

# education otherwise



Illustration by Joe Coyle Age 14

**No. 173 – December 2006**

£2

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2007**

**Please mark material 'for publication' and include your name, address, phone number and email (if you have it) as we may need to contact you to discuss your contribution**

**(though details may be withheld from publication on request). Email contributions will be acknowledged within a few days. If you require a postal acknowledgement please enclose sae.**

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

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

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

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OR IF YOUR NEWSLETTER DOES NOT ARRIVE  
please contact the DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR (See inside back cover)**

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## CO-ORDINATORIAL

### *Hello Again,*

Firstly, EO would be really grateful if you could find the time to complete and return the questionnaire in the centre pages of this Newsletter. Kids, please could you consider completing the questionnaire in the Children's Pages.

Julie, our new (acting) Children's Pages Co-ordinator is now offering a more private Pen-pal option. So, if you would like a Pen-pal and do not wish to show your address or are not allowed you have the option to have your replies sent to Julie and she will forward them (unopened) to you, see Children's Pages for details.

**PLEASE keep your beautiful artworks for our NL covers coming!** Jacqui Houlding is ready and waiting to receive them via e-mail (jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk) or post (38 Garwood Close, Westbrook, Warrington, WA5 8TF) NB: if you would like any original artwork that you may send in returned then please send an sac – personally I would just send in a photocopy if I were you.

I'm sorry to say that I am unable to continue working on the Newsletter for now, so the very best of luck to Sue Ryan who will be taking over from me (contact details on the inside back cover).

*Beth x*

## **2007 CONTACT LIST – WILL YOUR ENTRY BE CORRECT?**

The 2007 contact list will be prepared in February '07 for distribution with the April newsletter and '07 Handbook. You'll need to let me know of any changes to your details by 10 February 2007.

If you have changed your name, address, phone number, e-mail address or wish to add any further children or star them as home educated, please let me know asap. Thanks. Lynda Hitchman  
database@education-otherwise.org Tel: 01553 617551

### ☺☺☺☺☺ **EO Merchandise Discount** ☺☺☺☺☺

Hopefully, by the time you receive this newsletter, EO will be selling its merchandise and publications on line. We're also adding to the range of 'stuff' that is available. The idea is that, by having more things available, people will buy them and advertise home education by using/wearing the items.

As this is a new venture...there will be new items added all the time...so keep checking back to see what we have.

There is no longer an EO Member price and a non-member price. What will happen now is that all EO Members are entitled to a 10% discount on everything that is sold. To gain this discount, you must enter the code:

**EdOt1st (ECHO-delta-OSCAR-tango-One-sierra-tango)**

**Please note: If you forget to enter the discount code, you cannot claim it back later.**

### **VISUALLY IMPAIRED?**

Do you have genuine difficulty reading the small print in the newsletter?  
Then please contact Sue the Acting Newsletter co-ordinator (back page)  
to discuss alternative access options.

## CONTACT LIST FEEDBACK NEEDED

The new list is much bigger than in previous years and is getting too unwieldy to print and distribute in this format.

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

Any idea or comments to Lynda – Database.  
database@education-otherwise.org

**IMPORTANT: The contact list is confidential and for the sole and personal use of members. In no circumstances can it be used for any purpose other than to facilitate social contact between members. It is NOT to be used to prepare circular letters/emails or for mailing lists for advertising, research, marketing, resources or any other purpose. Anyone found misusing the contact list or divulging any of its contents to non-members will have their EO membership terminated. Contact Lynda or a Council Member with any concerns.**

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS & LOST OR MISSING ITEMS

If you change your address, phone number, email or other details please remember to contact the Database Administrator. If we don't have your new address then you may miss newsletter mailings. If you would like a replacement newsletter or lose your contact list or members handbook or membership card and require a replacement you need to send a cheque or postal order made payable to "Education Otherwise Association Limited" along with an sae to the address below:

### Cost of Replacement Items:

Contact List £3 and 55p sae  
Contact List and Handbook £6 and 75p sae  
Handbook £3 and 55p sae  
Newsletter £2 and 37p sae  
Membership Card £1 and 23p sae  
Truancy card £1 and 23p sae

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

## CHANGE OF PO BOX ADDRESS

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

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

## PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE: PLEASE READ.

The Public Liability Insurance has been renewed during July and we would be grateful if anyone who runs a local group which is on the list could contact us briefly to confirm that the group is still running and that contact details remain the same. The current list of groups who are covered is available on the web site.

There is now a **new form** for notifying us of your group. It can be downloaded from the website. If any other groups wish to be added to the list please download the form, complete and return it as indicated. You can also use this form to notify us of any significant changes. Please ensure that you have read the Local Group Guidelines, also available from the website.

Please note: 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 person 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.**

We 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.

Please confirm details to: EOInsuranceCover@education-otherwise.org

Martin Wise, Vice Chair

## EO National Gathering

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2007

YHA Okehampton, Klondyke Road, Okehampton Station, Devon, EX20 LEW



This preserved Southern Railway station has been restored to its former glory after being closed for 25 years. Within the station grounds, the Youth Hostel is an ideal base for exploring the Dartmoor National Park and the countryside, moors and coast of Devon.

Shake off those winter blues and come and join us at this wonderful youth hostel situated in a lovely part of the country. Come for the full gathering or just the weekend but most of all come and enjoy yourself.

An open council meeting and AGM will take place on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> February. All members of EO are welcome to attend.

For further information and booking forms please send sae to Joss Nowell at:

53 Wilton Close  
Southmead  
Bristol  
BS10 5PF

or email [homeed@gmail.com](mailto:homeed@gmail.com)

### **Notice of Council Meeting Saturday 10 February 2007 10.00 am for 10.30 start**

An Open Council Meeting will be held during the Gathering at Okehampton.

All members of Education Otherwise are welcome to attend the meeting (and risk the chance of being mentioned in the Informal Report of the meeting). There is a lot of discussion at these meetings and they rarely finish before 6 pm so it is important that it starts on time and remains on topic. To ease the flow of discussion, everyone is entitled to be heard but it is requested that people speak when acknowledged by the Chair of the meeting.

Any member of Education Otherwise may request an item be added to the agenda for the meeting. If you wish to have something discussed at the meeting, please send your agenda item together with a brief report on why you wish the item to be placed on the agenda and what you expect to be discussed. (Please note, EO is now using a 'Consent Agenda' so that uncontentious group reports are accepted en bloc. If someone wishes to query a report, they should contact Jacqui asking for the report to be removed from the 'bloc' with reasons as to why you want to discuss the report. This should reach Jacqui by Wednesday, 17 January and it will be circulated with the agenda so that people can consider their views prior to the meeting.

If you have placed an item on the agenda but cannot attend the meeting yourself, please nominate someone (with their agreement) to speak for you at the meeting, or contact me and I will speak on your behalf if you don't know anybody attending.

Jacqui Houlding  
38 Garwood Close, Westbrook, Warrington. WA5 8TF  
[jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk](mailto:jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk)

# EXCITING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!!

## ENQUIRIES VOLUNTEERS

EO's Enquiry Line (Helpline) is one of our key charitable services. It's always busy receiving calls from anxious parents considering or just starting out on HE, overwhelmed by how enormous the task seems. Typically after 45 mins or an hour's talk with a volunteer, they find that many other parents are in the same position, and that there's plenty of support available.

Could you be one of the people who ease this transition from anxiety to relieved anticipation? You need to be an EO member, experienced in home education, a good listener and aware of the variety of styles of doing home education, so that you can offer the caller a range of options for how to go about it, and help them find a way that will suit their child, family and way of life. It also helps if you are familiar with the way Local Authorities operate in practice.

The Helpline operates a rota system, and typically volunteers will be 'on' one week in four, although you do not need to be by the phone full-time so long as you are available at some time during the day and evening.

If you think you might be able to contribute to EO's work in this way and would like more information, please contact **Jo Borthen on 01392 438876 jo4eo@aol.com** or, if Jo's not available, **Anne Rix on 01237 451535**.

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## NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS INVITED

EO, as a registered charity, is required to have between 14 and 19 Trustees - known in EO as Council Members. There is always a steady turnover of council members and to maintain a healthy functioning council we need a few new Trustees every year. As a member of EO already doing a job for the organisation, Council would like to ask you to consider whether you have the interest and time to take on the role of Trustee.

Council members are elected by signed up members at the AGM (or can, in special circumstances, be co-opted between AGMs) and are either recommended by the council or proposed by any signed up member, following the procedure which appears in the newsletter with the notice of the AGM. A term of office usually runs for 3 years. The Trustees of a charity have, and must accept, ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of a charity, and ensuring that it is solvent, well-run, and meeting the needs for which it is set up. The commitment required to be a Trustee for EO can be variable, to suit personal situations. Council members have a wide variety of backgrounds, skills and experience, and are usually fitting their work for EO in around home-educating family life. It is useful, but not vital, to be able to access email regularly as some council business is discussed on the EO Management forum and an email list between meetings.

In EO, Trustees are drawn from EO members, normally have some direct experience of home education and already have taken on jobs within EO. (See EO Handbook p18) Council meetings take place 3 times a year, usually associated with a youth hostel gathering or a camp, in venues around the country, and it is useful to attend at least one meeting per year to meet other council members. Council meetings are open to any interested EO member. Further information from the Charity Commission about the role of Trustees can be found in the publication "The Essential Trustee: What you need to know" available free from the Charity Commission 0845 300 0218 or on the website:

[www.charity-commission.gov.uk/publications/cc3.asp](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/publications/cc3.asp).

I also have a few spare copies if anyone considering being a Trustee would like one.

If you would like to consider taking a share in the legal responsibility for decision making in EO or would like more info about what is involved then please contact me or any other council member to chat further about being involved.

**Sarah Cook 01768 896019**

## COULD YOU BE A LOCAL CONTACT FOR ONE OF THESE AREAS?

Please contact Pauline Butterworth on 01642 570786 or at pollyb47@aol.com

### OVERSEAS

America

### ENGLAND

Cheshire

Derbyshire

Dorset East

Dorset West

Durham

East Sussex - Brighton

Gloucestershire North

Hampshire West

Herefordshire

Hertfordshire

Kent (excluding SE &

NE Kent)

Lancashire - Blackpool

Lancashire - Bolton

London - Central

London - North West

London - Enfield

London - West (Richmond &  
Kingston)

Norfolk - Breckland

Norfolk - Great Yarmouth

Norfolk - West

Northamptonshire

Nottingham County

West Midlands - Birmingham  
and Solihull

West Midlands -

Wolverhampton and Walsall

West Midlands - Dudley

### 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

### RESIGNING CONTACTS

Joy Beasley - West Midlands -

Dudley

Diane Berry - Nottingham

County

### NEW ACTING CONTACTS

Karen Lees - Derby City

Bronwen Hamilton - Gwent

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## LETTERS

### Comments re ADHD letter (Issue 172)

As a new member of EO I was horrified to read this letter. Whilst I accept everyone is entitled to their opinion and the lady is entitled to request information from others on the subject of ADHD, what she actually wrote was out of order. ADHD is a real condition not a 'so called' one, and there is plenty of evidence for it, it was actually first recognised over 100 years ago so it's not even a new condition. My oldest son, who is the child I am home schooling because of his secondary school's unwillingness to work with his condition or give him any of the help he is entitled to, has ADHD and has been on medication. I resent the implication that parents are 'drugging' their children for behavioural problems. My Son has been tested for food allergies and I have also changed his diet in the vain hope that it will make a difference, he does not have any allergies and stopping him from eating certain foods did not help his ADHD, so to claim that the above "are at the back of such problems" is utter rubbish. What the letter failed to mention was that the CCHR was founded by the Church of Scientology and they have their own beliefs on the use of psychiatric drugs, ones which I and

many others do not share. I have looked at the CCHR website and again was horrified by what I read. Some of the content of the letter should not have been printed and it made me very angry to read ADHD sufferers being put down by telling them their condition doesn't exist. You wouldn't do it to someone with a physical disability and you shouldn't do it to people with a mental disability just because it cannot be seen.

*Nikki Rose*  
01865 321831  
ganrose@msn.com

### Resources for teaching German?

Can anyone recommend any resources for teaching German to primary aged children? I've got plenty of materials for French but so far have not been able to find anything appropriate for German. Thank you.

*Suzanne Webb-Thomas*  
01743 340714  
E-mail: webbsthomas@dialstart.net

## 'KIDZONE' – New club in SE London/Kent for older kids

I wonder whether any other parents in SE London/Kent have struggled to find an EO social group for their older (11+) HE kids?? We have been to some lovely groups over the past 6 months or so, but sadly the children have always been much younger than my son (soon to be 12). So... my son has suggested that we try to organise something ourselves (HELP!), along the lines of a social club for children aged 11+.

