil. At present the child only becomes a pupil when the turn up at school and are physically 'registered'. The intention is to allow registration on the expected first day of attendance:

(14) Pupils join the school roll on the expected first day of attendance and must be listed in both admissions and the attendance registers from that day. Schools set this date after taking all of the circumstances into consideration.

(16) If a pupil has accepted a place at the school and fails to attend on the agreed date, the school must follow up the absence.

If this remains unchanged parents will need to be very clear with schools about whether they are accepting a place or not. If, for example, you accept a school place months ahead but then decide over the summer not to do school in September, you must be very clear in informing the school that your child is not going to attend and does not need the place, and you have made other provision. Otherwise, if the school is still expecting your child to start school, and s/he doesn't, you could find yourself caught up in all the truancy and pupil regulations.

Please help

There is a lot of confusion in the regulations and the draft guidance. There is a short window of opportunity to write to the DFES or your MP (or both) and ask them to think again about many of these issues, especially the new registration approach. There could be lots of confusion and problems created for unaware parents (which many new to HE often are) and potential for LAs or schools to interpret things in their own way, and we know that this is often not good for HE'ers.

There is more information available on the EO website about this issue and many people within EO and without will be trying to point out the difficulties to the DFES. Apologies to those without computer access but things are moving fast and it's the only way of working on this. Further updates in following newsletters, but in the meantime, please write if you can.

EO Govt Policy Group

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Diary Of A Home-Educating Nobody

Of all the subjects we worry about I suspect reading must be the one we worry about the most. Most particularly when it isn't happening!

It's certainly worried me over all the years it wasn't happening! Especially when it seemed to be happening for everyone else's children.

But now I've got beyond those years, now I've stopped worrying and realised that my child can usefully read at long last, I can see that not one second of that worrying did any good at all. It didn't change a thing. It didn't make her read any faster. Neither did any of the strategies and schemes I employed, the encouraging, the deviously running reading past her in the hope she wouldn't notice,

the pushing, bribing, and threatening. None of it had any positive effect. In fact, all this anxious worrying very nearly had the opposite effect. It very nearly put her off for life.

Now, in glorious hindsight, I have learnt something. I have learnt that it doesn't matter what scheme you use or strategy you employ, the reality is that each child is an individual. And each individual takes to reading in their own individual way. At their own individual AGE! And no amount of pressure or 'teaching' from you is going to alter that, however much you cunningly disguise it! You simply cannot get children to read sooner rather than later if they are not reading ready.

Not everyone believes this! Most particularly those parents with children who read easily and early and progress steadily from there onwards. Those people tend to believe that their children read because they taught them well!

well - they can believe what they like. And I'm not writing this for them anyway. I'm writing this for all of you who haven't got a child like that, who have children who are getting older, past infancy and primary stages, perhaps into double figures and yet who still are not fluently reading, making you extremely anxious. For I know what it's like. That's what I've just been through with my youngest and I can tell you now that it has taken her till nearly teen-hood to get to the stage where I'm confident that, although she still never 'settles down with a book', she can usefully read! And I'm pretty sure your child will come to it too.

But you will need to have faith because it might not be in the same way as others did. It might not happen till even later. It might happen that they never really take to reading books for pleasure. But then, it's not necessary that every child reads in the same way, at the same time, and gets the same out of it. It helps to remember that!

I've witnessed many children learning to read, both in school and out of it. And I know that learning to read, as with all learning, is completely different for everyone. And no matter how much you think that one reading scheme, tactic or method is the answer, it is not. For however many children it works for, there will always be someone for whom it doesn't. And the important point to understand is that the problem is with the method, NOT the child. For some children, their way of reading is so individual it takes an enormous leap of faith to go with it.

I have seen some young children take to reading like they take to eating sweets! I have seen others take to it in a slow, progressive, satisfying curve. I have seen children for whom reading appears totally alien at the start then suddenly it magically clicks. And I have seen bright, intelligent, enthusiastic children who are capable and clever at so many subjects yet cannot seem to manage to learn to read in the way we would expect them to. Who clearly see and interpret print in such an individual way that to read a book in the way many of us do, and find it enjoyable, is just impossible.

Which brings me to another important point; the ability to read - or not - is NOT a direct reflection of a person's intelligence - or lack of it!

There are many highly intelligent, articulate and successful adults in this world who do not read easily. Who do not enjoy reading. Or get from it what others do. But that does not mean they are unintelligent. That's just the way they are.

When I read 'The Gift Of Dyslexia' by Ron Davies it made me feel quite inadequate! And it made me feel like that simply because I can read, and am not dyslexic, (not so you'd notice anyway - thanks to Spellchecker!), but consequently neither do I have other special gifts that dyslexics have, which made me feel quite average and unspectacular!

And when I read 'A little edge of darkness', by Tania Faludy about her dyslexic son, I really had an insight into how it is possible to learn in a different way. Which is another point to keep in mind when you feel anxious about your child's education: all the different ways that there are to learn. One of those being learning even without reading if need be. Learning DOES happen, even without print.

And remember, differences do not have to equal difficulties. The trouble with labelling our learning differences, dyslexia being one of them, is that we immediately try to fit. And that causes difficulty in itself. Obviously having guidelines and suggestions from others who have differences you recognise can be extremely comforting and supportive. But the best attitude to have towards all our differences is to keep our minds open. Keeping our mind open, open to individual learning routes, is the best thing we can do.

I believe that reading is a very personal thing. As is all learning. Despite educational professionals trying to make us all fit! And I believe that despite differences, way in the world of reading.

What is essential is that children don't get put off reading by our own clumsy attempts to push it on them, in our way, in our timescale, before they are ready. Like I did!

Some children, like mine, are not ready to read for a long time after everyone else is. They aren't ready to read for a long time after we might be ready for them to read! And they aren't ready to read for a long time after the relatives are ready for them to read either!

I tried all sorts to get mine to read. I tried scheme books. I tried lots of lovely stories with small amounts of print and lots of images. I tried magazines. I tried single word cards and games. I tried all sorts of sneaky tactics I thought she wouldn't notice but of course she did, being the intelligent person she is. And I'm convinced now that little of this had an effect. In fact, if I'd stopped all this and left her to it she probably would have come to reading quicker. Because all my interference probably created resistance and nearly put her off.

All our interference also overlooks an important fact that we tend to forget: children will WANT to read!

Reading is part of our culture. Like computers, mobile phones, driving. Children want to do what we do. And they go mad to do it. Reading books may not be the way children come to reading. But what does it matter. Perhaps learning to read via books is out-of-date. To be able to use the computer they are going to want to decode what those irritatingly little boxes say! Like with pressing buttons - they're going to want to have a go.

My child has gradually developed various tactics and strategies of her own to help her over the difficulty of decoding print. And it's taken years for her to do it. But I'm

confident that, while reading strategies come and go with the experts, her own strategies will last her a lifetime. For however many tricks we teach our children to perform as we try and teach them to read, the learning that sticks with them is the learning that comes from them. It really is not something we put there. However much some of us like to think that it is!

Looking back, the one thing that I would say that we can do for those children who are learning to read differently from everyone else has nothing at all to do with strategies. It has nothing to do with tactics. Or diagnosis. Or special books. It would be something that is easily available to all of us, although many adults find it very difficult to do!

The one thing that we can do is simply give those children TIME!

Ross Mountney.

ross.mountney@tiscali.co.uk

A little note from Ross.

It was very touching to have the compliments in the last newsletter. Thank you. Feedback is always so encouraging. If anyone wants to get in touch please do so, my email address is above.



Manor Organic Farm

A group of Education Otherwise people from (18 months to 53 years) went on a visit to Manor Organic Farm, Long Watton, Loughbrough.

"Mum and Dad are always on at us to eat organic foods," and we asked, "Why!"

Manor Organic Farm is 400 acres which for the last 9 years has not used Pesticides or Herbicides (Chemicals). It is run by Grahame and Vivian Maltravers. Grahame runs the farm and Vivian runs the shop that sells the farm produce. Their farm is under the strict eye of the Soil Association in their organic method. They both have been supporters of the Organic Movement and are raising other farmers' awareness of the benefits of organic farming methods.

There has been farming on this land a long time. The evidence for this can be seen in the ridge and furrow strip farming of old. Grahame explained that the 'S' shape of these strips occurred by the turning of oxen when it was ploughed.

Grahame clearly stated that they could not use chemicals in the production of foods.

"Why not?"

The residue from these chemicals, some of which cause different cancers, can be passed on to us and slowly build up within our bodies, affecting us when we are older.

"So what do you do then?"

