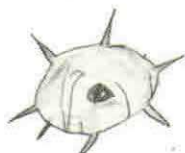


education otherwise



silcoon



cascoon

*by Isaac Mann
age 9*

No. 176 – June 2007

£2

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS 1ST July 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:

LETTERS AND ARTICLES

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Brome, Eye, Suffolk IP23 8AL
01379 870036 sue_white@lineone.net
or sannw@tiscali.co.uk

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Sally Hall, Nant-y-Gareg Farm, Saron,
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ADVERTISEMENTS/FLYERS

(subject/envelope "EO Advertising" please)
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11 Donaldson Road, Kilburn, London NW6 6NA
justinekinney71@hotmail.com

EO BUSINESS

Vacant

REGIONAL DIARY

Tel: Jo Borthen on 01392 438876
jo4eo@aol.com

CHILDREN'S PAGES COORDINATOR

Julie Arnold, 34 Muncaster Drive, Rainford, St
Helens, WA11 8NR 01744 885243
JulieLArnold@msn.com

Editor for next CHILDREN'S PAGES N.B. deadline 20th June

Please send all material to Julie Arnold, Children's Pages Co-ordinator who will forward it to the relevant Children's Editors. This is to ensure that if an editor fails to do the work, submissions from other children won't be lost.

DISCLAIMER

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

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

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

COPYRIGHT

Any item published in this newsletter may be reprinted in other home education magazines in the UK or abroad or on the Internet. If you do not want your contribution reproduced without your consent, please state clearly that you wish to retain the copyright. If you send material from another source, please acknowledge this clearly.

**IF YOU CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, EMAIL OR OTHER DETAILS,
OR IF YOUR NEWSLETTER DOES NOT ARRIVE**

please contact the DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR (See inside back cover)

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If the answer to these two questions is yes, contact Jacqui in the first instance to inform the Publications Group of your interest. Jacqui's details in back of newsletter

Co-ordinatorial

Sue isn't well so...I'm putting it together this time. First things first, get well soon Sue. Secondly, forgive me if anything is missing that was submitted for this month. As those of you who know me know, I had a rather catastrophic computer crash last week and I'm putting the newsletter together today...and it's due at the printer's today as well!

Next issue...

As can be seen from Rosemary's follow up article, talking has been a very positive experience for the north east. People are joining the email lists and all the home educating community is benefiting. Can we have some articles from other regions or groups? They don't need to be long. Introduce your group to the readers here. Then wait for new members who will come to benefit from what you offer...and be able to offer their experience to enrich your group.

The discussions begun in the newsletter have led to the creation of a Disability Awareness Group. Please take the time to complete the questionnaire. While you're in the mood, perhaps you can add your experiences to the growing pool which we all learn from.

Finally, thank you to all the contributors to this issue of the newsletter. Feedback has been that the last couple of newsletters have been amongst the best for informing and inspiring. Let's keep this up.

Jacqui Houlding

EO Merchandise

To gain the 10% discount available to members who use the Online store, you must enter the code:

Taurus

If you forget to enter the discount code, you cannot claim it back later

VACANCY - NEWSLETTER CO-ORDINATOR

Do you have time available once every couple of months to create the newsletter using submitted material and supplementing it where necessary?

Are you familiar with computers?

Business Section



EO National Gathering 16th to 23rd July 2007 John's Lee Wood, Leicestershire

Following on from the fantastic success of the last two years

Camping in clearings in woodland within the National Forest, 30 minutes from Leicester city centre by bus & 5 minutes from the M1. Situated in the countryside close to Bradgate Park, Beacon Hill and other public woodlands.

Campfires, woods to explore, good company, and outdoor pursuits on site.

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

As well as camping there is some indoor accommodation in cabins with bunk beds, large communal rooms and indoor kitchen facilities.

For further information and booking forms send a stamped SAE to Laurie McAulay, 17 Crossleys, Fleckney, Leics. LE8 8BY or e-mail lauriemcaulay@hotmail.co.uk

The campsite can be viewed at www.jlw.me.uk
For information on disabled access, phone Pam on 0116 282 7929 or e-mail pam@phonecoop.coop

There will be an **Open Council Meeting** on site on Saturday 21 July 2007 starting at 10 am.
All members are welcome to attend

To place an item on the agenda, it must be sent to Jacqui by 1 July 2007. attach a report/summary of what you want discussed at the meeting and consideration of the item can take place 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 & I can speak on your behalf.
Jacqui Houlding,
38 Garwood Close,
Westbrook, Warrington. WA5 8TF

jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk

Johns Lee Wood

You should why so that



NEW POST - EO/LA BRIDGEBUILDER

This new post was confirmed at the Okehampton Open Council Meeting - see agenda, reports and minutes of that meeting (10th Feb. 07) for full details, job description and task list.

Briefly, the post involves liaison with groups of Local Authorities and attendance, by invitation, at their regional conferences, and complements the work already being done by EO's Local Contacts, Govt. Policy Group and other postholders. The aim is to provide groups of LA officials with a 'human face' and to hear what the LAs really have to say among themselves about home education, giving us more insight into what they see as problem areas, which they might not feel able to express in a more formal/confrontational situation.