It would be fantastic if we could get something off the ground in the next few weeks. I will happily find a venue – likely to be a church or community hall, perhaps in the Bromley area (we are in Orpington) – and I'm thinking that initially perhaps the kids could bring along things like games consoles and games, laptops, keyboards, karaoke machines (!) or really anything else they enjoy doing, and which they will be happy to share. We are aiming for a 'chilled out' session where they (and us) can relax and hopefully make some new friends. If there is enough interest, I would hope that we could meet every week. I would try to keep the costs minimal – just to cover the venue, drinks and nibbles.

If anyone is interested in this idea (PLEASE!!!) I am open to ideas and suggestions, and offers of help! Please contact *Sue* on 01689 823479 or email [greeniehouse@ntlworld.com](mailto:greeniehouse@ntlworld.com)

### Horse for share/loan

I am looking for an experienced teenager or small adult to share or loan my 14.2hh 6-year old ExmoorX gelding.

I have advertised him before, but the difference is that I am now willing for him to leave the Bradford-on-Avon yard, where he is now staying. Apologies to those who contacted me before and were turned down.

He lives out full-time, so his new home must have adequate grazing and at least one other companion horse.

*Peggy Thomas*  
01225 760880

## Share your experiences on bullying

Have you and your children experienced the horrific, heartbreaking experience of school bullying?

Did you do through the whole process of hopelessness, guilt, frustration, anger and hurt, trying to get it sorted out; only to be confronted with lies, denial, spite, abuse, threats and intimidation?

Granada TV are making an in-depth programme about bullying and all the problems associated with it; the emotional and/or physical damage caused; the denial by schools and LEAs; the intimidation parents receive whilst making complaints or removing children from school; the way bullying wrecks lives; the lack of support for parents and children who are going through this painful process.

Would you be willing to share your experiences? You do not need to give your name; just talk, get it out of your system and validated. Ian Wild in Cork, please ring and share your sensible, helpful thoughts.

Please ring Jane Eames on 0207 5782333 (she will ring you straight back if you ask). Or e-mail her at [jane.eames@granadamedia.com](mailto:jane.eames@granadamedia.com)

Please help this work parents, for our children's sake.

*Christine Jones*  
01348 881603

### Home Educated Pop Group!

I have just heard the most adorable track at [www.myspace.com/querubim](http://www.myspace.com/querubim). It is called "I love you, Harry Potter".

It's sung by 3 children, Miles (6), Claudia (4) and Alexandra (3) and they are all home educated.

It's well worth a listen – who knows, they could be the chart toppers of tomorrow!

*Beth Ley-Greaves*  
[beth\\_lg@hotmail.com](mailto:beth_lg@hotmail.com)

# EDUCATING ARCHIE

carols at Christmastide

Mojo  
W.O. K.O.S.



REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT - RECYCLE THIS CARTOON

1st seen in 1988

## Diary of a Home Educating Nobody

The end of another Home Educating year in sight and I tend to get reflective! There's been so many of them now I can hardly remember them all!

I remember though, back when we started with two small children, when I had little concern of anything outside of their simple naive little worlds. We were still at the stage of cutting and sticking and low-key outings and big print in picture books and coloured wax crayons.

I saw older children at our HE groups, scary teenagers and people tackling GCSEs, as things far too remote from the cosy world of infants and didn't pay much attention, possibly subconsciously thinking 'that'll never be me'!

We carried on with the cutting and sticking as it evolved into more sophisticated collages, models, moving models even, scrapbooks of our adventures to museums and galleries and field trips. And we even managed the odd written words! The big print books got smaller and evolved into smaller print books with bigger words, bigger concepts, and websites less colourful than The Tweenies. The explorative dismantling became more useful construction and instead of destroying things the children were actually mending things. The bits of rag wrapped round dolls developed into sewing of sophisticated jackets for the infant who's become a teenager. And the skills needed to make endless lumps of mud that used to adorn our drive like rows of decorative brown tarts have developed into making beautiful pottery bowls that sit on our windowsills in triumphant pride. And all those tedious tantrums over actually getting down to some written work have progressed instead into excitement over filling in an application form and compiling an accompanying letter.

Then suddenly my little Home Educator is going off to college. And I'm left wondering 'how did I get here'? And I wish I had paid more attention to those others who had gone before!

We never meant to HE forever. But on the other hand we never meant to stop either. We just didn't look too far ahead and plan much, taking it very day-to-day, meeting the children's needs and following their interests at the time. Yet despite this apparently plan-less day-to-day type of education the children seem to have become educated. They know what they want. They know they can go for what they want. And they know that they do not have to stay within the confines of paper walls.

I came across the quote about 'paper walls' quite by accident. I was reading 'The History Of Mr Polly' by H G Wells again, having dismissed it as boring when I was made to do it at school at fourteen. It was much later in life that I understood the marvellous concept within this quote:

"When a man has once broken through the paper walls of every day circumstance, those unsubstantial walls that hold so many of us securely prisoned from the cradle to the grave, he has made a discovery. If the world does not please you, *you can change it.*"

Plan or not, if there was one thing we wanted the children to learn as we Home Educated them, it was to understand that they do not have to be restricted by these 'paper walls'. So perhaps we had a plan after all. Perhaps our plan was to educate them to have vision beyond 'paper walls'. 'Think outside the box' being the contemporary term for it. Or just plain 'imagination' describes it just as well!

We wanted them to understand that it was okay to have aspirations that may take them beyond the ordinary and the conventional. We wanted to give them the confidence to choose a route that was suited to them individually, not merely suited to an institution. We wanted to show them that they could exercise choice; even if it is a choice others choose not to make.

Most people tend not to exercise their choices, most particularly with education. Most people educate within paper walls. And why not – I don't blame them. It's safe there. We all want cosy familiar walls round us sometimes – me included. But the point is that true education enables people to see and consider alternatives beyond the conventional 'paper walls'.

There are as many ways to learn as there are people in the world. Many of us have similarities. The National Curriculum is designed for our similarities only. But we also have many differences, so rigid plans don't always help. We are so diverse that trying to fit us all in the same plan is absolutely useless. And many of our differences don't always come to light at first, so plans always need revising. The aim of long-term plans often thwarted. So maybe day-to-day education is best. Who knows? It depends on the individual. It depends on how you want to work. It depends on what you're comfortable with and who you are.

However, although we may not have had a long-term academic plan, or we may not have planned to HE long-term, one thing we did have was an intention.

We had an intention to have children who understood the world they were in, how to fit into it, how to contribute to it, how to get the best from it and how to give the best back. We had an intention to equip them with the skills they needed to do that first and foremost above anything else, qualifications included. We had an intention to encourage the children to have good relationships with others, to be sociable, articulate and confident. We had the intention that we would support and encourage them to go in any direction they wanted to go regardless of any 'paper walls' that might be in their way. We had the intention to show them worlds beyond the 'paper walls' others try to make them believe are there.

Somehow, within our day-to-day education our eldest has now found a way of developing her interests and education beyond the home, as she was ready and keen to do. She didn't let the fact that she was supposed to have GCSEs to apply for the course stop her and she applied anyway. She had two interviews and was accepted a year earlier than if she had been in school. She has already stepped beyond the 'paper walls' - and the apron strings that the misunderstanding public seem to think we HEers use to attach our children to us!

It is wonderful to disprove some of the myths we are led to believe by those who build these 'paper walls' in the first place.

Myths like: give children too much attention and they'll be unable to perform without it. Myths like: keep the children at home too much and they'll become shy and unsociable and unable to perform out in the world. Myths like: children need to be writing all the time in order to get an education. Myths like: children have to be taught and controlled by adults in order to be educated. Myths like: children need hours of practise, hours of homework, hours in school, hours at a desk to learn anything. Myths like: you need a National Curriculum in order to achieve.

All myths. All 'paper walls'. All broken through constantly by Home Educators!

This family has come a long way since the simple days of cutting and sticking, card and mud-pie making. But it all goes to show that even those simple beginnings have resulted in the children becoming educated enough to begin to take their place within the world. And to understand for themselves that it is almost always possible to break through 'paper walls' and step beyond boundaries.

*Ross Mountney*  
*ross.mountney@tiscali.co.uk*

### **More for the HE mosaic**

Following on, I would like to volunteer a fuller picture of our home education experiences.

We withdrew our six year old son from school in Spring 1998 due to persistent bullying and a lack of action on behalf of the school to tackle it, although there were some other issues too. He had lost all faith in the adults who were supposed to be caring for him and began to adopt the behaviour of the bullies.

We then received a letter informing us of our son's role in a playground fight, the reasons for which the school had failed to pick up on. Seeing where this was leading, we felt we had no option but to remove him. Our second son then at the nursery followed suit, as our actions had clearly rocked the boat too much for us to remain connected to the school in any way.

Like many others just starting out, we felt overwhelmed by the gravity of our decision and the reaction of others. Our inspector visited us twice in three months, despite the fact there was little to show him and no real plan. But we persevered with very little support, no computer and a tight budget. After about a year our son reverted back to the child he had been before school interfered and it was then we realised the freedom that home education could bring us.

As a family we have been able to do so much through not being involved with school, showing what is possible when children are not rushed, constantly weary and mentally and emotionally drained. The memories that come to mind include the building of many dens, (their best construction being 8 metres up in an old oak tree, using wood, ropes and some very long nails!), and raising money for charity by swimming, washing cars, carol singing and running various stalls.

They have participated in a variety of sports every week, climbed mountains, been on countless country walks and days out, built an igloo in Scotland, helped in a house extension, organised a membership club with rules and activities, learned to swim competently and have been fully involved in the scouting movement. Most importantly they have had lots of uninterrupted free time enabling them to read a remarkable number of books, create models, sketch, and write stories and poems.

Many of these pastimes would not have been possible had we continued with school, or even if we could have found the time I know the children would have been far too tired to

enjoy them fully or to think them up in the first place. I am well aware that we are not unique, that my children are not special, except to us, and that many families manage to do much the same as us and some far more. Hopefully though by putting it down on paper, we may inspire someone else.

After 5 years of being home educated, our eldest son did want to try school. He wanted to find out what he was missing and I guess he was naturally starting to grow up and away from me. We recognised it was his choice now so let him go. Although he did have ongoing and worrying problems settling, including further bullying, he surprised us by persevering and not missing a day.

Our next two children confidently chose the same path in turn and also prefer school at this time, (we also still have a daughter at home). Although our second son says he wishes he had gone to school sooner, I believe that the experiences of their earlier years have brought them tremendous benefit in ways they may not yet understand, enabling them to cope better with the challenges of life. I know that I would not now feel so comfortable about them being in school had they not had that chance to enjoy their childhood first and spend that time together.

Having a foot in both camps has given me an insight into problems in the education system which have made me feel the need to act to help children not as fortunate as ours. Who is listening to them? Am I the only one distressed by the 4 year olds being dragged across the playground at the start of every term? By the pressure put on them to "perform" academically, the poor provision for physical activity and the homework given to primary school children which can leave them in tears?

There is a real issue with children being extremely bored by much of the curriculum, a sad lack of outings outside the classroom and serious problems with poor discipline and control, contributing to bullying and intimidation. The list of concerns doesn't end here but for my children at least, the positive social aspects and some flashes of excellent teaching appear to matter more. Yet no-one seems to be at all concerned for those who have no choice or escape.

My eldest daughter (year 6), has again brought home details of a homework club aimed to help them achieve their "full potential". It is hardly surprising so many youngsters are exhausted and depressed. One teacher remarked to me at a secondary school parents evening last year, "schools are no longer here to serve the needs of the children". This is in a nutshell why home education is such a lifeline and why our message is so vital.

*Helen Burton,*

01773 710970

E-mail: [hjburton@tesco.net](mailto:hjburton@tesco.net)

### **Child Protection, the Charity Commission & Balancing Power**

I decided to write about the above issues because of the articles in the last newsletter regarding child protection and EO. My awareness of these matters was awakened as I started work for EO in the late 1980s. We had just turned to home education ourselves because our dyslexic sons had become highly anxious about going to school. I was so grateful for the support we'd received, and from then on my special interest in the charity was directed to the children who had become very stressed by their experiences. Sadly, I

was soon to discover that these stresses could encompass many facets of child protection. These might include school phobic children being forced to attend school by officials convinced the problem was due to inadequate parenting, through to family disputes, where home education would become a weapon in custody battles.