By rotating the animals in different fields yearly (for example: sheep in one field and cows in another, and then swapping them over the next year) it stops the spread of diseases found in intensive farming and between the different animals, which stops the use of antibiotics.

By giving the animals more space less than 20 animals per barn over winter (80-odd if not more in a normal farm): the animals are calmer, able to feed easier, the calves and lambs able to escape and return when they want, creating a more relaxed less frightening atmosphere all round so that the animals are not scared of people.

To grow higher yields, better food for their animals Grahame has introduced clover into the pastures, which is a nitrogen fixing plant that acts as a fertilizer. So apart from the animals

spreading manure in the normal way he also uses plant power. Once the barns are empty after winter, he clears them out and lets the muck stand for a few years, to kill off any disease, before spreading it over the pasture. He uses the old method of crop rotation, one crop of wheat grown in a field one year and not then grown again in that field for at least 3 years, which stops the spread of crop fungus.

"What about pesticide drift from other farms?"

Most non-organic farmers spray when it is dry and they use a very fine oil mixed in with the pesticide, which helps the spray fall on the plant and stick to it. They are not allowed to spray within 20 metres of his fields which all have hedges surrounding them.

Whilst walking around the farm we noticed the wildlife and rescued a hedgehog from a cattle grid. It was interesting to note that none of the farm animals were that afraid of our large number, especially the sheep.

We are now hoping to get a better-balanced view by going on a visit to a non-organic farm. But this might not happen because they are refusing to have us on the grounds of Health and Safety (theirs or ours?)

Written by Emma Fairall, & Charlotte and Eron Rendell

CAMPING SEASON CONTINUES ...

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX CAMP

20TH - 28TH August 2006

- Held on a farm in one of the last dark sky areas of Wales
- Outdoor activities include pony rides, communal campfire, abundant wildlife spotting opportunities etc.
- Sample onsite activities included in price - Ceilidh, Celtic Day, Birds of Prey demonstration
- Fireworks Finale and torch lit procession in nearby Llandrindod Wells
- Organic home cooked food and fridge available

Cost £4 per adult per night,
£2 per child 3 - 16 years per night

Maximum 40 families so early booking advisable.

Contact Lizzie on 01597 840691 or
Hickton8@aol.com

FANCY THE LAKE DISTRICT IN SEPTEMBER?

Cumbria Home Educators Camp

6th to 13th September 2006

This is a week camping for Home Educating families, on a lakeside site in our own separate camping field with toilet and shower block. Launching is available free for sailing, rowing boats or canoes, so bring them if you have them.

Bookings must be made in advance.

Tents and camper vans only.

Fees per night: Adults £4.50

Children £1.50

Vehicles £3.00 Dogs £1.00

Contact Chris or Kathy

E-mail fgk40@yahoo.co.uk

Tel 019467 21217.

EDUCATION OTHERWISE MERCHANDISE

Where to Find Resources

A list of information

on National Curriculum materials and resources and where you can get them is available free from

henrietta.turnbull@btinternet.com
(rtf or wpd or doc file);

or by post (please send a stamped SAE plus £1 for printing costs) from

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

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Lucinda Smart, 4 Chester Gardens,

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THE NON STOP READER

The complete guide to reading for both parent and child in one volume, using a phonetic approach. Detailed advice for parents, lively text and wonderful illustrations, engaging for children and easy to follow. Widely used over the years by many home educating families.

NOW AVAILABLE DIRECT FROM EO

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("Truancy Cards")

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required from: EO HE Cards, 5 Ridge Way,

Aldridge, Walsall WS9 0HL

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equivalent in 50p or £1 stamps.

Cheques and postal orders made payable to

'Education Otherwise Association Ltd.'

Email queries to

database@education-otherwise.org

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A5 SAE to Sarah Cook, The Old Cottage,

Croglin, Carlisle, CA4 8RZ

(quoting EO membership number)

or **sarah@croggies.freeseve.co.uk**

AUGUST COMPETITION - ISSUE 171

Hi All, well here we are in the height of full summer and as I am writing this there is a blazing heat wave on the north west coast and lovely it is too.

Thanks to everyone who sent entries in to the Da Vinci Game competition; we had masses of entries, unfortunately though there can only be one winner - Tamlyn DeNobrega of London, who will shortly be in receipt of her prize ☺

The answers to last issue's competition are:

Codex: Jigsaw

Logic Key: 114 (Cone ALone fLour)

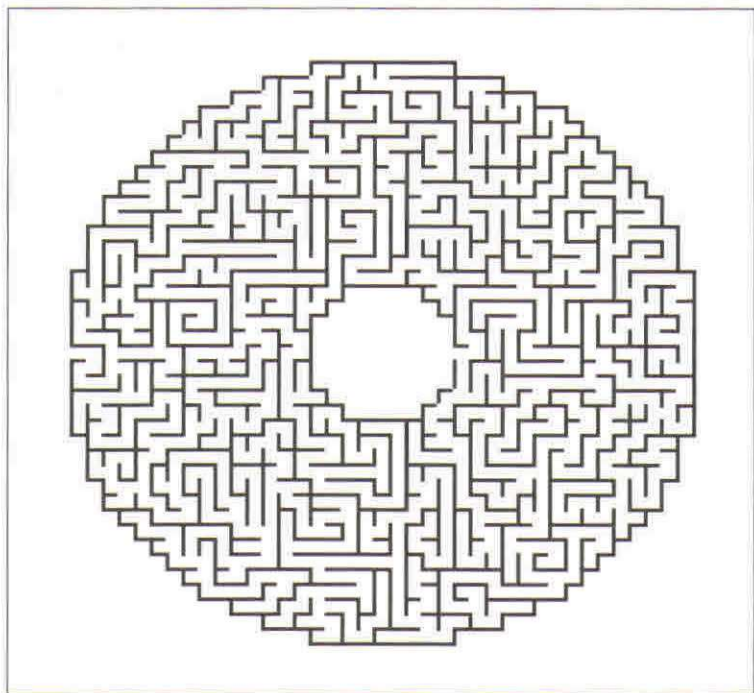
Rose: Trafalgar Square

Vitruvian Man: Enid Blyton
(She created Noddy and Big Ears)

This issue's competition is a maze puzzle, find your way to the centre! - Hope you enjoy it ☺
The winner of this issue's competition will win either a choice of books that have been kindly donated - thank you, you know who you are ☺ [any other donated prizes more than welcome], or Learn Premium membership till the end of the subscription (October 2006).

The competition is open to all members of EO, except members of the Council and paid contractors, and all entries to be sent to:

EO Competition, 79 Cumberland Avenue, Cleveleys, Lancashire. FY5 2DS by the end of July



REVIEWS

Mathematics Around Us by John Blackwood

This was a challenging read for me as I usually glaze over at the mention of mathematics. However, it becomes clear that this book is written by someone with a passion for maths and for delivering the subject to children or idiots like me in a pragmatic, interesting and understandable form. The book, which is aimed at 12 to 13 year olds and is based on the Steiner-Waldorf Curriculum, is made up of 35 exercises. The exercises are quick, mostly straightforward and fun. My three boys enjoyed doing them despite not liking the sound of it to start with. He makes binary numbers, square roots and folding a piece of paper look over-complicated to start with but it becomes clear that what he is trying to do is lay the subjects out with all their components clearly visible. I'm still enjoying the concept that when I draw a line on a piece of paper, it may not be entirely visible but it carries on as an idea of straightness off the paper and out into infinity! Whatever your background is, I think you will enjoy this book for your own differing reasons. I enjoyed the compass work most but liked the exercises in general (not something I ever thought I would hear myself say) and love the examples of students work.

Ian with Jake (12), George (10) and Ben (7)
£12.99 ISBN 0-86315-538-3 Floris Books

Cold Keep by James Lovegrove

This is a fantastic book in which a young girl, Yana, is sent out of her home to face her test to become a guard of the keep. She has to face all the dangers presented by the outside world as she sets out to discover her destiny. The book is set in the second Ice Age where there is not much modern technology and Yana uses an ice axe to face her test. This is a brilliant book which I would recommend to easy book readers and I would score it 9/10.

JJ (10)
£4.99 ISBN 1-842993-63-1 Barrington Stokes

The Princess and the Captain

The Princess and the Captain charts the adventures that start when the Princess Malva runs away from home to seek adventure. The writing is simple and straightforward, and although the pace is uneven the adventures, especially in the second half, are colourful. The characters sometimes appear one-dimensional but are generally interesting and believable. The tone at the end of the book is very different from that of the start but as long as older readers do not expect too much this book is enjoyable and well worth the read.