I wanted to do something to help the families I'd come to know who were struggling with officials who didn't seem to understand school phobia, and who believed home education to be an unfortunate legal loophole. But lacking adequate experience I asked around in EO for someone to assist me. I was directed to Anne and Rob Wade which was, as I was soon to discover, a well trodden path for families with troubled children, or those who wished to help them. My approach turned out to be one of countless others that Anne, then as now, received. Sometimes these approaches were with regard to child protection matters, invariably in response to members asking for confidential help and support. Anne has a professional background in this field as well as great compassion for those in these dreadful situations. She works responsibly and with enormous sensitivity. She, and the rest of the Child Protection Group (CPG), do not have a remit to act in judgement of those brought to their attention. They will, however, inform members on how to obtain advice and how to take concerns to the relevant outside agencies. At other times, information may go to the CPG from disparate sources, which only begins to form a picture when taken as a whole. Then the CPG may seek advice directly from the NSPCC etc. No names would be given, not least because malicious or misguided accusations can also occur which can be devastating to those involved. Confidentiality is essential when the CPG present reports and recommendations for action to EO's governing Council.

#### The development of Child Protection policy in EO

A little background history may help those newer to EO to appreciate the context of these matters. EO, like most charities, started out small and fairly informal, and this worked fine with the numbers of people involved. One downside of that time was that not many people were aware of this superb way of helping children with their education. However, as the organisation and the demands on it have grown, so the approach and structures have needed to be reworked; this process is continually being refined in the light of experience and certainly continues to be work in progress. This need to formalise working practice was also driven by requirements from statutory bodies to whom we became accountable such as the Charity Commission. Anne Wade, for her part, has worked with many others in the voluntary sector (who often call on Anne's expertise) in the formulation of best practice in the area of child protection. She has also drawn on contributions from EO members following discussions on this topic in EO workshops, meetings, and from articles in the newsletter, not least the latest consultation process with the membership prior to the revision of EO's own child protection Code of Practice.

#### The Charity Commission

This Code of Practice is something we are required to have, a point I fully appreciated when as Chair I was approached by the Charity Commission. Concerns had been raised by a member which led the C.C. to question how, in such an unusually open management structure, we were able to safeguard members' confidentiality on sensitive issues and how we kept reasonable order. The officer asked about all our operating policies, with particular focus on child protection. He was also very interested in how the Trustees (Council Members) managed undisciplined behaviour in and out of meetings which might affect the execution of policy for which the CMs are ultimately accountable. It took in-depth discussions about all of these issues before the officer from the Charity Commission was satisfied enough that our open structure was manageable.

### The balance between Power & Responsibility in EO

The latter was a fair point of concern to raise because such open decision making processes, where membership involvement is encouraged, can be vulnerable to undue pressure from a minority but strongly held view. In welcoming such active participation we must also remember *that there is a balance between power and responsibility*. Open Council Meetings are EO's decision making forum. Those who offer to do some work for EO, or who offer their ideas and opinions to the meetings, have to agree to accept the authority of the Meeting. They do not, can not, have the power to force their views on the meeting, most particularly the CMs who are, in the end, responsible for the decisions made. As the CMs have the responsibility to see that the Charity acts correctly and makes sound decisions, so they must hold the final balance of power. In fact they can call for a CM only vote or closed meeting if necessary, as they cannot be forced to be held responsible for decisions they oppose. Such actions have rarely taken place because it goes against our basic ethos. EO does try to achieve consensus in the open Meetings if at all possible

### The Child Protection Group & Parental Responsibility

I do urge members who haven't done so already to read the section on Child Protection in EO's Handbook. This would be interesting and useful for individual members, especially those new to organising events. In addition to the expected issues around child protection, topics range from practical matters around safe behaviour at gatherings including fire & physical safety, through reminders about being cautious with advertising a private address, to a thoughtful piece on Equality and Diversity. All these are aspects of child protection and safety. Of course the work of the Child Protection Group in no way undermines the responsibility of parents to personally ensure the safety of their children. In fact the CPG continually underpin their information with reminders about this – they also remind those of us who nearly forget that the parental responsibility issue must be clearly stated on all event information! I have no doubts that this group, as with all the other Small Groups who are answerable to the Council/Meeting, would be more than happy to continue answering queries about their area of responsibility. I know all welcome feedback and ideas too. EO is built on such positive interactions (but please remember these are ordinary mortals with regard to hours in the day and with families to care for).

### A post-script

The families I supported in my time with EO were a tiny number of those Anne (and Rob with his essential input of detailed legal knowledge), and now the Child Protection Group, have helped through the years, sometimes by assisting others, sometimes directly. EO is required to have a proper Child Protection policy and that needs someone to implement it, be a point of contact, keep abreast of current issues/legislation, and share this information. This is for the protection of those falsely accused just as much as the innocents. Anne has very competently worked this up with the support of the EO Council, and has brought a special sincerity and courage to the role. She has also built up a team of others, i.e. EO's Child Protection Group, who are prepared and able to help. EO is enormously lucky to have this expertise.

**Gwen Baldock. October 2006** Email: [gwen.baldock@ntlworld.com](mailto:gwen.baldock@ntlworld.com)

*NB. CPG Review: EO is currently in the middle of establishing the legalities with regard to data protection and child protection. The CPG does not have a clear, written policy about how it should operate and its relationship with council (as indicated by the CPGISG) and this is now under review.*

*June Wilson-Billing (Publications Secretary) for EO Council*

**Protecting children, personal data and the reputation of EO**  
(Response to CPG – 'A Reply to Leslie Safran Barson,  
from the Child Protection Group)

I usually glance through the Newsletter and read an item or two that catches my eye. Such was the case with the letter from Leslie Barson about the Child Protection Group, published in the October issue and the reply from the Group. I am not familiar with the history of the Group, but the very fact that Leslie has raised concerns about the role and work of the Group suggests that its activities are more opaque than the Group realises.

Reading the response began to give me cause for concern, in particular the four bullet points summarising the role of the Group. Together, they suggest to me that the Group is assuming powers and a role that is both beyond their gift and unsafe for themselves and EO. I can support the need for a group "to keep informed about child protection issues", indeed this is a very sensible approach. I would interpret this to involve monitoring developments in child protection law and practice and identifying issues of relevance for EO. This should lead to policy recommendations to Council, which would either adopt or modify policies and then themselves inform members. The wording "to establish, implement and maintain a child protection policy" implies an autonomy which bypasses Council and is surely unacceptable.

Equally, "to pass on information, advice and support" is worryingly vague. To whom is this directed? The inclusion of "advice" in this also raises competence issues. Despite the best efforts of Group members, I doubt that their knowledge and experience matches that of the statutory authorities. It cannot be for EO to advice in that very sensitive area. Of course, it makes sense for there to be someone to turn to in EO if a parent has child protection worries and wants an informal chat. But the responsibility for referring concerns to the authorities must rest with the individual. It cannot be for a group in the name of EO to assume this role. This would seem to me to expose EO to unnecessary risks.

Which leads me to the last bullet point – "to collate information within EO, to alert Council and membership to areas of concern, and where necessary to refer concerns to the statutory services". The last phrase is dealt with above: collating information suggests keeping records which could bring the Group and EO into conflict with the Data Protection Act. If the Group presently holds personal data relating to members, it should consider very carefully whether this complies with the requirements of the Act. Unless depersonalised, concerns should not be referred to Council (they should have been passed by the concerned individual to the statutory authorities). If the matter warrants wider circulation, this must be a matter for Council to decide. The safety of children must be paramount, but not at the expense of unfounded allegations. False accusation can not only blight the life of an innocent individual, but also could leave EO liable to action in the Courts.

So, thank you Leslie for alerting us to the need to debate this issue. This is my contribution; doubtless others will have alternative views, but if the debate leads to clear and robust policies, both for child protection and data protection, EO will emerge the stronger for it.

*Peter Borrows  
Marlow*

### **A Letter from Leslie Barson**

I would like to thank the Child Protection Group for setting out so clearly what they think the role of the group is. I think this makes the specific areas that need addressing more obvious. From their letter EO NL Oct 2006:

*"The role of the Child Protection Group can be summarised as*

- to keep informed about child protection issues*
- to pass on information, advice and support*
- to establish, implement and maintain a child protection policy*
- to collate information within EO, to alert the Council and membership to areas of concern, and where necessary to refer concerns to the statutory services."*

I will look at each of these points out of order.

The third role, to establish, implement and maintain a child protection policy, may be necessary for EO. According to your letter though, a policy has been established and implemented. Therefore it is only necessary for EO to keep abreast of changes in the law or developments in child protection policies. This is the case in many areas of EO's work, for example data protection, HE and the law, HE and its relationship to LAs etc.

What is vital is that any new information is brought to EO council itself (who is responsible for what 'EO' does). The council should make any decisions about the any child protection policy in an open and minuted debate. Further, whilst I may agree that this monitoring needs to be done, I do not think it needs a separate constituted group to do it but should just be part of the regular admin process of EO.

The first, second and fourth roles mentioned are not one that I think EO should undertake for several reasons:

1. These areas are not about promoting HE which is what EO is there to do.
2. The EO advisor could get it wrong and have thereby potentially opened EO up to enormous social and legal problems.
3. If EO takes up roles 1, 2, and 4 they could be divisive to the organisation itself with members, right up to council, taking sides in individual cases.
4. Council does not have the time, mandate or skills to deal with these issues. There is too much work to do promoting HE and coping with HE issues.

There are many other organisations that home educators can go to if they are worried about a child protection issue. Please let us leave those valiant volunteers to deal with home education issues.

Thank you Leslie Barson

## The HEART of the Matter



How fast does your heart beat?

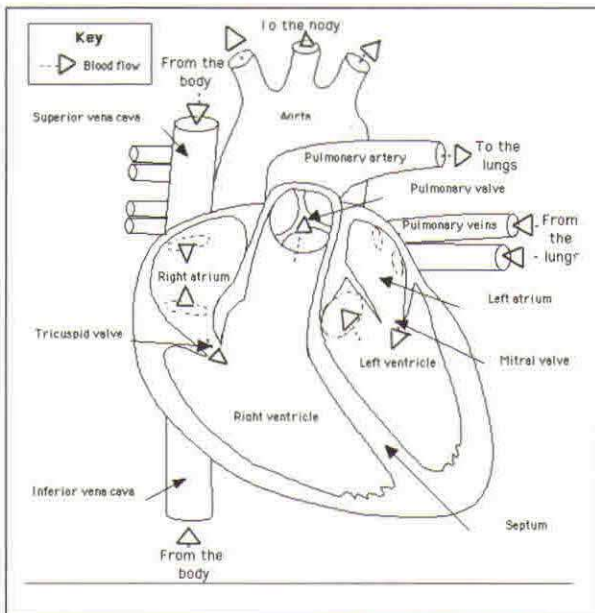
How long does it take your heart to beat 1,000 times?

How long does it take your heart to beat 1,000,000 times?

If you started counting your heartbeats at midnight on 1 January 2007, when would you count the millionth beat?

**Hint:**

Estimate your heartbeats per minute, then per hour and then per day.



## Scottish Guidance Review (Nov 06-Feb 07)

### The Statutory Guidance on Home Education in Scotland/ The Review

The promised 'two years after' review of the guidance has opened. The Scottish Executive announced the consultation as begun on November 2<sup>nd</sup> with contributions to be submitted by February 14<sup>th</sup> 2007.

They state in their 'summary and background' at the start of the consultation document "The purpose of this consultation is to seek opinions from users of the guidance on how it is working so far and suggestions for improving it. The Executive recognise home education as a key aspect of parental choice: this consultation is not proposing changes to policy on home education." It goes on to list questions on all sections of the guidance to prompt the contributor/ consultant. On page 13 it is clearly stated how to respond and how they will handle responses. The relevant links are at the end of this report.

EO will submit a response to the consultation . This will be carried out by the Scotland group. The method will be as before by inviting responses from EO members and other home educators who wish to feedback via EO. This will be done through the newsletter, the EO Scotland forum, the EO Scotland list and personal contact and all responses will be taken into account in the EO response to the Executive. Home educators are encouraged to respond directly to the Executive and to share these responses with EO. They can also simply do one or the other.

Generally the feedback to date is that there are still a few very obstructive local authorities (not following the guidelines) but there are equally some with considerable improvements and others still heading in the right direction but with room for improvement. This is an opportunity to both identify the poor ones and to offer constructive suggestion as to spreading the improvement and raising the standards so they are consistent across Scottish authorities. In order to achieve that, It is necessary to point out what is working well along with what isn't. It is also another opportunity to highlight the legal anomaly with regard to the "requiring consent to withdraw from school" issue although the review document makes it clear there is no intention to change the law only to improve the guidance in the light of practice. The present Statutory Guidance attempts to minimise the anomaly but not all authorities are following the guidance.

Home educators are encouraged to reflect and feedback their experiences, observations and suggestions with a view towards improved guidance and its uptake.

#### *The Scotland Group*

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The links:

The consultation document can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/152946/0041070.pdf>

The guidance at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2004/03/19061/34285>

Responses to the Executive:

Contact: Nicola Radley

Address: Education Department (Educational Options Team) 2B North, Victoria Quay Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

Email: [home.education@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:home.education@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

Online : <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations>

Responses ( and copies) to EO:

Paper contributions should be sent to the PO BOX from where it will be distributed to the Scotland Group.

Discussions and views expressed on the EO Scotland Forum and The EO Scotland List will be taken into account also.

Email contributions can be sent to:

The Scotland group/EO: [ScotlandGovernmentPolicy@education-otherwise.org](mailto:ScotlandGovernmentPolicy@education-otherwise.org)

## 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**

### SPECIAL OFFER

Due to returns from the launch offer of the Oskar T shirts, we have four T Shirts for sale that are not the standard colours:

Adult small - heather (looks marl grey) £5.15

Adult Small - Orange £5.15

Youth Medium - Kelly Green £5.15

Child 9-11 - Bark £4.70

*These are one off T shirts and once they're gone.....they're gone*

Cheques payable to E.O.Trading Ltd.  
Lucinda Smart, 4 Chester Gardens,  
Church Gresley, Swadlincote,  
Derbyshire, DE11 9PU.

### 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  
£15 including p&p for the reader  
and exercise pack.

Cheques payable to 'Education Otherwise' to: M.  
Frampton, 70 Fossey Avenue,  
Moreton in Marsh, Glos, GL56 0EA

### EO Car Stickers

*Help spread the word.*

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

**EO Hoodies - hooded sweatshirts with triangle logo and the letters SINC**  
now available in navy blue and black  
children's and adult sizes

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

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

### EO HOME EDUCATION CARDS

(*"Truancy Cards"*)

Extra cards are available at £1 for each card required from: EO HE Cards, 5 Ridge Way, Aldridge, Walsall WS9 0HL. Please send a stamped, addressed envelope plus a cheque or postal order or the equivalent in 50p or £1 stamps.

Cheques and postal orders made payable to

'Education Otherwise Association Ltd.'

Email queries to

**database@education-otherwise.org**

### LearnPremium

This 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. Subscription until 16 October 2007.

There are around 130,000 pages of online lessons and resources on a wide range of subjects including English to Design & Technology or Physical Education. 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 the facility to generate tests.

**Free Trials** - contact Lynda - Database.  
**database@education-otherwise.org**

### EO/NEC vouchers

- £30 discount per course -

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

(quoting EO membership number)  
or sarah@croggies.freeseve.co.uk

**Home Education Organisation seeks a little tender loving from its members – please let it know how you feel!**

Education Otherwise was set up in 1977 by a few families as a support organisation for home educators. Many of the structures that are in place and many of the procedures for running the organisation have developed in an organic way, over time, as required improvements or changes have been identified. The enormous increase in the number of members in recent years means this informal management style has become inefficient and less appropriate for an organisation the size of EO.

As a result, the organisation is beginning to creak slightly at the seams and in an attempt to address this, the council has created a small group (the Strategic Development Group (SDG)) to look into what EO does, how it does it and whether it could do it better.

So to help us find out what's going on, the SDG would be grateful if you'd fill out the questionnaire below. Sadly, the response to such questionnaires is usually woefully inadequate so, if you're reading this and thinking "I'll do it tomorrow", we can tell you that you won't! So please spend five minutes (or alternatively do it tomorrow and prove us wrong) and let us have your views – the good, the bad and the ugly! Please don't worry about filling it all in - just answer the questions you feel like answering – Thanks.

*Don't forget, we're basically a volunteer run organisation. Not all suggestions will be feasible, especially with the current level of volunteers. So...please think carefully about question 13! 😊*

**Your Membership of EO**

1.	How long have you been a member of EO?	_____ years
2.	Has your membership ever lapsed? Did you lapse inadvertently? If so, for how long and why did you decide to rejoin? .....	Yes / No Yes / No .....

**Your Relationship with EO**

3.	Have you ever sought help from your local contact?	Yes / No
4.	Have you found it easy to decide who to contact within EO if you needed information about anything?	Yes / No
5.	Have you contacted any of the other Useful Contacts or Council Members from the back page of the Newsletter? Which post holders have you contacted? .....	Yes / No .....
6.	Do you attend local home education group meetings?	Yes / No
7.	Do you think local groups should be more closely associated with national EO? If so, how? .....	Yes / No .....
8.	In what ways have you benefited from your membership of EO?..... ..... .....	
9.	Are you happy with the level of support you've had from EO?	Yes / No

10.	Have you had any problems in your dealings with EO? If yes, please indicate nature of problems..... .....	Yes / No
11.	Do you feel part of EO or disconnected from the national organisation?	Conn / Disconn
12.	Are there ways EO could make better links between national EO and local members? .... .....	
13.	Would you be interested in doing voluntary work for EO? If yes, please add a short note when you return the questionnaire and your offer will be forwarded to the Small Jobs Co-ordinator. It will be separate from this form so that your anonymity can be maintained when completing the questionnaire.	Yes / No
14.	Are there ways in which EO could make it easier for members to get involved in the work of the charity? ..... .....	Yes / No

#### You and EO's Resources

15.	Do you read the newsletter? What additional things would you like to see in the newsletter?..... ..... Is there anything you would wish to change in the newsletter?..... .....	Yes / No
16.	Do you find the Contact List helps with meeting others? How do you think this could be improved?..... .....	Yes / No
17.	Do you find the Member's Handbook useful? What more/less would you want to see in the Handbook?..... .....	Yes / No
18.	Do you use the EO website?    Never / Occasionally / Daily / Weekly / Monthly / More Do you have any suggestions for improvements?..... ..... .....	
19.	Do you belong to any home education email lists?	Yes / No
20.	Do your children read the Children's Pages of the Newsletter?	Yes / No
21.	Do your children use the EO Children's email list?	Yes / No
22.	What more would your children like EO to do?..... ..... .....	

**Please don't forget to fill in as much of this questionnaire as you can.  
Your comments will help shape the EO that your children will inherit**

### EO and National Meetings

23.	Have you been to an EO Council meeting?	Yes / No
24.	Do you have any suggestions for ways in which EO could improve Council Meetings or the current decision making process? .....	
25.	EO Council meetings traditionally move around the country to cover the widest range of members. Do you think this is a good idea or do you think they should be in a central location each time, eg London or the Midlands?	London/Mids Mobile
26.	Should EO use postal votes on major issues of policy? What type of thing do you define as a major policy issue? .....	Yes / No

### EO and Local Government

27.	Have you had any difficulties with your Local Authority?	Yes / No
28.	Have you needed help in your dealings with the Local Authority? Did you find this help within EO? Are there any ways EO could improve this? .....	Yes / No Yes / No
29.	Should EO work with Las to improve the way home educators are viewed and treated?	Yes / No

### EO and National Government

30.	Should EO be more forceful when responding to Government consultations about proposed legislation?	Yes / No
31.	Do you think EO should interact more with Government to 'promote' an EO/Home Education viewpoint?	Yes / No

### EO and Fund Raising

32.	Do you think EO should apply for outside funding? If yes, what should outside funding be used for? .....	Yes / No
	What kinds of funding would you find unacceptable? .....	

Start thinking about what you'd like to include in the 'Any Other Comments' which is important to you (in relation to home education and Education Otherwise only please) but which may not have been addressed in this questionnaire.

## EO and the Future

33.	What would be the single most useful thing EO could do to make your life as a home educator better? .....	
34.	If EO was to stop doing one thing, what should it be? .....	
35.	EO has a fairly high turnover rate of members. Do you have any ideas of things EO could offer to encourage more members to renew?.....	
36.	Would you like EO to provide additional facilities like: exam centres, resources centres, insurance based legal service for home educators with retained solicitors?	Yes / No
	Exam Centres?	Yes / No
	Resource Centres?	Yes / No
	Insurance based legal service for home educators with retained solicitors?	Yes / No
	Other? .....	
	What level of subscription would you be prepared to pay to achieve an expansion of EO services to members? .....	

## Miscellaneous (wouldn't be a proper questionnaire without a miscellaneous)

37.	Does EO do enough about proactive publicity? .....	Yes / No
	In what ways could this be improved? .....	
38.	Would you like to see EO negotiate more access to curriculum material such as Learnpremium? (See Handbook p16 or webpage <a href="http://www.education-otherwise.org/About%20EO/Joining/LearnCoUk.htm">http://www.education-otherwise.org/About%20EO/Joining/LearnCoUk.htm</a> ) for more information on Learnpremium). Do you have any particular suggestions?.....	Yes / No
39.	Do you think the aims of EO, as on back cover of Newsletter, should still be EO's principal aims?	Yes / No
Any other comments? .....		
.....		
.....		
.....		

Completed questionnaires should be returned to:

Jacqui Houlding, 38 Garwood Close, Westbrook, Warrington. WA5 8TF.  
You can also email your responses (please match answers and numbers) to Jacqui.  
[jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk](mailto:jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk)

## EDUCATION OTHERWISE MERCHANDISE

As you will have seen elsewhere in this newsletter, we will soon be selling EO merchandise online. However, not everyone uses the internet! Now whilst that, to me, is almost unimaginable, I accept that I'm not the norm. You can still order individual items from our volunteers as per the individual adverts in this newsletter. However, if you want a range of different items, please use this order form. The prices here are for MEMBERS ONLY.

T Shirts	Member Price Incl P&P	Publications	Member Price Add P&P
Navy: Home Education – a real option Sizes M, L or XL	£6.00	Early Years	£3.60
		Teach Your Own <i>by John Holt</i>	£5.85
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## December 2006 Competition

Massive congratulations to the winners of last issues competition:  
Drew (11) and Bee (7) Lattimore from Dereham Norfolk,  
who win a copy of 'Evolution'!

Now, can you solve these four original challenges?  
This issues competition winner will receive a free copy of **The Da Vinci Game**.



The competition is open to all members of EO, except members of the Council and paid contractors.  
All entries to be sent before the end of December to:  
EO Competition, 79 Cumberland Avenue, Clevelys; Lancashire. FY5 2DS.

Four example questions are provided below:

**Codex** (6 letters) :

A globe so precious to children at play,  
Destroyed by a touch, it never can stay.

**Rose**:

Grant and Hepburn's film, named for this city,  
Like Hanks and Washington's in '93.

**Logic Key**:

In the rhyme, how many magpies for a secret  
never to be told?

**Vitruvian Man**:

Anagram: **Rip kindly guard**  
*His stories were just so!* (7,7)

**Answers:** **Codex:** Bubble **Rose:** Philadelphia (refers to two movies, Philadelphia Story and Philadelphia, **Logic Key:** 7 **Vitruvian Man:** Rearranging the letters of 'Rip kindly guard' creates *Rudyard Kipling*, author of the 'Just So Stories'.

Now for the Competition Questions:



**Codex**  
(7 letters)

The largest of its kind that's near by,  
Astronomers see its immense red eye.



**Rose**

Everything goes South at this location,  
It is essential for navigation.



**Logic Key**  
What is this 7 digit number?

▽ ♡ ♠ ♣ ♠ ♡ ▽



**Vitruvian Man**  
Anagram of an actor.

Anagram: **Hyped, I'm rude!**  
*Dr. Dolittle* (5,6)

For more information please visit [www.thedavincigame.com/eo.html](http://www.thedavincigame.com/eo.html)  
The game is available through Amazon.co.uk via the above page, or in many retail outlets.

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Tel: (020) 7278 1269 W: [www.lecardo.com](http://www.lecardo.com)

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Visit [www.tickseed.co.uk](http://www.tickseed.co.uk) to see the full range. Please mention Education Otherwise in the "any other information" section on your order and EO will receive a donation of 5% of the value of your order.

### **HOLIDAYS IN WEST WALES**

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**email: [cwmholidays@btconnect.com](mailto:cwmholidays@btconnect.com)**

**[www.cwmrhaffau-holidays.co.uk](http://www.cwmrhaffau-holidays.co.uk)**

**The Ark at Padworth near Reading Berkshire now has an education centre to support children aged 5-10 years who are home educated.**

The centre is open Mon-Thurs (34 weeks a year) 9.30am -3 pm.