Sophie (13)
£12.99 ISBN 0-7475-7766-8 Bloomsbury

Darkness Comes by Melita Jones

Exantra is a 13-year-old witch, always in trouble and particularly bored which leads her to cast a spell from the Forbidden Book of Spells that unleashes a terrible hex on her world, plunging it into eternal darkness. It

is her punishment to travel to the dreadful southern lands to bring back the ingredients needed for the reversal spell. The book follows Exantra's journey as she faces goblins, an evil warlock, lethal quicksand and many more terrors, relying on her magic skills and courage in her quest to save her homeland. This is one of the best books we have read in recent times. It is very well written, with some good vocabulary and some good cliffhangers. Highly recommended.

Jack (9) and Luke (6)
£12.99 ISBN 1-85776-929-5 The Book Guild

House of Spies by Griselda Gifford

I enjoyed this book mainly because it was related to the Second World War, which is one of my personal interests, but I would also definitely round it up as a well-written book with an interesting storyline. It is about a teenage girl living in Britain during the Blitz who has just moved out of her house due to a bomb that exploded nearby. She is then moved in with some friendly strangers and when she stays here, she gets involved with some fascinating events in the village. What I found interesting about this story is that the girl gives extracts from her diary to give her own opinion on the situations that she faces. I would recommend this to any girl or boy aged around eleven upwards.

James (14)
ISBN 1 84270 459 1 Anderson Press

Operation Red Jericho by Joshua Mowll

This is a brilliantly presented book with fabulous illustrations, diagrams, photographs and maps. The story captured my attention and imagination to the point of worrying about the characters. It's about two children Becca and Doug Mackenzie whose parents are missing in western China. Doug and Becca have been sent to their uncle who is also captain of the ship Expedition. Whilst with their uncle they discover a mysterious secret organisation. All this adds up to a brilliant swashbuckling adventure. A must read for all lovers of adventure and anyone who dreams of being a spy. I'm really looking forward to Operation Typhoon Shore, which is part two of the adventure out in the autumn. I'd say this book is best for people aged nine and over.

Jake (12)
£12.99 ISBN 1-4063-0175-2 Walker

Rosa's Singing Grandfather by Leon Rosselson

Rosa's relationship with her grandfather is wonderful, in learning the songs he sings and why he sings them, she learns about his life, growing up in a large family, his time in the war, losing his wife - Rosa's grandma. So rather than being embarrassed when he sings at her carol service or in hospital Rosa is very proud of him. This is a very well written book, touching delicately on some difficult subjects. Katie loved reading this and scored it 9 out of 10.

Denise with Katie (8)
£4.99 ISBN 1-903015-52-9 Barn Owl Books

Wildly Weird by *Kaye Umansky*

Wildly Weird is about a pot plant that belongs to a family who is different to everyone else, and what happens when it is entered into a plant competition. Rowan liked the strange things that happened in this book and especially liked the pot plant (which he has not stopped talking about). This is a good book to read out loud as it is fun, and would also be suitable for a reader who is gaining confidence.

Kathleen and Rowan (7)

£4.99 ISBN 1-842993-66-6 *Barrington Stokes*

Indie Kidd – Are We Having Fun Yet (Hmm!)

by *Karen McCombie*

I really loved this book. I was excited to read it as soon as it arrived. I could have read it myself but I asked Mummy to read it to me because she is good at doing the voices. It is a very funny book about a girl who tries lots of plans to cheer her friend up whose cat has died. The girl gets a new cat in the end and calls it Mrs. Mumbles even though it is a boy! I loved the illustrations. They are by Lydia Monks who also did the pictures for Princess Mirror-bell, which I also love. All the pages are really interesting with lots going on. I want to get all the other Indie Kidd books as soon as possible.

Romy (7)

£4.99 ISBN 1-84428-070-5 *Andersen Press*

Lugalbanda: the boy who got caught up in a war

by *Kathy Henderson & Jane Ray*

This is a beautifully illustrated tale from Ancient Iraq. It is one of the oldest stories in the world but was only recently translated from the ancient scripts and from there into English. It is a very moving story of a boy who wants to go to war with his brothers, so he follows the army but then falls ill and has to be left behind. There is an enormous talking bird, a goddess and a little magic. Eleanor found it "scary, magical and exciting". It was lovely to read aloud but it is a story for older children.

Jane with Eleanor (8)

£11.99 ISBN 1-84428-746-7 *Walker*

Everybody Got a Gift by *Grace Nichols*

I admit to being a poetry lover and find the clever way words are used in poems fascinating. This book however left me unexcited. I am not a fan of what I call 'dis' and 'dat' wording and although this book has a number of good poems, they are spoilt by endings such as 'Stormman Woz Ere'! I like poetry to make you think about the wording long after you have put the book down. The cleverest use of wording I found in the book was three lines describing a daffodil 'Long neck ones, Yellow swans, Too soon gone.' Having said all this, if you are a lover of more modern verse, then this collection of poems is worth buying/borrowing from your library.

Francesca (16)

£6.99 ISBN 0-7136-7251-X *A & C Black*

Star Seeker - A Journey to Outer Space

by *Theresa Heine & Victor Tavares*

This is a really beautiful picture book that you might buy for a gift and end up keeping! Finn loved the lovely, strange yet detailed pictures and the rhyming text which meanders through the solar system and beyond on a fantastic journey. At the end of the book is a short explanation of the solar system, the sun, moon and stars; and tucked into the back is a poster of the solar system.

Tina with Finn (6)

£10.99 ISBN 1-905236-35-2 *Barefoot Books*

Seahorse, The Shyest Fish in the Sea

by *Chris Butterworth*

A fascinating book about an easily overlooked fish. The text is excellent, introducing a lot of facts simply enough to make sense to my 3½-year-old son, yet interestingly enough to keep me engaged. I was particularly impressed by the way Chris Butterworth managed not to talk 'down' to his audience – making this book suitable for quite a wide age range, perhaps up to 8 or 9 years old. John Lawrence's illustrations attempt to evoke a feeling of being under the sea, so are fairly muted. My 3-year-old said he liked the 'gentle' pictures, but our baby wasn't interested at all (perfect from a big brother's perspective!).

Famlyn with Benedict (3) and Rowan (9 months)

£10.99 ISBN 1-84428-745-9 *Walker*

Dragonfire by *Anne Forbes*

This book is excellent. The main characters, Clara and Neil, are very believable and it is so exciting – I just couldn't put it down and read it in a day. The plot starts when some fairy lords lock someone in a valley but they manage to get out! Little people live under Arthur's seat but something else does too and there is the mystery of Sir James's whisky going walkabouts! Strange happenings indeed! I hope to read some more of this author's books.

Keith (12)

£5.99 ISBN 0-86315-552-9 *Floris Books*

Crow Girl Returns by *Kate Cann*

This is the second book in the Crow Girl series. In this one Lily was nobody until she made friends with the crows in the dark wood near her home following a Halloween party. Lily becomes the Crow Girl. She is in love with Kyle Hopper and he is in love with her! But the crows are jealous and attack Kyle. Meanwhile the Parkway Girls are up to no good. Can Lily stop the bullies once and for all? Will Kyle still love Lily? And what about the crows? This book is a great read for everything could happen to you – the bullies, the crows' jealousy and love. This book will help you to stand up for yourself and the people around you to help you fight bullies and win. Read this book and know how to stop bullies.

Karis (11)

£4.99 ISBN 1-84299-368-2 *Barrington Stokes*

It's True! Space Turns You into Spaghetti

by *Heather Catchpole and Vanessa Woods*

I thought it is a very good book with loads of amazing facts, funny pictures and photos. It looks like a novel by its size and style so I was surprised to find that it is factual. There are scientific explanations throughout and there is also a chapter on aliens, which is quite funny. I recommend it if you are interested in space.

Natasha (11)

£4.99 ISBN 1-74114-625-9. *Allen & Unwin*

It's True! You Eat Poison Every Day

by *Peter Macinnis*

Do you think that everyone who uses poison should go to prison? Well, your mum, your dad, your friend and pretty much everyone else would be locked up! Even you! You kill thousands of things every day with poison, and tea can kill too! It probably wouldn't worry you so much if I told you that it's bacteria you're killing by the thousands with disinfectant, and you would have to drink 100 cups of tea at once for it to be fatal! Learn what a 'Mickey Finn' does, how snakes won Hannibal his battles on the sea and why green wallpaper used to be fatal. A good book, which has loads of fun, useful facts. A good read which is not too long or too short. May be a bit boring for younger readers. I suggest 7+

Oliver (10)

£4.99 ISBN 1-74113-6267 *Allen & Unwin*

It's True! Your Cat Could be a Spy

by *Sue Bursztynski*

This is a fantastic book about spies. It reminded me of the Horrible Histories series the way it was written. It tells you all about secret agents in the past, about famous spies and different methods of spying. It is a factual book, but is very funny and has some good drawings. I would recommend it.