Indoor facilities include a library and computers and there are great outdoor activities such as trampolines, adventure trail etc. The cost is £20 per child per day. Individuals are welcome. Further details from our home educators: Lorraine or Patricia tel: 0797 975 5696

### **CREATIVE PERSONAL WORKSHOPS**

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**CONTACT US NOW FOR FANTASTIC CHRISTMAS PROJECTS!**

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### Home Education Ski Trip

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### THE GREEN PARENT

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[zoesorkin@hotmail.com](mailto:zoesorkin@hotmail.com)

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## REVIEWS

### BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

#### **Pocket Money Christmas by Clare Beacon**

Ideas for twelve Christmas crafts, which includes cards, decorations and even gifts. The projects are great for small children with the help of an adult, and for older children to develop their skills, i.e. sewing, cutting, cooking. There are tips on what to collect and use, and it has bright pictures with easy to follow instructions. The projects have a star system which helps you choose at a glance a simple project (one star) or one that might take a while longer or be more challenging (three stars). A great idea! The book has ideas that we haven't seen before in other books of its kind, which makes it a great addition to our collection of craft books. There are two other books in the series due out 2007, Easter and Halloween, which we will definitely be seeking out. Julieann with Tony, Lydia (5) and Stan (2)

ISBN 1-902915-42-9 B Small Publishing

#### **The Little Reindeer by Michael Foreman**

A well-deserved Smarties Prize winner, this is a lovely story with enchanting pictures that both my children are going back to again and again. There is a seasonal element to the story, but this is one of the few Christmas books we've read that could easily be enjoyed at any time of year, centred as it is more on the reindeer than on the festivities. Highly recommended.

Tamlyn with Benedict (4) and Rowan (1)

£5.99 ISBN 1-8427-0582-2 Andersen Press

#### **Stargazers Almanac 2007**

This is the ideal Xmas present for anyone who loves looking at the night sky – it is designed for 'naked-eye' stargazing so you don't even need a telescope. There are two views of the night sky each month – north and south with lots of notes relating to history, folklore and myth. Sadly light pollution across the UK prevents many people seeing the sky's full potential and a special feature in this edition gives information about the Campaign for Dark Skies.

£12.99 ISBN 978-190345867-9 Hawthorne

#### **Winter, Nature Activities for Children**

##### **by Irmgard Kutsch and Brigitte Walden**

This brilliant book inspires you with the most wonderful activities and photos of the Children's Nature Garden School in Germany. There are some beautiful nativity scene ideas, wool carding and weaving with clear instructions for loom making. There are knitting patterns that even a complete non-knitter can follow – I tried them and they worked well. There is a section on woodwork and some brilliant, almost life size horses which are made from logs and branches – great fun to play on and easy to make with the help of a parent and some basic tools.

Hilary with Isaac (6) and Finty (1)

£12.99 ISBN 0-86315-564-Z Floris

#### **Winter**

This is a collection of poems, stories and songs used in Steiner Waldorf education. There are nice stories suitable for young children, all with a festive theme. There are ideas for simple nativity plays and poems about gnomes, snowmen and winter weather. This is an ideal book for a Steiner style group to use.

Hilary with Isaac (6) and Finty (1)

£6.99 ISBN 0-946206-49-X Wynstones

#### **Making Christmas Tree Decorations**

##### **by Judy Balchin**

We don't think this book is aimed at children. A lot of specialist craft materials and equipment are needed – such as inks, glues, beads, sequins, handmade papers and a photocopier to copy and enlarge templates. We didn't try any of the projects, as we would have needed to have gone on a shopping trip first, and none of the designs appealed to us! They looked very fiddly and time consuming. Unless you are a craft specialist looking for something different, we wouldn't recommend it.

Jill with Sarah (9)

£6.99 ISBN 1-84448-162-X Search Press

### OTHER BOOKS

#### **The Mortal Engines Series of Four Books**

##### **by Philip Reeve, published by Scholastic**

##### **1. Mortal Engine ISBN 0-439-97943-9**

This book is one of my favourites. It is set in the far distant future, where the cities move around on traction to avoid the volcanoes, which were caused by the 60 minute war, which had happened many years in the past. It's about Tom Natsworthy, an apprentice historian who is from London, and a girl named Hester Shaw who is from the 'out country'. Hester has gone to London to commit a murder and is stopped by Tom. They are both thrown out of London. The story follows them, as she strives to return to his beloved London and she seeks revenge for an incident in her past. It is an unusual story, which is quite difficult to describe, but it is an excellent fast moving adventure story. Absolutely brilliant.

##### **2. Predators Gold ISBN 0-439-97734-7**

Two years has passed since the end of the previous story. Tom and Hester have been flying around on the bird roads for that time. They are in danger as a rebel group are attempting to steal their ship. During their travels they find the Ice City of Anchorage, which has been devastated by a plague. Here their adventures continue, including Hester leaving and being kidnapped by the rebel group and Tom joining the Lost Boys to save her. I don't think this book is as good as the first one but it is still absolutely brilliant. This book is probably better suited for ages 10 and over.

##### **3. Infernal Devices ISBN 0-439-96393-1**

It has been about 15 years since the last story ended; Tom and Hester are now about 35. The story follows the adventures of their daughter Wren. Wren, who is

keen for an adventure, is kidnapped and thrown into slavery, whilst trying to help the Lost Boys find the Tin Book. Tom and Hester are drawn back into the adventure in order to search for her. This story is better than the previous two because of the battles and because the story is more complex and there is always potential danger.

#### **4. A Darkling Plain ISBN 0-439-94997-1**

This is the fourth and final book in the *Mortal Engines* series and in my opinion it is the best. It is an amazing finale to a brilliant series of books. Six months have passed since the end of the last story (*Infernal Devices*). Tom and Wren are on the bird roads flying in an air ship called the Jenny Haniver. They travel to Airhaven where there is a large group of traction cities, that is moving cities, which are getting ready to attack the anti-tractionists. There is a truce on which has put a temporary stop to the war. Tom and Wren are invited on an expedition to the wreckage of London where they find survivors of 'Medusa' - a nuclear bomb, which had backfired on London. If I say any more about the plot I will spoil the story but if you like fast moving adventure stories, get it and read it, it is amazingly brilliant. Jake (13)

#### **The Stone Light by Kai Meyer**

This is a fascinating, mystical tale with a wide variety of characters. This is the second book of a trilogy, which is about a girl called Merle who journeys about on Vermithrax, the obsidian lion. She has escaped from the city of Venice and, with the aid of the seemingly supernatural, being known as the Flowing Queen who currently lives in her head, attempts to save her home from the power of the evil Egyptians and their mummy warriors. Meanwhile, in Venice itself, her friend Serafin is sent on a mission to assassinate the ruling Egyptian himself - the Pharaoh. A book with a unique texture to it that made it an easy read from start to finish. I would definitely recommend it to any fantasy lovers from eleven upwards.

James (14)

£5.99 ISBN 1-4052-1640-9 Egmont

#### **Ancient Egypt**

by Simon Adams and Kent Weeks

This fact book has lots of information and is aimed at Key Stages 2 and 3. On each page there is a main bit of information and lots of snippets round it. There are also coloured pictures to illustrate the snippets. Every now and then there is a map to show where Giza, the Nile, Thebes and other places are. I thought it is a very good book. This book is lavishly illustrated and has some very clear photographs of Egyptian artefacts. There are see-through pages and panoramic fold-out pages. I did wonder, however, whether the computer graphic produced pictures, although impressive, are not accurate. For example, would the house layout of a town be lacking in organisation? It reminded me of a refugee camp,

which perhaps is not how a highly organised culture would have arranged it. All in all, I did think lovely book and good value for £10.99.

Anthea

£10.99 ISBN 07534-1361-2 Kingfisher

#### **Extreme Animals by Nicola Davies**

We humans are such a bunch of sissies! We can't stand the heat... We can't stand the cold... We can't do without food or water... And a few minutes without air is enough to finish us off. Luckily though not all creatures are such wimps. Extreme Animals will take you to freezing wastelands where you would freeze solid in a matter a seconds, to burning deserts where the temperature can reach 53 c, to the bottom of the ocean where there's no light and the water pressure would crush your lungs, to the heart of volcanoes where you would melt in minutes.. You'll see animals that can be cut into a million pieces and then put themselves back together piece by piece, animals that can live for hundreds of years, animals that can survive a thousand times more radiation than a human being, even animals that can survive in outer space. You'll never look at animals in quite the same way. This fantastic book is your guide to the toughest animals on Earth.

Lewis (12)

£7.99 ISBN 1-8442-8734-3 Walker

#### **Dandelion Readers**

by Tamar Reis-Frankfort and Wendy Tweedie

Dandelion Readers is a new reading scheme using a rigorous approach to phonics. They are intended for children of Reception age and for Year 1 of the infants' school. They are attractively produced, colourful books, divided into 15 units, each following a clear phonic sequence and focusing on blending skills. They are intended to build confidence with a positive first reading experience, which prepares the child for other reading schemes. They are based on a high quality phonics programme which meets the criteria outlined in the government's new Framework to Literacy. There are also games and worksheets available. Although these books will be helpful as a prop for the very young school child who needs to survive in the competitive atmosphere of the Foundation Stage, home educators may balk at formally teaching reading at such a young age. The older child, beginning reading, may find the steps too small and the content lacking in challenge. However, for special needs children they may prove suitable.

Edwina

£25 ISBN 0-9553481-0-2 www.phonicbooks.co.uk

#### **The Runaway Chair by Pippa Goodhart**

Annie wrote: "It's about a boy called Aman who runs away with a chair called Shoddy. Aman's Mum wants to buy new things and move house to a posh place near her sister. When Aman comes home from school his house has gone and Shoddy is in the hole where the house used to be! Shoddy can run and talk

and is very wise. *Shoddy and Aman go on an adventure together. The book taught us to be proud of what we have and not to be greedy and not to stick our noses in the air! It made us laugh.* We felt that the large font, brief chapters and the page layouts make this a child friendly book that would encourage a developing reader. We enjoyed reading it together and would recommend it.

Adrian with Annie (6)

£4.99 ISBN 1-842994-33-6 Barrington Stokes

### **The Witches Mark by Donald Lightwood**

The Witches' Mark paints a very clear picture of what it was like to live in a time when witch trials were no longer common but superstition regarding witchcraft still had a strong hold on ordinary folk. Old Pheemie, the woman accused of witchcraft, has always been an outcast and her ugliness and special relationship with animals, make her the town's scapegoat. Even the most minor of a wide array of characters are believable but Pheemie herself shines particularly brightly. With its refreshingly hopeful ending I would recommend this for kids of 10 and upwards.

Sophie (15)

£5.99 ISBN 1-86315-572-3 Floris

### **Stone Heart by Charlie Fletcher**

This book is about a boy called George and his adventure. It starts when he accidentally breaks a dragon statue on a school trip. The pterodactyl statue outside the Natural History Museum comes to life and chases him around London. Just as it has him backed up against a war memorial, the memorial's statue of a gunner jumps off his plinth and shoots the pterodactyl. George finds he is plunged into a world where statues come to life. I really liked this book, except the ending, and recommend it for aged 10+. I give it 10/10.

Alex (11)

ISBN 0-340-91162-X £10.99 Hodder

### **Imagine by Ruth Brown**

A journey into the world of sleepy-time dreams. Ruth captures our imagination and takes us on a journey round the world and returns us safely back to our own beds. My daughter loved the way the pictures were drawn and even though the text is very simple my older children preferred this book to others they have due to the quality of the illustrations.

Andy with Robyn (8)

£10.99 ISBN 1-84270453-2 Andersen Press

### **Dream Team - Mission 1: Flying Solo**

by Ann Coburn

A good read for newly independent readers, this book tells the story of the tiny Dream Fetchers whose job it is to deliver dreams in boxes to people. The tale is told from the point of view of Vert, one of the trainee Dream Fetchers who work in teams going 'Earthside' - always remembering the three

Abiding Rules (Always deliver what the customer orders; don't look inside the box; never be seen ...)

Finn quite enjoyed the book although he found it quite a light read - he's loving Lionboy which seems much 'meatier'.

Finn (6) with Tina

£4.99 ISBN 1-84428-118-3 Walker Books

### **A-Minute-A-Day Phonics by Sheila Crompton**

31 photocopiable precision teaching games for parents and teachers. We have found this to be a really useful and motivating resource. It is called a minute a day because that is all you need to do! The photocopiable sheets are nicely presented and range in difficulty from initial letter sounds to silent letters. The idea is that the child practises the words on the page and then tries to read as many in one minute as possible. Scores are recorded on the back

Suzanne Webb-Thomas with Robert (8) Eleanor (6)

£9.95 ISBN 0-9536023-0-3 Debrich Publishing

### **A-Minute-A-Day Maths by Sheila Crompton**

42 photocopiable precision teaching games for parents and teachers. This obviously works in the same way as the phonics resource but covers maths. Again the pages range in difficulty from simple counting activities to more challenging multiplication and division. These resources encourage accuracy, speed and fluency and are good fun to do. Robert and Eleanor are keen to improve their scores each time and because the activity is nice and quick they are usually happy to do one most days. I would recommend them for children from 4 years. Some example pages are available to download from [www.aminuteaday.co.uk](http://www.aminuteaday.co.uk).