Jack (9)

£4.99 ISBN 1-74114-606-2 *Allen & Unwin*

The Moneylender's Daughter by *Lucy Holden*

This is the sequel to *The House of Windjammer*. In Amsterdam, 1637, business was ships, money was power, and power was survival. This book follows the lives of two teenage characters completely entangled in this reality. The characters' choices are always difficult ones and fate is rarely easy on them. This, together with a strong sense of time and place, makes their lives feel incredibly real. You finish with a great admiration and understanding for the characters, especially that of the moneylender's daughter, and an equal admiration for the author.

Sophie (13)

£12.99 ISBN 9-78074757017-2 *Bloomsbury*

Piper by *Emma Chichester Clark*

When a puppy called Piper grows up he is bought by a man who treats him badly. He runs away from his countryside home to the city where he performs a good

deed and the story continues with the consequences of his act. We love this story. Piper is a lovely character and the story really touched our hearts. The pictures change slightly from dull to brighter, which follow the mood of Piper's journey, and the illustrations are large and striking. There is some anticipation of what will happen to Piper, which kept us connected to him. A great read for all.

Julieann, Tony, Lydia (5) Stan (2)

£5.99 ISBN 1-84270-491-5 *Andersen*

Flotsam and Jetsam by *Tanya Landman*

Hawwa said: "*The story starts with Flotsam and Jetsam being washed up on the shore of a small beach. They become the best of friends and live in a cave at the foot of the cliffs together. The sea washes up lots of things on the shore for them. They make a bed from a box and they make crisps and tea from dried seaweed. The story is about their life on the beach, their adventures and their inventions. I think children of about six and above will enjoy it.*"

Musa said: "*The book was great! Flotsam and Jetsam do not speak proper English and whenever they spoke I laughed so much my tummy hurt!*"

Hawwa (7) and Musa (9)

£3.99 ISBN 1-84428-119-1 *Walker*

Green Parenting by *Melissa Corkhill*

Melissa is Editor of the superb Green Parent magazine (www.thegreenparent.co.uk) and home educates her children. Here she writes a book that covers pregnancy through to the teenage years with lots of tips to help you make the best choices for you and your family. It covers all the subjects you would expect to see on this subject and is a useful and economical resource for those of us who want to bring our children up to respect the environment and away from the influences of mass consumerism.

Sally

£7.99 ISBN 1-90460-139-1 *Impact Publishing*

The Pembrokeshire Wizard

This is a brilliant and fun way to explore Pembrokeshire. The 5 different walks (1-4 miles long) are tied up with quests that involve myths and legends of the area, all included on the audio CD you listen to as you walk and in the accompanying booklet. If you don't have a portable CD player you can listen at home. At the end of each quest you solve a riddle for the quiz on the CD when you get home. Clear instructions are given for the walks and I really enjoyed using my map reading skills as mum and dad left it all to me and we didn't get lost once! The walks are really interesting and include some beautiful scenery and you are encouraged to look out for wildlife of the area as well as historical and geographical features. Great fun for everyone.

£19.99 www.pembrokeshirewizard.co.uk 01239 891533

The Arizona Kid by Ron Koertge

In this book Billy Kennedy, a 16-year-old American boy, goes to live with his uncle for the summer, in Arizona. At the beginning he has already completely planned out what he will study at college and what job he wants to do. His time in Arizona working at the race track and his relationship with a girl he meets there lead him to change his mind and decide that maybe his plans weren't what he really wanted after all. I enjoyed the book and I thought the characters were real and likeable.

I probably would not have normally picked it off the shelf, but it's better than it looks.

Emma (16)

£5.99 ISBN 1-8442-8298-8 Walker

The Usborne Big Book of Fantasy Quests

by *Andy Dixon*

This book is a bit of a fantasy 'Where's Wally' book. There are four quests to complete – Dragon quest, Knight quest, Sword quest and Star quest. Each quest is about 20 pages long, with answers following. Each page has the most amazing illustrations and you are given the task of searching for various items on each page. Some things are easy to find and other take ages and because of this, it does not hold your attention for as long as it should and we all got quite bored with it quite quickly. May be a good book if you've got a lot of time to kill but we would all rather read an adventure story than follow these quests.

Jake (12), Rye (10) and George (10)

£9.99 ISBN 0-7-460-7038-1 Usborne

Mental Maths Tests

by *Andrew Brodie*

A set of three books (7-8; 8-9; 9-10) strictly for anyone closely following the national curriculum, wanting to know how their 7-10 year olds compare with their peers and how they would do in the National Tests. But for me it just reinforced why I am not sending my children to school and putting them through the stress of these tests. It is a book of 10 test sheets and recommends that they be administered in test like conditions. Each sheet has 20 questions, 10 of which you have 5 seconds each to complete, the other 10 you are allowed 10 seconds each – no pressure there!

If you like a relaxed approach to education don't give this a second look!

Kerry

£16.99 each Andrew Brodie (A&C Black)

Stars of Fortune by Cynthia Harnett

This is a really fun and easy book to read which is set in Tudor times. There is loads of detail and some very good illustrations. There is also a certain amount of travel involved from the manor to London and Woodstock. Many secrets are revealed and Francis learns the importance of keeping secrets. There is a plot to rescue Princess Elizabeth which comes to light, and a mystery of stolen greyhounds too. There is

adventure, mystery, fun and danger; you name it, this book has lots to offer and keep the reader interested.

9/10

JJ (11)

£7.99 ISBN 1-903252-245 Jane Nissen Books

Encyclopedia Prehistorica – Sharks and other Sea Monsters

by *Robert Sabuda and Matthew Reinhart*

Wow – is this the best pop up book in the world ever? I just love this book. Each page has the most amazing, enormous, detailed pop-ups of prehistoric creatures such as plesiosaurs, basilosaurus, megalodon and lots more. When you have finished 'wowing' at these you realise that each corner of each page opens up to even more pop-ups, and some of these corner pop-up have two or even three pages so you open up to yet more brilliant pop-ups. You could really spend hours just looking at this book but on top of that it is full of amazing facts about prehistoric animals. I think this goes to the top of my list of all time favourite books. Not a book for little ones as it could be easily damaged.

George (10)

£18.99 ISBN 0-7445868-9-5 Walker

Frog, Bee and Snail Look for Snow

by *Loek Koopmans*

This is a gentle story telling how Bee lives in the air, frog lives in the water and snail lives on land. They wake from their winter sleep to hear snow falling from the sky. They set out to discover for themselves what snow is. A nicely illustrated book about seasons and hibernating creatures.

Hilary with Isaac (4)

£7.99 ISBN 0-86315-559-6 Floris Books

The Way the Universe Works

Full of photos and facts explaining everything from dark matter to the birth of the star. There are over 60 experiments and projects, all good for HERS wanting to find some science stuff you can do in your own home. We really liked the erupting volcano you can make with vinegar and baking powder. Children interested in space will love this book.

Hilary with Isaac (4)

£14.99 ISBN 0-7513-4575-X Dorling Kindersley

The British Museum Activity Books

Mammoth by Daniel & Delia Pemberton – ISBN 0-7141-3106-7

Pyramid by Delia Pemberton – ISBN 0-7141-3024-9

Mummy by Judy Lindsay – ISBN 07141-3016-8

Gladiator by Judy Lindsay – ISBN 0-7141-3028-1

These are excellent little books, which will act as an introduction to the historical period in question particularly for children aged between 5 and 9. They are each 16 pages long and every page has interesting historical facts relating to the period and an activity to reinforce the information. The activities include word searches, recipes, craft projects, and anagrams and are

an excellent way of bringing history to life for children. We have carried out a number of the activities including cave paintings, writing names in hieroglyphics and making Roman garlic cheese. Carrying out the activities has stimulated much more questioning than merely reading a passage from a book. Most of the activities would be suitable to do individually or carried out as a group.

£2.99 each *British Museum*

The Anglo Saxons Activity Book

by John Reeve & Jenny Chattington

This is part of a set of books, which is apparently being discontinued. It is very similar to the above books, with facts and activities. However it is in an A4 format rather than the cutout style of the above books and so it is much easier to use the pages as worksheets. We have managed to find others in the series including Vikings and Prehistoric Britain in second hand bookshops.