Suzanne Webb-Thomas with Robert (8) Eleanor (6)

£10.95 ISBN 0-95360231-1 Debrich Publishing

### **Pablo Picasso by Caroline Leclerc**

This fun sticker book begins with a concise introduction to the life of Picasso and the fact that he was a talented artist at the tender age of 8! His father was an art teacher who encouraged his love of drawings and paintings. The introduction, though, is aimed at the older reader, using, without explanation, terms such as surrealist and cubist! The layout of this book is easy to follow: classic Picasso painting on left-hand side and a blank 'frame' to fill in with stickers on the right (with guidelines). The children loved it and the stickers are re-useable so they can create their own Picasso-style pictures. This book helps develop observation skills and give the reader a glimpse into the world of Picasso.

Jane with Robyn (8), Max (6) and Ollie (4)

£4.99 ISBN 1-845070676-1 Francis Lincoln

### **Zoe the Zookeeper by Kathryn McDonald**

This is quite a quaint book but has a very amateur feel to it. Romy read a couple of the stories in it but it couldn't hold her interest for any longer than that. I read the rest of the stories myself and was quite surprised at the clumsy English used some of the time, to say that the author is a teacher! Her

illustrations of animals are quite good but the people are less than polished and look quite child-like (but not in a good way.) Perhaps it would be more suitable for a younger child.

Hazel with Romy (7)

£10.99 ISBN 1-84624-017-4 Book Guild

### **Dear Mr Sprouts by Errol Broome**

This book is about the friendship between a young girl and boy, Anke and Freddie. At school, Anke has to send off a balloon with a packet of seeds attached to it and when Freddie finds the balloon he writes to her and so their friendship begins. I liked the style of the book, which is written completely as letters between the two children instead of as a story. When I started reading it, it didn't really grab my attention but it gets more interesting as you get further into it. Through the way they write to each other, readers follow Anke and Freddie's friendship as they grow up. In the very end they get married, but they do go through some problems on the way. It's quite a slow paced and gentle book but Freddie sometimes writes swear words, which some people might not like. I think anyone aged about 9 or over would be interested in reading this, especially if they enjoy writing and getting letters.

Emily (8)

£4.99 ISBN 1-741148-64-2 Allen & Unwin

### **Tim and Charlotte by Edward Ardizzone**

This is a tough one to review. Elena said she liked it and has asked to hear it a lot of times but has refused to say what it was she liked about it! I found it very unrealistic and although obviously written in a different age (first published in 1951) I wonder if it was ever really vaguely linked to past times reality or just an Enid Blyton-style fantasy world that the author created. Two boys find a girl in the sea and take her home where their mother nurses her back to health and when she comes to she can't remember who she is but fits into family life. Later her guardian turns up and takes her home where she is unhappy and gets ill. The doctor prescribes that she goes back to live with Tim and Ginger forever so she comes back. Hmmm. Not my cup of tea but Elena can't seem to get enough!

Gillian with Elena (6)

£10.99 ISBN 1-84507-545-5 Frances Lincoln

### **Un, Deux, Trois, First French Rhymes selected by Opal Dunn**

A lively book for young children, which includes a CD to follow and sing along with. Translations of the rhymes are at the back of the book (into English) and actions and games to accompany the rhymes, are also given. Patrice Aggs illustrates everyday subjects, eg the market place, café and farm with humour. Good all round fun for your little ones, as well as a useful introduction to the French language.

Andy with George (8) and Sam (4)

£6.99 ISBN 1-8450-7623-1 Frances Lincoln

### **King John and the Abbot by Madeleine Forey**

This is the story of an abbot who has to answer King John's questions to save his life and keep his money. King John is a very bad king because he takes other people's money. Jack saves the abbot. He is the hero and he is very clever. He thinks that 'worth' means how good people are, not how much money they have. Because of Jack, the abbot learns to think about other people, not just himself. This story will make you wonder what is going to happen next and also what you would have done. It is good because it is easy to understand. The pictures are meant to be funny, but they are a bit silly. Even so, it is a good story. I think most children would like this book.

Jacob (6)

£4.99 ISBN 1-842993-85-2 Barrington Stokes

### **Dragon! by Hilary McKay**

Lottie says, "This book is brilliant. I want to read it seventeen times! It is about a boy who lives with his aunt who is a witch. She pulls sparks out of her hair when she is angry. The boy finds a dragon's egg. When it hatches it makes a really horrible smell". At its core this is a book about friendship, bravery and humility, providing lots of laughs along the way. A great book to share - probably suiting a 5-8 age range.

Sarah-Jo with Lottie (5)

£4.99 ISBN 1-842994-17-4 Barrington Stokes

### **Roman Fort by M Manning & B Granstrom**

This fly on the wall sketchbook approach to life in a Roman Fort, at first glance looked as if it would be a real hit with us. The pictures are the main feature of the book with minimal writing. However, as it is a sketchbook, the writing was a bit awkwardly placed at times and often the children found it harder to concentrate than if it had been a straightforward layout. Yahya said, "It was too messy for me to read." Hawwa said, "I liked the illustrations and what the book had to say but I found it a bit hard to follow with the writing all over the place!" Musa said, "the best bit about the book was the addition of real objects photographed along with the drawings."

Almaas with Musa (10), Hawwa (8) and Yahya (6)

£5.99 ISBN 1-84507-124-7 Frances Lincoln

### **Questionable Creatures, a Bestiary by Pauline Baynes**

Pauline Baynes is known by thousands of people for illustrating both Tolkien's 'Lord of the Rings' and C.S. Lewis's 'Narnia'. She has illustrated this book in the style of a medieval bestiary, it feels really quite authentic and the illustrations are beautiful. She writes about how strongly people used to believe what was written in books, so when they read about strange creatures such as the manticore or gryphon, they believed they were real. The bestiary is full of odd 'facts' such as that the panther was multi-coloured and marked with circles, or that barnacle geese were grown from the resin found on driftwood pine logs. The written pieces are not too long, but

would be enough of a 'taster' for anyone interested to find further books / bestiaries. I found this book very interesting and thought it amazing that people really believed such odd things.

Jenny Allwood (14)

£10.99 ISBN 1-84507-474-2 Frances Lincoln

### **Dino-Dinners**

*by Mick Manning and Brita Granström*

This Natural History Museum book is quite weak. If all you require is the basic facts then it is ok. It's a pleasant book for anyone interested in a brief overview of some dinosaurs but not for any in-depth information. Some of the facts included are a little dubious such as the fact that Velociraptors had feathers. For lovers of Dr Seuss the almost rhyming text is a little irritating. The dust jacket asks the question 'How do we know what dinosaurs ate?' but this question is not answered for all the species in the book. The authors rely heavily on fart and poo humour to popularise the book. George enjoyed the illustrations and the humour but did not learn anything new from the information; Ben found the text difficult to concentrate on because of the poor rhyming. In summary it is a pleasant enough book but disappointing considering the accolades awarded to the authors. Not for the real young dinosaur enthusiast.

Ian with George 10 and Ben 7

ISBN 1-84507-684-2

### **Home by Kate Petty**

This is a book showing homes throughout the world. There are stunning photographs of children and their homes from Alaska, Romania, Cambodia and many more. Each page has a photograph of the child and their home on one side and some descriptive text on the other. The text is very clear and informative and the pictures encouraged my children to want to read about places that other children call home (most of them being very different to what they understand as home). A very educational and interesting book, stimulating many conversations from even the youngest child about how other people live. The book is published in association with Oxfam and I would recommend it as being a brief educational insight into other countries and cultures. We enjoyed it very much.

Katherine with Samuel (6), Rebekah (5), Jeremy (3) and George (1)

£9.99 ISBN 1-84507-333-9 Frances Lincoln

### **Kingfisher Voyages – Rainforest**

*by Jinny Johnson*

This is a very good book. It's full of interesting facts and excellent photographs of all areas of the rain forest. It tells you about where the rainforests are, the history of exploration of the rain forests, who the tribes are that live there and there is lots of really good information about the animals and plants. A scientist who studies the rainforest canopies presents the information and I would love to do what she does.

George (10)

£10.99 ISBN 0-7534-1186-5 Kingfisher

### **Silly Billy by Anthony Browne**

This book is about a boy called Billy who worries lots. He worries about things like hats and shoes, which are silly things to worry about. His Grandma tells him about worry dolls, these are little dolls that you tell your worries to before you go to bed and then you put them under your pillow so that you can sleep well. This is a bit of a silly story but I liked finding out about worry dolls. They come from a place called Guatemala and they are a good idea for people who worry a lot.

Ben (7)

£10.99 ISBN 0-7445-7017-4 Walker

### **Young Dracula & Young Monsters**

*by Michael Lawrence*

This is a two in one book. The first story is a version of the familiar Dracula story where he has a son who, despite trying really hard, is really bad at being a vampire. The reader follows him through various scenarios as he demonstrates his ineptitude.

The second book is about a youngster arriving at a monster school and feeling very out of place, but soon meets a good friend who helps him through it all. The text and frequent illustrations are probably aimed at those who are newly confident readers and like chapter books. At first Finn was keen to read this book as it was the run-up to Halloween, but, sadly, we found both stories rather dull and lacking any substance. Maybe worth borrowing from a library.

Finn (6) with Tina

£6.99 ISBN 1-84299-445-X Barrington Stokes

### **Chasing Ideas (The Fun of Freeing Your**

**Child's Imagination) by Christine Durham**

Chasing Ideas is written by a Mother of four and a Grandmother of six and presents ideas to encourage children to enter into lively discussions and to help encourage them to explore ideas, think, judge, make decisions and communicate effectively, as well as to develop these skills into adulthood. It offers advice, techniques and activities to help children free their imagination, curiosity and creativity by encouraging them to chase ideas and think for themselves; fall in love with ideas so they love to learn, learn to learn and have fun learning; how to unlock their minds

and their potential to become ingenious thinkers. It also suggests using the 'Handy Thinking' tools – practical thinking skills that are fun and easy to remember and use. There are parts of this book, which will already be like second nature to some, but it offers some interesting ideas for discussion topics you might not have considered. It also might be of value to those de-schooling their children, by providing ideas to help their children free their minds and chase their ideas!

Caroline

£12.99 ISBN 1-84310-460-1 Jessica Kingsley

### **Learner-Managed Learning and Home Education: A European Perspective**

Based on speeches given at the Learning Unlimited Conference 2005, the book is translated into English, French and German. The first part of the book covers speeches on different learning systems and how do we learn informally including Dr. Roland Meighan's study of home education. This is followed by more personal experiences of learning at home, with families explaining their reasons for home educating, the legal requirements in their Country (HE being illegal in Germany) and how informal learning works for their children.

An interesting, if slightly annoying read (having to flick through the pages to find the next piece in English ... must crack on with those languages!!) Very honest in its approach, realising that children at home or school can get that glazed look when bored but as HEers we can respond. A very positive read.

Denise

ISBN 1-900219-31-X Educational Heretics Press

### **Touch and Go Joe, An Adolescent's Experience of OCD** by Joe Wells

Written by 16-year old Joe, a sufferer from Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) since he was 9, this book is an excellent read. The short chapters are well defined, with helpful summaries at the end of each one. It gives a fascinating insight to the world of someone with OCD, taking us through Joe's treatment and recovery, and charting the ups and downs of his life with OCD and the battle to overcome it. The book conveys a lot of information about the disorder, in a down-to-earth and humorous way. It would be a helpful resource for family members of those with OCD, as well as teachers, youth workers and even for sufferers themselves. Thoroughly recommended!

Margaret

£9.99 ISBN 1-84310-391-5 Jessica Kingsley

### **Dyslexia and Alternative Therapies** by Maria Chivers

A good book about how alternative therapies can help dyslexia. It mentions each therapy individually and explains what it is, how it works, how many sessions are needed, who will benefit, and if it can be

done at home. Easy to read as its well set out but I would think its still difficult to choose which one to use as there are so many to choose from but if you have some ideas of what you might like to try then its a good book to help you decide and compare with other alternatives.