Keep an eye out they are well worth having.

Kerry with George (10), Robyn (8), Ella (7), & Ben (7)

£3.99 ISBN 0-7141-2726-4 *British Museum Press*

The Telling Pool by David Clement-Davies

This is the story of Rhodri's magical quest, given to him by the Telling Pool at the time of the Crusades. I enjoyed this book because I liked the medieval setting and the connections with legends and King Arthur. I love Wales too and I picked up some Welsh words when reading it! It is a very complicated plot though and the book does take a long time to get going. It was hard to read - I think it is aimed at older children and teenagers so my Dad helped me with a lot of it, otherwise it would have taken me too long to read. The story is quite scary in places and it's easy to imagine yourself in Rhodri's place. I would recommend this book to older children who love history and myths and fantasy tales, and who have a lot of patience!

Emily (7)

£12.99 ISBN 9-780747572886 *Bloomsbury*

Creative Fun: Middle Ages Activity Book

by Sue and Steve Weatherill

This A4-sized paperback contains 10 art projects, each spread out over 2 pages. Templates are provided inside the back cover. There are clearly written instructions, a little bit of history and colourful illustrations. Making your own 'fold up' castle, a crown, and coat of arms are some of the projects provided. I would aim this book at younger children. It might also be useful for an art group looking for suitable projects within the medieval period.

Mirjam

£4.99 ISBN 1-902915-48-8 *b small publishing*

Creative Fun Greek Activity Book

by Sue and Steve Weatherill

When I first saw this book, I was really excited because I really love studying the Ancient Greeks. I wasn't too sure that I would like everything in the book

when I realised that it was a "crafty" book (a book about making things). There wasn't much in the book about history really, so if you want to find out about the Ancient Greeks this isn't the book for you!

However, there are plenty of ideas for making things like Greek-style bracelets or a laurel wreath. There are even some stencils at the back, which help you to add things to your drawings or to the objects you make. I thought that this book would be OK for children younger than me or for those who really like making things.

Deiniol (11)

£4.99 ISBN 1-902915-47-X *b small publishing*

Igor: the bird who couldn't sing

by Satoshi Kitamura

Both my children enjoyed this. Chloe was drawn in by the artwork, which is unlike any of our other picture books. She liked 'how the music was represented by colours and patterns.' Ethan said it was 'very nice.' He enjoyed naming all the animals. We also had fun talking about some of the musical terms mentioned.

The book is about a bird who sings differently to all the others; eventually he finds a friend (a dodo!) who doesn't mind, and they sing together. The overall message of the book is that it's ok to be different. A great message for the kids!

Emma with Chloe (7) and Ethan (3)

£5.99 ISBN: 1-84270-522-9, *Anderson Press*

The Big Summer Activity Book

by Anne and Peter Thomas

This is an amazingly detailed but compact book which covers just about every imaginable question or activity that you might encounter this summer. It really has got it all in there - from how not to lose your passport (or child) whilst travelling, to inventive craft ideas for the endless stream of shells, sticks and stones that find their way back into your house. The book includes sections on common seasonal ailments, understanding the weather, identifying the stars, map reading, games to play during those "when are we there" moments as well as outdoor and beach games and ideas on what to do if, heaven forbid, it rains. My children (aged 3 to 7) were enthralled and it would easily entertain older children too. Definitely a useful resource for homeschoolers and not just in summer.

Hazel with Trystan (8) and Hayden (6)

£14.99 ISBN 0-86315-545-6 *Floris*

Disabled Children and the Law

by Janet Read, Luke Clements and David Ruebain

This book gives important information about how the law can be used to help disabled children and young people. It mentions common needs and problems of disabled children and their families, and what support services are helpful. Information from diagnosis, ensuring educational and social inclusion, and establishing independence in early adulthood. The overlapping legal responsibilities of social services,

health and education are explained. Not light reading but helpful if you need this information in an easy to read text.

Sally

£19.99 ISBN 1-84310-280-3 Jessica Kingsley

Urville by Gilles Tréhin

Urville is an island off the coast of the French Riviera. It has a larger population than London, yet no one's heard of it. Why not? Because it is entirely made up. This fictionalised topography is like a micro history of France. Like a fly on the wall reporter, no one notices the existence of this island, yet it is involved in every major event in French history. This makes for interesting reading, at first. The surprising aspect of this book is that it is entirely written and drawn by a man with Autism. The foreword by Uta Frith, a leading figure in studies in Autism, states that Mr. Tréhin taught himself 3D drawing by the age of five; Urville is real as far as he is concerned, but he has no interest in its people. The drawings by Gilles Tréhin are technically brilliant and his explanations are detailed and imaginative, but the book lacks humanity. There are no anecdotes, no characters to become attached to or relate to in any meaningful way. Ultimately this means that as a study in how the Autistic mind works, it is fascinating; as a work of historical fiction it is quite hard going and repetitive. It might be interesting to discuss what could make this book more interesting, or use it as a springboard for creative writing exercises!

Laura

£14.99 ISBN 1-84310-419-9 Jessica Kingsley

CONTACTS

Note

Prices quoted are the publishers' recommended retail prices (rrp). Shop around for lower prices - try discount book shops, mail order discount book clubs and the internet. Some contact details are set out below but many titles can be ordered from your local book shop.

The Book People (0870 6077780

www.thebookpeople.co.uk) and *Red House* (0870 1919980

www.redhouse.co.uk) are good, economical sources for

books where you can order what you like, when you like (at prices well below publisher's rrp). Postage / packing is usually free on orders over £25 but if you are ordering less tell them you are home educating and you may be able to get a discount rate. Many local EO groups have meetings where books and other resources are swapped or sold. Don't forget you can usually pick up cheap books at car boot sales, jumble sales etc. and the library is a free resource.

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

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

CONTACTS

A & C Black 01480 212666

Allen & Unwin - see *Frances Lincoln*

Andersen Press 020 7840 8701

www.andersenpress.co.uk

Barefoot Books 0800 328 2640

www.barefootbooks.co.uk

Barn Owl Books 0208 883 7063

www.barnowlbooks.com

Barrington Stokes 0131 557 2020

www.barringtonstoke.co.uk

b small Publishing 020 8974 6851

www.bsmall.co.uk

Bloomsbury www.bloomsbury.com

Book Guild 01273 472534

www.bookguild.co.uk

British Museum 020 7323 1234

www.britishmuseum.co.uk

Floris (Book Source) 0870 240 2182

www.florisbooks.co.uk

Frances Lincoln 020 7284 4009

www.franceslincoln.com

Impact 01225 446666

www.impactpublishing.co.uk

Jessica Kingsley Publishers 020 7833 2307

www.jkp.com

Usborne 020 7430 2800

www.usborne.co.uk

Walker Books 020 7793 0909

www.walker.co.uk

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.

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

Free Information Pack

Barrington Stokes publish books specifically for slow and reluctant readers. A free information pack has been produced to help parents work out why their child is having problems with reading. The pack is available from bookshops or from Barrington Stokes (send A4 sae (75p) Parent Pack, Barrington Stokes, 18 Walker Street, Edinburgh EH3 7LP

The Children's Poetry Bookshelf National Write-a-Poem Competition.

To link with the 'Identity' theme of National Poetry Day 2007, the Children's Poetry Bookshelf is asking children, aged 7-11 years, to write a poem on the theme of 'Me'. There will be two age groups: 7-8 years and 9-11 years, and poems must be no longer than 25 lines. www.childrenspetrybookshelf.co.uk or to Children's Poetry Bookshelf National Write-a-Poem Competition, 4th Floor, 2 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RA.

The closing date is 16th October. The prizes will be Children's Poetry Bookshelf memberships and books.

Regional Diary

All regular meetings listed below are included automatically in every issue, please let us know of any changes. New members attending their first meeting should phone to check it is happening as shown. Changes to Jo: 01392 438876 email: jo4eo@aol.com Please check your details in case there has been a technical mistake or human error. Thanks. Jo

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. Website: www.Bedford-Home-Ed.org.uk

The Luton Home Education Group established 2004 - We are a small but expanding group. For a copy of the latest newsletter contact Fran on 01582 515458 email: franticfran100@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. Bernie 01582 866207 or email: southbeds.homeed@ntlworld.com

BERKSHIRE

email list for home educators in Berkshire and surrounding counties.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BerkshireHomeEducators>
Varied activities and HE events for all ages most days
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

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

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

South Bucks: meetings for craft, activities, play, speakers, drama, trips etc. Contact: Jackie 01753 886924 or Gail 01628 483895 email: 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 Outside Education Group for details of all events contact Clare 01490 412167 cefarrall@corwen.net

Delamere Weekly alternative education programme with Delamere Forest Rangers

Chester Meetings every other week for music crafts and educational activities.

Frodsham Social meetings and Youth achievement/ DoE award meetings every other week.

Deeside Monthly Ice Skating

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 Liz 01642 800940

CORNWALL

Free events sheets every two months via Email or SAEs. Contact: Anna Wheeler, Cambrose Farm, Redruth, TR16 4HT 01209 890378 Annawheeler.cam@btinternet.com

Local information on our local home ed website: www.freewebs.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.

Penzance PZ HOME ED Monday afternoons, weekly lively and interesting workshops at SureStart

centre, £3/2.50 per family. Also at other times; football, swimming sessions and spanish tuition.

Contact Ruth Boulton 01736 350887 or tboulton@phonecoop.coop

CUMBRIA

Informal gatherings for socialising, support and activities. Cumbria Otherwise Newsletter, for full details of events throughout the county contact Martin, 01539 732918 email: cumbria.otherwise@dsl.pipex.com

Kendal 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 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, 4th Thursday of
month 12pm-2pm, with professional art teacher. £3.50
per child, £3 per child if 2 or more in family. Term time
only. Minimum 3 bookings. Contact Sian or Marek on
01246 473902.

Derby Group, 4th Thurs of month. Contact Andy 01332
752998 or andy@derbyhe.co.uk

Amber Valley, Alfreton area, meetings, 30 minute drive
from Derby, Nottingham, Matlock and Mansfield
contact: Deborah 01773 778380 or Helen 01332 883545

DEVON

EO Devon Newsletter for details contact Kate: email
katefernhill@aol.com or phone 01392 851370

National Trust (Devon) card is held by Louise, 01392
209289 email: louise_239@fsmail.net

Exeter Wednesday, Free Range Learning, all ages.
Spanish, Yoga, science, music, cooking, art + craft
contact Annie 01392 434167

Exeter Thursday, alternate weekly outings contact
Louise 01392 209289 email: 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
Okehampton meetings on alternate weeks, contact
Barbara 01837 55805

East and Mid Devon: Contact Kate 01392 851370

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: South Devon Home Education Group

Mondays: swimming at **Totnes** - Ivana 01803 840830
Tuesdays: outings, museums + camping trips contact
Sally 01803 551955

Wednesday: weekly meetings in hall near Totnes
contact Helen 01803 665604

Thursday: workshops - Sara or Helen 01803 665604
see Devon Newsletter (details above) for more info.

South Devon: Dart Valley H.E. Network an alternative
to established groups and/or help contacting families
with similar interests. New EO group meets fortnightly -
a small group of children and parents interested in
exploring history in an autonomous way.

Natural History Group new group meeting monthly for a
Natural History ramble. Entomology (insects). Themes
to follow include rock pools, spiders, pond-dipping,
birds, bats, for details of all of the Dart Valley groups

Hannah/Gordon: 01803 762788, 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

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

DORSET

Regular meetings, Rosemary 01747 853593

Bournemouth area: local website www.he-ed.org.uk

Meeting every Monday for crafts, games, play etc.

Friendly, welcoming group. Contact: June

01202 827945 bugchick@btinternet.com

Poole & Bournemouth area, For fortnightly meetings
with lots of space and lots of activities - contact Rachel
or Donna at shec4u@yahoo.co.uk

DURHAM

Durham based weekly meeting call Juliet 01207 544473

or Beth 07719530472. Yahoo chat group at:

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

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

ESSEX

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

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

Colchester Bowling and swimming monthly - also

informal meetings fortnightly. debbie-m@lineone.net or
0778 6570870

Southend OTHENA - Older children/Teens News &

Activities (11+) for details contact Michelle:

ab006h6097@blueyonder.co.uk or 01702 307834

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/OTHENA/>

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

Contact Julie, email: julie.ashton@ntlworld.com

Various venues across Essex, New Teens Group,

meeting monthly - Sally@brisley.freemove.co.uk

Around Essex Educational visits twice monthly, Thurs.

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

Westcliff/Southend FREYA - fortnightly informal
meetings on Fridays throughout Summer, 1-4pm. Please

contact Shirley on 01702 308698, freya-day@fsmail.net
or <http://freya-day.blogspot.com>

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Monthly social meetings open to all. Regular workshops

and outings. Website:

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

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

01684 290087 openhorizons@ntlworld.com

Caroline 01242 890351 camrose@ieee.org

Beverley 01242 524091 or Mhairi 01452 384104.

Dursley Home Educators meeting first weds every

month for social, support and activities. Swimming and
occasional outings. All welcome. Contact Paula 01453

519287 email: uks_sneaky@hotmail.com

Gloucester meetings & swimming. Contact Dawn

01452 540019 dawnandmike@blueyonder.co.uk

or Tracy 07941 612092

South Gloucestershire

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

HAMPSHIRE

Petersfield, ACTIVEO, 5 events a week within 20 miles,
all welcome. 01428 712394 website: 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:

jbar1955@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, Imaskell@tesco.net

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

Romsey/New Forest area, fortnightly – details email Anne on annimax1@yahoo.co.uk

HERTFORDSHIRE (see also N.London)

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

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

Stevenage Swimming Pool, Swimming Lessons every Thursday 10.30am, term time. All ages and abilities. £1.40 per session. Contact Barbara on 01707 891021 or email: babs.mcdonald@ntlworld.com

ISLE OF MAN

Isle of Man Home Education Network. Meeting monthly for themed activities.

<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 and email group:

wealdenhomeeducatorsnetwork@yahoo.groups.com

Ash, Sandwich, Dover, Canterbury, Ramsgate and surrounding areas Contact Leanne 01304 814498

Isle of Thanet Contact: Vanda 01843 842629

Medway towns Contact: Bridget 01634 234938

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

5 regular meeting venues across Leicestershire.

Also meetings for swimming, skating, walks, playing, hanging out and much more. To find out what's going on in Leicestershire please contact Alex Caldwell 0116 2720209 or email Alex: alex.caldwell@tiscali.co.uk

LINCOLNSHIRE

website: www.activelincs.org.uk

Activelincs Home Education Group - for a newsletter and list of regional events call: Donna 01472 752507, Helena 01724 720595 or Tessa 01522 790452

Lincoln Cathedral Home-educators - Central Lincoln activities crafts, play, walks, science etc. Regular meetings for the city. Contact Ruth 01522 804583. Variety of informal events and get-togethers. Contact Christine 01507 338070, christinehalse1@yahoo.co.uk

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, Wednesdays. Morning session includes Science (ages 7 - 11) and Magic Maths (ages 7 - teen) followed by guest speakers for ages 7 - teen (various topics, eg: book illustration, police, Christian Aid, local history, photography & more). Low cost. Afternoon session for socialising and playing in the 3 adjoining fields. Some families stay all day, others just come for the morning or afternoon. Tel Gina 020 8299 1135.

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

Grove Park group meets every other Friday. Crafts, volleyball, football, tabletennis - open to any ideas. Contact: Claire 020 8402 5831

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

Lewisham Thursdays 11-1 then to park afterwards. Jemima 020 8297 5672 jemimacomish@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 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, call 020 8954 1885 or Vicki email: Aceva@btinternet.com

N London Hornsey Home Educators Club

Currently up to 12, but older kids welcome. Range of activities, socialising and fun. 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

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

WEDNESDAY 12-2.30 pm, fortnightly during termtime. Pool table, soft play room, outdoor play area, equipped for all ages. Optional organised activity. Welcoming all for fun, friendship and support. Alison 020 8569 9398 or Kathryn 020 8566 0543 or kathrynvglynn@hotmail.com or Alison@rothwell1973.fsnet.co.uk

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

MANCHESTER

Manchester, contact Sue 0161 881 4830

Madcow Manchester + District events and support email list from Lesley: lesley.blackshaw@ntlworld.com

MERSEYSIDE

www.homeeducationnetworkuk.co.uk

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

NORFOLK

West Norfolk

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/WestNorfolkHomeEducators>

*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 07799065097 could people please text their number, not leave a message - for both

Thetford, 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

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

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

SUFFOLK

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

Suffolk/Norfolk border Steiner style grp for the under

7s. Craft activities and peaceful, imaginative play *

Suffolk/Norfolk border craft activities for 5-10 yr olds, contact * Hilary 07799065097 could people please text

their number, not leave a message * 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

Wild Meadows ... A Group of 3- 14 year olds meet regularly with a bunch of 26 to 40+ year olds in Ringsfield, Suffolk. We meet to skill share and learn from our kids in a chaotic, eco fiendly and creative way! For more info contact Mell Harrison on 0845 337 0282

SURREY

P.A.C.T. Surrey's home education group. Monthly newsletter containing information about activities, outings, events etc. For more information and subscription form please contact pat@jellyed.com or Jeremy on 01483 546515.