Sally P

### **CONTACTS**

#### **Note**

Prices quoted are the publishers' recommended retail prices (rrp). Shop around for lower prices - try discount bookshops, mail order discount book clubs and the internet. Some contact details are set out below but many titles can be ordered from your local bookshop. *The Book People* (0870 6077780 [www.thebookpeople.co.uk](http://www.thebookpeople.co.uk)) and *Red House* (0870 1919980 [www.redhouse.co.uk](http://www.redhouse.co.uk)) are good, economical sources for books where you can order what you like, when you like (at prices well below publisher's rrp). Postage / packing is usually free on orders over £25 but if you are ordering less tell them you are home educating and you may be able to get a discount rate. Many local EO groups have meetings where books and other resources are swapped or sold. 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](http://www.dk.com) offer a 20% discount to home educators. Follow the online instructions to register and contact [bodcustomerservice@penguin.co.uk](mailto:bodcustomerservice@penguin.co.uk) if you need any help.

*Any EO member can review books for these pages. If you would like to be part of the review team please email or telephone Sally for more information (01559 370798 or email [sally@phonecoop.coop](mailto:sally@phonecoop.coop)).*

### **CONTACTS**

A & C Black 01480 212666

Allen & Unwin see Frances Lincoln

Andersen Press 020 7840 8701 [www.andersenpress.co.uk](http://www.andersenpress.co.uk)

B Small Publishing 020 8974 6851 [www.bsmall.co.uk](http://www.bsmall.co.uk)

Book Guild 01273 472534 [www.thebookguild.co.uk](http://www.thebookguild.co.uk)

Barrington Stokes 0131 557 2020 [www.barringtonstoke.co.uk](http://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk)

Egmont 020 7761 3696 [www.egmont.co.uk](http://www.egmont.co.uk)

Floris 0141 642 9192 [www.florisbooks.co.uk](http://www.florisbooks.co.uk)

Frances Lincoln 020 7284 4009 [www.francislincoln.com](http://www.francislincoln.com)

Hawthorne 01453 757040 [www.hawthornepress.com](http://www.hawthornepress.com)

Jessica Kingsley Publishers 020 7833 2307 [www.jkp.com](http://www.jkp.com)

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

Scholastic 0845 8501144 [www.scholastic.co.uk](http://www.scholastic.co.uk)

Search Press 01892 510850 [www.searchpress.com](http://www.searchpress.com)

Walker Books 01256 302692

## 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. Events organisers please remember when giving details of events that the newsletter can be read by people who are not EO members, and please check your details. Changes to Jo: 01392 438876 email: jo4eo@aol.com

### ENGLAND

#### **BATH**

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

#### **BEDFORDSHIRE**

For full details of events programme in Bedford and other areas of the County contact June on 01234 341375 or email: info@Bedford-Home-Ed.org.uk 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: francfranc100@yahoo.co.uk

**South Bedfordshire** Home Education Group, we are a small friendly group covering Houghton Regis, Dunstable and surrounding areas. We meet regularly with a variety of activities. 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

#### **Hero's Education Centre**

4 days / wk - workshops, lessons, activities. Contact Dawn 01628 783107 thirdEye1@compuserve.com or website [www.homeeducators.co.uk](http://www.homeeducators.co.uk)

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

#### **BRISTOL**

Thursdays meeting at St Paul's Adventure Playground; Spanish, Science and Pottery happening on a regular basis. Contact Ian or Silke 0117 9412707 Email list for Bristol and surrounding areas at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BristolHomeEducation> Also local group website for more information about home ed in Bristol: [www.bristolhomeeducation.org.uk](http://www.bristolhomeeducation.org.uk) **Bristol Home Education Learning Place.** Now meeting Mondays and Friday afternoons. under 7's, study groups, music, drama, and lots more. Contact Carla 0117 935 4389

#### **BUCKS**

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

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

**MKHE** - Milton Keynes Home Educators, friendly group welcomes all... arts + crafts, socials, outings, chess club, sports, open afternoons, themed activities etc, monthly

newsletter + online discussion room contact Georgina 01908 371945 [www.miltonkeyneshomeeducation.co.uk](http://www.miltonkeyneshomeeducation.co.uk) **South Bucks:** meetings for craft, activities, play, speakers, drama, trips etc. Contact: Jackie 01753 886924 or Gail 01628 483895 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. 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](mailto: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** 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** contact Linz 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](http://www.freewebs.com/cornwallhomeed)

**Menheniot near Liskeard**, Home Grown Small School Contact Kath 01752 851091 or Michelle 0845 3305034.

**Menheniot**, Science/History Days.

Contact: Katinka 01208 813490

**Pensilva**, Forest School. Last Monday of the month. Contact Ruth 08344 560247.

**Penzance** PZ HOME ED Monday afternoons, Contact Ruth Boulton 01736 350887 [rboulton@phonecoop.coop](mailto:rboulton@phonecoop.coop)

#### **CUMBRIA**

Cumbria Otherwise Newsletter, for full details of events throughout the county contact Martin, 01539 732918 email: [cumbria.otherwise@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:cumbria.otherwise@dsl.pipex.com)

**Kendal** 3rd Friday each month Contact Jayne 01539 534541 or email [jaynewoodbank@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jaynewoodbank@yahoo.co.uk)

**Kendal** alternate Mondays. 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** meet Weds. Outings and activities. Contact Yvonne 01246 555645, Suzy 01246 240917, Alastair 01246 520820

#### **Chesterfield - Hasland Village Hall**

ART CLASS - Ages 10 and over, 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of month 12pm-2pm, with professional art teacher. Term time only. Contact Sian or Marek on 01246 473902

**Derby Group**, 4th Thurs of month. Contact Andy 01332 752998 or [andy@derbyhe.co.uk](mailto:andy@derbyhe.co.uk)

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

**EO Devon Newsletter** for details contact Kate: email [katefernhill@aol.com](mailto:katefernhill@aol.com) or phone 01392 851370

**National Trust (Devon)** card is held by Louise, 01392 209289 email: [louise\\_239@fsmail.net](mailto:louise_239@fsmail.net)

**East and Mid Devon** Local Contact Kate 01392 851370

**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](mailto:louise_239@fsmail.net)

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

**Exeter** Green Woodworking contact Neil 01363 82314

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

**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** Local Contact Bridget 01803 862158 email: [bridgetmeadows@onetel.com](mailto:bridgetmeadows@onetel.com)

**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** Group meets fortnightly - a small group of children and parents interested in exploring history in an autonomous way.

**Natural History Group** group meeting monthly for a Natural History ramble. For details of all of the Dart Valley groups Hannah/Gordon: 01803 762788.

Email: [gordon@staverton.com](mailto:gordon@staverton.com)

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

**Dorset/Somerset/Devon borders**

Regular meetings on Tuesdays, Karen 01460 30461, on Thursdays, All 01297 443816

#### **DORSET**

Rosemary 01747 853593

**Bournemouth** area: local website [www.he-ed.org.uk](http://www.he-ed.org.uk) Meeting every Monday for crafts, games, play etc.

Friendly, welcoming group. Contact: June 01202 827945 [bugchick@btinternet.com](mailto:bugchick@btinternet.com)

**Poole & Bournemouth area**, For fortnightly meetings with lots of space and lots of activities - contact Rachel or Donna, email: [shec4u@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:shec4u@yahoo.co.uk)

#### **DURHAM**

**Durham** based weekly meeting call Beth 07719530472. Yahoo chat group at:

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

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

#### **ESSEX**

**Chelmsford** meetings - monthly, third Thursday 1-4pm, various activities. Email: [Sally@brisley.freemove.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:debbie-m@lineone.net) or 0778 6570870

**Southend OTHENA** - Older children/Teens News & Activities (11+) for details contact Michelle:

[ab006h6097@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:julie.ashton@ntlworld.com)

**Various venues across Essex**, New Teens Group, meeting monthly - [Sally@brisley.freemove.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:epicycle@wavy.org) or 07802 630693

**Southend/Westcliff** monthly get-togethers on the 1st Friday of the month. Shirley 01702 308698

[indigoshirl@fsmail.net](mailto:indigoshirl@fsmail.net)

#### **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. Rob and Fiona

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

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

Beverley 01242 524091 or Mhairi 01452 384104.

**Dursley** Home Educators meeting first weds every month for social, support and activities. Swimming and occasional outings. All welcome. Contact Paula 01453

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

**Gloucester** meetings & swimming. Contact Dawn 01452 540019 [dawnandmike@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:dawnandmike@blueyonder.co.uk)

or Tracy 07941 612092

#### **South Gloucestershire**

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

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

**Fareham and Gosport, FAREGOS HE** meets twice weekly for craft, swimming and other activities. Contact Tracey 02392 551870 or Julie 01730 261468, email:

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

**North Hampshire, NHEO**. Open to all home educators in North Hants and surrounding areas. Regular meetings from Sept 2006 in Oakley. Plus ice skating (including ice tots), swimming and other activities.

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

Contact Carol 01264 357650 [eo@azakit.com](mailto:eo@azakit.com)

**Farnham/Aldershot area**, friendly group for under 10s; fortnightly meetings and occasional outings. Contact Paula: 01252 316497 [paula.oakley@talk21.com](mailto:paula.oakley@talk21.com) or

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

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

Anne on [anniemax1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:anniemax1@yahoo.co.uk)

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

For events List for Herts Home Educators please email [karenbartlett@btinternet.com](mailto:karenbartlett@btinternet.com)

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

**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

[babs.mcdonald@ntlworld.com](mailto: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](mailto:hen-iom@manx.net)

## ISLE OF WIGHT

Local Contact Shara 01983 562313

**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

**Isle of Wight Learning Zone** workshops, social events + newsletter, contact Sue 01983 241095 for details

## KENT

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

[wealdenhomeducatorsnetwork@yahoo.groups.com](mailto:wealdenhomeducatorsnetwork@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

**SEFLAGS Edenbridge, Kent; Sussex + Surrey**

Weekly sports and meetings at local hall, social activities and fun! For details contact Karen 01732 864 524 website: <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

**Orpington, Kent:** 'Kidzone' - a brand new club especially for older children (11+) - all suggestions and offers of help gratefully received! Perhaps initially the kids could bring along games consoles/games, laptops, keyboards (karaoke machines???) or anything else they enjoy doing, to 'chill out' and make new friends. Nominal charge envisaged to cover venue, drinks and nibbles. Sue 01689 823479 [greeniehouse@ntlworld.com](mailto:greeniehouse@ntlworld.com)

## LANCASHIRE

**Blackburn Ice Rink** monthly - Jackie 01695 424220

**Botany Bay** - contact Angela 01204 659634

**Preston Badminton/Swimming** - contact Angela

**Old Cobblers**, all ages children - contact Pam 01706 215585 email: [davidandpam@ntlworld.com](mailto:davidandpam@ntlworld.com)

For comprehensive list of monthly events please email Pam at: [davidandpam@ntlworld.com](mailto: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](mailto:alex.caldwell@tiscali.co.uk)

## LINCOLNSHIRE

Activelincs Home Education Group

Generally suitable for home educated children 12 plus, can offer information on resources for older children. Call Helena 01724 720595

Bluebells - **Central Lincoln** activities, crafts, play, walks etc. Regular meetings, contact Ruth 01522 804583

Variety of informal events and get-togethers. Contact Christine 01507 338070, [christinehalse1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:christinehalse1@yahoo.co.uk)

**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](mailto:christinehalse1@yahoo.co.uk)

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

## LONDON

**Ladbroke Grove/Queens Park** group meets every Monday and Wednesday, all ages from babies to adults welcome. Sarah 07816 872841 or Gigi 020 732 88990

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

**Dulwich**, Wednesdays. Mornings: Science, Magic Maths and guest speakers (various topics chosen by the kids) for ages 7 - teen. Low cost. Afternoons: socialising and playing in the 3 adjoining fields. Families stay all day or just am or pm. Tel Gina 020 8299 1135

**Forest Hill** 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](mailto:bettleslake@clara.net)

**Lewisham** Thursdays 11-1 then to park afterwards Joolz: 0208 2895026 [teachyourrown@hotmail.com](mailto:teachyourrown@hotmail.com)

**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

**Chelsea** Open House Project SW London, NLP cafe study group Mondays afternoons, acting and storytelling, visiting lecturer, poetry evenings and board games, on going speed networking for HE families call Sophie on 020 7581 5238 to book.

**Stanmore** events on Tues and Wednesdays.

Programme available from Vivienne, email: [timsharkey@aol.com](mailto:timsharkey@aol.com), call 020 8954 1885 or Vicki email: [Aceva@btinternet.com](mailto:Aceva@btinternet.com)

**N London Hornsey** Home Educators Club Currently 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](mailto:lance.e@virgin.net) or Lynda 020 8368 9046.