Guildford Spectrum skating during term time Friday 1-4pm Rachel 01483 565703 (No Sunday calls please.)

Cobham area just off A3 - Learning Group for parents + children 0-7, in 26 acres of private woodland, based on High/Scope approach to independent learning and problem solving. For more details contact Rachael: rachael.underwood@classicfm.net 01932 706191

Guildford area: Theatre bookings: Tisha 01483 898575. Under 10s: Nicky 01483 232080

Dorking/Reigate area. Helen Burnett 01737 243606

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

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

SUSSEX

Regional Contact for East Sussex:

Winnie Durdant-Hollamy; 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: Ali 01424 814175, Rachel 01424 422178 or Emily 01424 719570

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@tiscall.co.uk

Worthing/Shoreham Beach: Avis 01273 542589 or 0770 3647954

Forest Row Area: Winnie 01342 826087

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

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

Shoreham, West Sussex, HEDspace open to all. Weekly meetings and special events. Well equipped for all ages (including babies). Structured and unstructured activities, including languages, drama, dance and play-leader led sessions. Vickie 01903 244571 or Hayley 01273 454366, email: martinandhayley@yahoo.co.uk

Wealden Home Ed website:

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

TYNE & WEAR and NORTHUMBRLAND

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@eldekivist.com Or tel: Jane: 01380 860969

WORCESTERSHIRE

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

North Worcs/Kidderminster meetings - Gail Tutcher 01562 822034 email: gail@tqmi.co.uk

YORKSHIRE EAST

Regular meetings and visits. Alison 01405 769902
Bridlington, regular meeting every Thursday morning except first in month. Ring Jacqui 01262 679769 or Alison 01377 240324.

YORKSHIRE NORTH

Near York, new group meets Wednesdays for various educational activities, crafts and social contact. Please email: contact@yorkeo.co.uk for further details

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

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

near Malton, meeting weekly on MONDAYS in a hall or around the region for outings. contact Tess on 01947 825772 or email: tess@chrisgeall.com

Harrogate new group started at the Hookstone Chase community centre. Meeting weekly on Tuesdays 1-3pm 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. "Wednesday Club" (every Wednesday) at West Park Centre, Headingley, Leeds. For a list of local Museum/places of interest and Theatre trips, or details of any meetings 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

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 862118

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.net/firms.com

PEMBROKESHIRE

EO swim & sauna: Haverfordwest pool, Dew St. 3pm, 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

Llanddeusant monthly meeting. Contact Laura 01545 580528

GWYNEDD

Bangor and area home ed network, meetings for craft spanish climbing chemistry music outings and other, social activities also Montessori sessions. Local contact: Heather 01248 352336

Bangor Weekly meetings for craft, social and other activities. Julie (Gwynedd) 01286 678181 or Nick (Anglesey) 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: smw5@tutor.open.ac.uk

N.E. WALES / BORDERS

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

Monthly group in Froncysyllte, near Llangollen off the A5. PIs call Sam 01978 861011

Advertisements

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

Advertising Rates: Non-members – (subject to space and interest to members) £35 per issue (50 words)

Members (please give full contact details) – small items/notices, free; commercial enterprises, £25 per issue

NB: DEADLINE FOR ADVERT COPY AND PAYMENT – 1ST OF MONTH PRIOR TO ISSUE.

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On next page ...

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

MORE ADVERTISEMENTS

(PLEASE SEE MAIN ADVERTS PAGE FOR HOW TO PLACE, AND NOTE)

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NOTICES

Public Liability Insurance: Please read

The Public Liability Insurance has been renewed during July and I would be grateful if anyone who runs a local group which is on the list could contact me briefly to confirm that the group is still running and that contact details remain the same. The current list is available on the web site, or by contacting me.

I have been contacted regularly since taking over as Treasurer regarding the insurance and have struggled to explain what exactly is the nature of the cover. I recently read something which clarified it for me. Public Liability covers the groups in the event of injury or death or damage to property that happens as a result of **demonstrable** negligence by some party involved in Education Otherwise. This means that the person injured or owner of damaged property would have to sue Education Otherwise and demonstrate that there was negligence that led to the incident/accident.

The insurance is in no way personal accident insurance and does not cover accidental injury to people attending groups.

Martin Wise and myself will be putting together a short leaflet for groups explaining the insurance and answering the most common questions, and we will hopefully be getting copies out to all groups on the list in the near future.

If any other groups wish to be added to the list please get in touch.

Martine Frampton (Treasurer)
01608 812411 martine-frampton@macunlimited.net

Notice to Devon Members

As of August there will be a Devon Events newsletter produced by EO members. This newsletter will be open to all HERs, whether or not they are members of EO, wishing to list their events. As there is a great deal happening in the county we feel there is room for another newsletter. Anyone wishing to have their meetings or events listed please contact Kate (see RD for details).

MORE NOTICES

EMAIL ENQUIRIES ADDRESS CHANGE

It has become necessary to change the EO email enquiries line due to the amount of spam it was receiving, to the extent that some ISPs were adding EO email addresses to their blacklist. The email enquiries address is not widely advertised...we advertise the website and people can find the Contact details from there.

If you have the Email Enquiry address bookmarked, please change it to:
eoemailhelpline@education-otherwise.org

It's a long address now, but not easily anticipated by spammers. If you are aware of anywhere that the old email address is promoted, please advise them of the new address or contact Jacqui (jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk) with details of where you have seen it so that it may be followed up.

PO BOX ADDRESS

We have a new PO Box address for Education Otherwise and will gradually wind down the London one, so please make sure you use the new address which is:

PO Box 325, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 3XW

EO EMAIL LISTS AND FORUMS

EO runs four 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. There is also a list for members in Scotland which is new but is intended to run along the same lines as the general discussion list, but be more Scotland focussed. The third list is for single parents who are home educating so that they can share some of the problems unique to them. The final list is for the children of members only to chat with each other. All four of these lists may be joined via the front page of the Education Otherwise website at www.education-otherwise.org

There is also a Members Area on the website with several discussion forums. There is a general discussion forum which is used by everyone and there are forums available for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland members to share things specific to them. There is a business forum used for the purpose of running EO and responding to various Govt Consultations. There is also a specialist forum for EO Local Contacts to share information and experience and gain mutual support in their volunteer roles.

To join the Member's Forum, send an email to forums@education-otherwise.org giving your preferred User Name, your Full (real) Name, the email address you wish to have associated with the forum and either your full postal address or your EO Membership Number. You will receive an email at your associated email address confirming your Username and giving you a password. You will be able to alter this password to something more memorable yourself.

Job Changes

Anne Rix has left the role of Publications Secretary and taken on the role of Enquiries Secretary, one of the roles named in EO's Articles of Association. Thank you Anne for all you have done and stepping into the breach when necessary.

June Wilson-Billing has taken on the role of Publications Secretary. Good luck to her in her new role. I'm sure you'll have fun getting to grips with things.

Welcome Sue Flindt and Judith Wright to the EO Telephone Helpline team. Sue has worked on the 'snailmail' Helpline for some time now and Judith has been a Local Contact for several years. If you think you have the skills and time to join the Helpline Team, please contact Iris Harrison or Jo Borthen (contact details on back page).

Ali Willer is giving up the Children's Pages support role after the next issue and Julie Arnold will be taking this on. Thanks to Ali for all you've done...and good luck to Julie.

MORE NOTICES

NEW EO MEMBERSHIP FORMS

These are now available. Anyone wanting the new forms please contact me (preferably via email where possible) and tell me roughly how many you would like. Even if you have already requested new forms from me recently, PLEASE tell me again!

Please do **NOT** continue to use the old 'yellow' membership forms. The new 'cream' membership forms not only have the revised subscription rates and correct return address but have been completely redesigned and have some very important information about misuse of the contact lists and declaration of professional interest. This is to protect our members and so it will be very important that you stop using the old membership forms. I appreciate that this may sound wasteful and EO strives to avoid waste but for this once, this is necessary. There are some people still using very old forms, which is costing EO and present members a lot of money in lost fees.

Membership forms and other items of EO stationery are available from:

Gail Borrows at eostationery@gmail.com 01638 483895 or 48 Marlow Bottom, Marlow, SL7 3NB

LEARNPREMIUM - Special Offer

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 20 October each year. We have recently **reduced the charge to £10** as there are only 3 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 Administrator database@education-otherwise.org

LOST OR MISSING ITEMS

If you lose your contact list, handbook or membership card and require a replacement, you need to send a cheque or postal order made payable to 'Education Otherwise Association Limited' to Education Otherwise, 22 Lewis Drive, St Germans, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3FB

Cost of Replacement Items:

2006 Contact List - £3 plus 50p sae

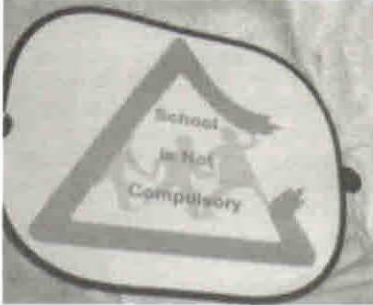
2006 Handbook - £3 plus 50p sae

Membership Card - £1 plus 23p sae.

Merchandising

EO is expanding the products it sells with the aim of making the knowledge that School Is Not Compulsory 'common' knowledge, to ensure that people know that home education is common...and not illegal.

Sun Shades



These are white polyester, spring out shades measuring 36 cm (14 in) x 44 (17 in) cm. They feature the EO red triangle plus the words School Is Not Compulsory and are affixed to your car window by two small suction pads.

Priced at:

£4.75 each, including P&P

£9.00 for a pair, including P&P

Please make cheque payable to Education Otherwise Trading Limited and send to: Jacqui Houlding, 38 Garwood Close, Westbrook, Warrington. WA5 8TF

Don't forget to give your name and address!

T Shirts – EO's Oskar Range

As mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter, Oskar Hay's design received the most votes from members. The design has now been 'tidied up' as shown here.

21 Opening Offer 21

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



There are 21 colours available with a contrasting coloured design...and EO will be stocking three colours normally. As an opening offer, the choice of all 21 colours is available for all orders received by Sue by 21 August 2006. There have been suggestions on the colours to be held as 'normal' stock. This decision will be made finally when all pre-orders have been received and we can see which you consider to be the most popular.

Colours available to choose from (*limited colours available for size 3XL: Heather, White, Black, Navy Blue):

Ash, Bottle Green, Burgundy, Heather, Khaki, Natural, Olive, Purple, Royal Blue, Steel Blue, White, Black, Brick Red, Deep Navy, Kelly Green, Light Graphite, Navy Blue,

Orange, Red, Sky Blue, Sunflower. Colours can be seen on the EO Website.

Prices will be:

Small/Medium/Large £5.15 incl P&P, 2XL/3XL £5.40 incl P&P, Children's £4.70 incl P&P

Pre Order Form for EO 'Oskar' T Shirt Range

Colours Available: Ash, Bottle Green, Burgundy, Heather*, Khaki, Natural, Olive, Purple, Royal Blue, Steel Blue, White*, Black*, Brick Red, Deep Navy, Kelly Green, Light Graphite, Navy Blue*, Orange, Red, Sky Blue, Sunflower. Colours can be seen on the EO Website.

Sizes Available:

Adult:

Small	£5.15
Medium	£5.15
Large	£5.15
2XL	£5.40
3XL*	£5.40 – (Available colours*)

Children:

Age	1-2	}	
	2-3	}	
	3-4	}	
	5-6	}	£4.70
	7-8	}	
	9-11	}	
	12-13	}	

Please provide a telephone number so that, if your form arrives after the pre-order cut off date of 21 August, you can be called to ascertain which of the chosen stock colours you would like.

Size	Colour	Quantity	Cost	Total
P&P (UK) Included				N/A
P&P (Overseas)				
Total				

Your Name:

Your Address:

Your Telephone Number:

Cheque Number:

Please send this order form (or a copy) to:

Susan Ryan, 211 The Meadway, Tilehurst, Reading. Berks RG30 4NN
 Cheque to be made payable to: Education Otherwise Trading Limited

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 type)

If you would prefer to volunteer for infrequent or small tasks please contact: Emma Birkenshaw emma.birkenshaw@gmail.com tel 0113 2172795 Emma will add you to our volunteer database and contact you with information when help is needed.

Small Groups:

Strategic Planning Group: Phil Hicks, Martin Wise, Emma Birkenshaw, Laurie Charlton, Sarah Cook, Fizz El-Sawah, Gail Borrows, Jill Fisher, Lynda Hitchman, Jacqui Houlding, Julie Ridley

Finance: Martine Frampton, Lynda Hitchman, Ann Samuel Till, Phil Hicks, Janet Simpson, Martin Wise

Enquiries: Anne Rix, Pam Bellinger, Geraldine Adams, Iris Harrison, Jo Borthen, Edwina Theunissen, Jacqui Houlding.

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

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

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

Scotland Group: Ann Samuel Till, Fiona Chaff, Rebecca Kail, Jill Fisher, Jane Bathgate

Child Protection Group: Anne Wade, Janet Simpson, Jane Bathgate, Pam Bellinger.

Grievances and Complaints

Lynda Hitchman, 22 Lewis Drive, St Germans, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3FB 01553 617551
database@education-otherwise.org

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

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
eonthwest@yahoo.co.uk

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

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

Wales (S): Celia McDonagh, Cardiff,
07763 729055 celiamdconagh@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

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

South East: (Acting): Ann Newstead, Kent
01689 826504 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.com

EO Email Lists & Forums

EO runs four 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. The second is for **Single Parents** for them to share the unique problems they have. Third is for home educators living in **Scotland**. Finally, the Children's List for the **children** of members of EO only. All four lists may be joined via the EO home page at www.education-otherwise.org

There is also a **Members Area** on the website with several discussion forums. To join the Member's Forum, send an email to 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
Emma Birkenshaw (Yorks. West) 0113 2172795
emma.birkenshaw@gmail.com
Gail Borrows (Bucks) 01628 483895
gail@borrows.plus.com (Membership Sec.)
Pauline Butterworth (Cleveland) 01642 570786
pollyb47@aol.com (LC Co-Ordinator)
Laurie Charlton (Leics) 0116 2591051
lauriecharlton@hotmail.com (M: 07837 061126)
Sarah Cook (Cumbria) 01768 896019
sarah@croggies.freereserve.co.uk (Chair)
Fizz El-Sawah (London Middx) 01895 422138
fizztryingtohomeed@hotmail.com
Martine Frampton (Gloucs) 01608 812411
martine-frampton@macunlimited.net (Treasurer)
Phil Hicks (London Central) 0207 2294385
phil@hickslondon.com (General Sec.)
Celia McDonagh (Wales) 07763 729055
celiamcdonagh@yahoo.co.uk
Anne Rix (Devon) 01237 451535
anne@annerix.demon.co.uk (Enquiries Sec.)
Janet Simpson (Lincs) 01427 617313
HE@hubblesimpson.co.uk
June Wilson-Billing (Dorset) 01202 827945
educationotherwise@mac.com (Publications Sec.)
Martin Wise (Cumbria) 01539 732918
martlakes@dsl.pipex.com (Vice-Chair)

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 or 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 check website for availability of items, or phone)

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: Cal Bailes

23 Belsay Place, Newcastle upon Tyne NE45NX

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 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, EO Stalls and email lists: Jacqui Houlding,

01925 654856 jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk

Newsletter Coordinator: (Acting) Beth Ley-Greaves,

Kensington Cottage, Gravel Pit Rd. Wootton Bridge,

loW, PO33 4RB 01983 248860

bethleygreaves@wight365.net

Small Jobs Coordinator: Emma Birkenshaw

emma.birkenshaw@gmail.com 0113 2172795

Coordinator for Local Contacts: Pauline Butterworth

(Cleveland) 01642 570786 pollyb47@aol.com

Publications Secretary: June Wilson-Billing (see

Publications, foot of left column)

Membership Secretary: Gail Borrows (Bucks)

01628 483895 gail@borrows.plus.com

Enquiries Secretary: Anne Rix, Hembury Orchard,

Frithelstock, Torrington, EX38 8JT 01237 451535

anne@annerix.demon.co.uk

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@phonecoop.coop

Treasurer: Martine Frampton, 70 Fosseyway Avenue,

Moreton in Marsh, GL56 0EA tel: 01608 812411 (not

mornings) martine-frampton@macunlimited.net

Chairperson: Sarah Cook, The Old Cottage, Croglin,

Carlisle CA4 9RZ 01768 896019

sarah@croggies.freereserve.co.uk

Vice-Chair: Martin Wise, Mill Beck, Linnet Grove, Kendal,

LA9 7RP 01539 732 918 martlakes@dsl.pipex.com

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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