**West London (and Middlesex) Home Ed group** meets every Tuesday for varied educational and social activities and visits. Call Betsy 020 8993 0677

email: [betsyhomeed@yahoo.com](mailto:betsyhomeed@yahoo.com) Contact Betsy (EO West London Local Contact) to join West London Home Ed yahoo group, details above.

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

**Norwich** area - Free Wheel for under 10s - activity group Weds fortnightly 07760 203728

Yoga Bugs 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 07799 065097 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

**Newport nr Telford**, meetings every Friday from 12.30pm for all ages. Contact Julieann 01952 401571 or email: weshalllook@aol.com

#### **SOMERSET**

**Frome And Beyond (FAB)** home educators' support group. Social gatherings, group activities, outings and newsletter. Contact Sally 01749 674842 or Jennifer 01373 813830

**Wiveliscombe/Taunton** area - regular get-togethers and outings: Maggie 01984 624651.

**Wells and Glastonbury** area, regular social meetings, weekly swimming, outings and nature activities. 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

email: christopher.perkins@onetel.net

**Staffs North and South Cheshire** newsletter for local social and educational events. 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 07799 065097 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 friendly 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 pact@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** area, friendly group for under 10s;  
fortnightly meetings and occasional outings. Contact  
Paula: 01252 316497 paula.oakley@talk21.com or  
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-Hollamby; 01342 826087

**Sussex Newsletter for Home Education**

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

**Lewes:** Jan 01273 514528

**Hastings** HEDGE Group: Ali 01424 814175,

Rachel 01424 422178 or Emily 01424 719570

**Brighton** Lucy 01273 699099 lucygulland@hotmail.com

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

**Worthing/Shoreham Beach:** Avis 01273

542589 or 07703 647954

**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.groups.com

**TYNE & WEAR and NORTHUMBERLAND**

Regular, frequent and varied activities. Age range from 1

to 17yrs. New members welcome. Website:

http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/home\_ed\_tyneandwear

Music - Rosemary 0191 2853707 or

paul@thenews.icom43net

**National Trust & English Heritage Visits**

**and Woodland visits** - Deborah 01434 674713

#### **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

**Coseley, West Midlands,** we meet monthly, 1st  
monday every month at Coseley Womens Resource  
Centre, 11.30am-3.00pm

#### **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

#### **North Wiltshire**

To link up with almost 100 HEers in North Wilts, send an

email to: NWilts\_HE-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

**Swindon** (term time) Mondays swimming at Oasis, from

1:30; 2nd and 4th Wednesdays ice-skating at Link

Centre, 1:30-3:30

**Swindon** informal get-together, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays,

12:30-3:30, phone Shena 01793 686433 or Mandy 01793

644472

**FLL** Robotics team, phone Shena 01793 686433

**Calne** book club, contact Janet 01249 818672 or email:

**Devises** last Thursday of month, 11.30-2:30 social

activities and support, contact Janet 01249 818672 or

email Janet for this and book club: janet@eldekvisit.com

#### **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 kcarensandy@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 ksbtsctt@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 **Sheffield, Highfield** 12-3 term time. Free entry, small contribution for craft materials. Contact: Annette 0114 2583502 or Fiona 0114 22751142

#### **YORKSHIRE WEST**

**Bradford** Weekly meetings and activities including ice skating, ten-pin bowling, racquet sports, art, music, theatre trips and language workshops. For a monthly schedule of activities, please contact Sarah on (01484) 361206 or e-mail sl.marshall@ntlworld.com

**Leeds** Ten-pin bowling and weekly meeting. For more information, please contact Emma on (0113) 217 2795 or e-mail emma.birkenshaw@gmail.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 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.netfirms.com](http://www.swhen.netfirms.com)

**Mid Glamorgan - Rhondda Cynon Taff** meetings on a Friday, contact Lisa 01443 772278  
**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** wkly mtgs on Fri, Laura 01545 580528

**Llanddeusant** mthly mtg. Contact Laura 01545 580528  
**GWYNEDD**

**Bangor** & area home ed network, mtgs for craft spanish climbing chemistry music outings & other activities; Montessori sessions. LC: Heather 01248 352336

**Tregarth** Creative Learning & Support group meet every Wednesday at Tregarth for craft, social & other activities. Free wkly newsletter. Phone Julie (Gwynedd) 01286 678181 or e-mail jdchapmanmaurice@aol.com or Nick (Anglesey) 01407 811049.

##### **POWYS**

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

**Brecknock/South Powys** area occasional events in South Powys contact Heia 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, Llanycol, Bala. Gwynedd LL23 7YG

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



#### **changing the world one gift at a time**

The Freecycle Network® was started in May 2003 to promote waste reduction in Tucson's downtown and help save desert landscape from being taken over by landfills. The Network provides individuals and non-profits an electronic forum to "recycle" unwanted items. One person's trash can truly be another's treasure!

Freecycle is an email list where people give away things that they no longer need for free, re-use of items as opposed to putting them in landfill.

[www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org)

Local areas are covered by individual groups moderated by local volunteers. Go on, give it a go!

## NEW EXAM CENTRE IN EXETER

We now have an exam centre up and running in Exeter for all of us in the Southwest to use for our home ed children to take GCSE's and IGCSE's.

The centre is run by a company called Exams Together Ltd. (01608 645455 or email [regn@examstogether.com](mailto:regn@examstogether.com), Website is [www.examstogether.com](http://www.examstogether.com))

My daughter took IGCSE English and Maths with them this week (November sitting, there is another sitting in June) and everything went well. The paperwork was simple and dealt with efficiently by the company. The venue was lovely and everything was done to put the candidates at ease. (Just two home ed children for this sitting!) It suited us as my daughter would have been very reluctant to go into a school setting to take her exams.

The IGCSE's exams have been easy to take as coursework isn't required, you can take an extra paper instead. The English Language specification was ideal as the required reading is an anthology published by the board (Edexcel) and consists of short and interesting pieces (and not too many of them!). Perfect for those who don't like to spend a lot of time reading. Foundation Maths was also fairly straightforward even though maths is not our subject!

I have no idea whether she will pass or fail the exams but like most home edders we are not very concerned either way. It's lovely to be away from the school system and to have no stress or pressure involved. If she passes they would be useful pieces of paper to have and if she doesn't then there are plenty of other ways for her to get where she wants to go. Either way, it's been an interesting experience and having the centre in Exeter does make it much easier for those who do decide they want to have a go at exams.

### Inspiration for January 2007

- 2-31 **Christmas Card Recycling**  
WH Smiths & Tesco will be collecting in most stores
- 15 **World Religion Day**  
The aim is to foster the establishment of interfaith understanding & harmony by emphasizing the common denominators underlying all religions.  
[www.worldreligionday.org](http://www.worldreligionday.org)
- 22-26 **Food Allergy & Intolerance Week**  
A campaign to raise awareness about the many people who suffer from food intolerance to ingredients such as wheat, dairy, eggs & gluten.  
[www.allergyuk.org](http://www.allergyuk.org)
- 26 **The Big Hush**  
Raise money for MacMillan Cancer Support by taking part in The Big Hush.  
[www.thebighush.org.uk](http://www.thebighush.org.uk) 0845 601 1716
- 27 **Holocaust Memorial Day**  
Commemorating & continuing to learn from the events of the Holocaust.  
[www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk)
- 27-28 **RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch**  
Do your bit. [www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch/](http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch/)
- 27 Jan – 3 Feb **National Storytelling Week**  
Hundreds of events up and down the country. [www.sfs.org.uk](http://www.sfs.org.uk) or call Del Reid 020 8866 4232 for further information.
- 29 **National Potato Day**  
Celebrate the humble potato in all its glory! Plant them, cook them, print with them... the possibilities are endless!
- 29 Jan – 4 Feb **National Salt Awareness Week**  
Aims to educate the public on the importance of reducing salt in the diet & how this can be achieved in a practical way. [www.hyp.ac.uk/cash/index.htm](http://www.hyp.ac.uk/cash/index.htm)

## Back Page Part Two

New volunteers for any of the groups most welcome, with expertise or just an interest

For more information contact any of the council members listed (in bold)

If you would prefer to volunteer for infrequent or small tasks please contact Emma Birkenshaw  
emma.birkenshaw@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, Joss Nowell,  
Celia McDonagh, John Bathgate

**Steering:** **Sarah Cook**, Phil Hicks, **Martine Frampton**,  
**Jane Bathgate**, **Martin Wise**,

**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:** **June Wilson-Billing**, Gail Borrows, Sue  
Ryan, Jacqui Houlding, Lynda Hitchman

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

**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:** Anne Wade, **Janet Simpson**, **Jane  
Bathgate**, Pam Bellinger, Jenny Stevens

### Grievances and Complaints:

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

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

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

## EO Email Lists & Forums

EO runs four email lists with Yahoo Groups. One is for **general** discussion 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 only. All four lists may be joined via the EO Home Page at [www.education-otherwise.org](http://www.education-otherwise.org)

There is also a **Members Area** on the website with several discussion forums, including a forum for members to see the discussions between council members and contractors who manage EO on a day-to-day basis. To join the Member's Forum, send an email to [forums@education-otherwise.org](mailto:forums@education-otherwise.org) giving your preferred User Name which should be between four and fifteen characters, your Full (real) Name, the email address you wish to have associated with the forum and either your EO Membership Number or your full postal address. You will receive an email at your associated email address confirming your Username and giving you a password. You will be able to alter this password to something more memorable.

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

**North East:** Eva O'Rourke, Wilsden

01535 274520 evaandmary@aol.com

**Midlands:** Simon Foster, Birmingham

0121 443 2752simonf@surefish.co.uk

**Wales (S):** Celia McDonagh, Cardiff,

07763 729055 celiamacdonagh@yahoo.co.uk

**Wales (N):** Edwina Theunissen, Wrexham 01978

661 882 theunissen@freeseve484.fsnet.co.uk

**East Anglia:** Ali Willer, Sprowston, Norwich

01603 401020 simon.whitehall@tesco.net

mailto:webmaster@education-otherwise.org

**South West:** (Acting) Kay & Simon Smith,

Cornwall 01726 842057

smithsontour@myway.com

**South East:** (Acting): Ann Newstead, Kent

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.co

## WHO DOES WHAT IN EO

### Council Members

Julie Arnold (St Helen's) 01744 885243  
JulieArnold@msn.com  
Jane Bathgate (Borders) 01835 862118  
Emma Birkenshaw (Yorks. West) 0113 2172795  
emma.birkenshaw@gmail.com  
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.freemove.co.uk (Chair)  
Fizz El-Sawah (London Middx) 01895 422138  
fizztryingtohomeed@hotmail.com  
Martine Frampton (Gloucs) 01608 812411  
martine-frampton@macunlimited.net (Treasurer)  
Anne Rix (Devon) 01237 451535  
anne@annerix.demon.co.uk (Enquiries Sec.)  
Janet Simpson (Lincs) 01427 617313  
HE@hubblesimpson.co.uk  
Sue White (Suffolk) 01379 870036  
Sue\_white@lineone.net  
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). Gail Borrows, 48 Marlow Bottom, Marlow, Bucks SL7 3NB 01628 483895  
email: eostationery@gmail.com

**Truancy Cards (HE cards)** (free on joining). Extra cards S5AE + £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: Debbie Barker, 19 Cedar Drive, Worlingham, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 7EW 01502 714413  
Debs.barker7@btinternet.com  
(please ring to check availability of items before ordering)

**Website & Email Lists** Jacqui Houlding  
01925 654856 jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk

### 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:** (Acting) Cal Bailes: 0191 241 4870 (for address: see contact list for Tyne & Wear)

**Special Needs:** Christine Waterman, 85 Elfrida Rd, Watford, Herts WD1 8AT 01923 464773

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

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

**College Contact:** (Acting) Roger Scaife, Glen House, Cragg Vale, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire HX7 5SQ 01422 884682 roger46@3-c.coop

**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@lineone.net

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

**Newsletter Coordinator:** (Acting) Sue Ryan, 211 The Meadow, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks RG30 4NN  
sue.andhercrew@btinternet.com

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

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

**Publications Secretary:** June Wilson-Billing, 17 Woodland Close, Verwood, Dorset BH31 7PN 01202 827945  
educationotherwise@mac.com

**Membership Secretary:** Vacant

**General Secretary:** Vacant

**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 Fossey 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.freemove.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 sae to:

PO BOX 325  
KINGS LYNN PE34 3XW

Helpline 0870 73 000 74

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

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01917107