A new email/yahoo group is being set up (as agreed at the Sheffield OCM), to facilitate liaison between those working with groups of LAs, and Kathleen will be joining this group. As indicated by the minutes, a further point has been added to the task list as follows:

(4) Liaise with EO's LA/EA group, inform and feed back to EO Local Contacts in the area. Link with EO's regional structure as and when this is established.

Kathleen Thompson is now therefore officially in post (see list inside back cover for contact details). She will be pleased to hear from anyone who would like her to raise any relevant issues at LA conferences / meetings.

Kathleen has already attended LA conferences in the Midlands, and has made links with the North West. It is intended to roll this out to other areas, eventually establishing a team of regionally based EO voluntary posts, linked to the regionalisation of EO suggested at the Okehampton OCM in February. We hope that other volunteers who share the non-confrontational approach will come forward to work with Kathleen in a similar way in other areas.

Anne Rix

Local Contact Update

New Acting Local Contacts:

Wiltshire – Shena Deuchars
London - Enfield – Gisela Mann
Rutland – Iain Rendell & Jacqueline Crane
Durham – Karen Bowlzer
Waltham Forest – Jo & Jerry Dominguez
Cumbria – Jayne Richardson
Lancashire, Blackpool – Judi Jones

London – North West
London West – Richmond & Kingston
Norfolk – Breckland
Norfolk – Great Yarmouth
Overseas – Americas
West Midlands – Birmingham & Solihull
West Midlands – Wolverhampton & Walsall
West Midlands – Dudley

Resigning Local Contacts

Somerset – Gaynor French
Wiltshire – Janet Eldekvis

Areas Needing a Local Contact - other

Local Contacts are waiting to step down or would like to share their area, so do volunteer even if the area you live in isn't listed below.

ENGLAND

Bedfordshire
Herefordshire
Lancashire – Bolton

Pauline has stepped down as Local Contacts Co-ordinator due to other commitments, but is happy to help and give advice until someone else volunteers. Until then, Lynda has taken over the administration of the local contact list and so anyone interested in becoming a Local Contact or any existing Local Contacts who want to step down need to contact Lynda – database@education-otherwise.org

SCOTLAND

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

WALES

Glamorgan, Mid
Glamorgan, Vale
Glamorgan, West
Flintshire

Introducing The EO Trading Team

OK...not a huge introduction, but a mention to say 'Thank you' to them all for working quietly behind the scenes and only ever coming to anyone's attention when (or if) there is a problem.

On our small email list by which we all keep in touch we have the Directors of EO Trading, **Priscilla Park Weir**, **Chris Harper** and **Jane Owen**. Priscilla is our 'list mum' with all the experience and always available with her vast knowledge of EO past and present.

Our current treasurer is **June Kent** (known as June Moon because of her email address) who is having to give up the role. She has discovered that recently getting married has given her new interests and responsibilities and something had to give. All being well, we are hoping to welcome **Julie Arnold** to take over as treasurer for EOT. Julie is a member of EO Association Council and is the EOA treasurer. One of the most organised people I've ever met.

June Wilson Billing (known as June Books as she used to look after the distribution of the Publications and we needed to differentiate her from June Moon when we were talking) is on the list as a liaison between EOT and EOA as she is also an EOA Council Member.

Sue Ryan was our web-distributor liaison and helped set up procedures for EOT. This role has now been taken by **Paul Robinson**. I'm afraid I'm taking shameless advantage of the fact that he knows about online stores and he'll be giving me advice on what to do to improve it.

Then we have our distributors: **Debbie Barker** (Publications), **Lucinda Smart** (T shirts), **Karen Pettitt** (car sun shades, hoodies, wristbands) and waiting in the wings to be given something to distribute is **Fiona Lee**. We could do with a couple more volunteers so that the stock is spread around and no-one is overwhelmed with EO goods. If you'd like to join us, let me know (contact details at back of newsletter) and we'd like to welcome you to the team.

We found that, unfortunately, the personalised goods didn't work out so they have all been withdrawn...but we have more stock on order. Won't be able to personalise it...but you can take it out and about, use it and draw attention to home education at the same time. The order has already been placed for a new stock of wristbands...for those of you who collect them, they still say School Is Not Compulsory...but they're a warm red this time! There's only half a dozen (if that) of the purple ones left so if you need one, contact merchandise@education-otherwise.org and see if they have any left.

EO Public Liability Insurance Please Read

Education Otherwise's Public Liability Insurance (PLI) is renewed in July. Would the EO members who are contacts for the Local Groups on the list please contact us to confirm that the group is still running and that contact details remain the same. Please note that, if contact is not made before the end of July, your group will be removed from the list and, if you are still running, you will not be covered by EO PLI.

There is now a **new form** for notifying us of your group. It can be downloaded from the Policies, Guidelines and Forms forum in the Members Area of the EO website. If you attend a group, the members of which wish it to be a registered EO group and benefit from the PLI, 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 group 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.**

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

Email: EOInsuranceCover@education-otherwise.org

Public Liability for local groups

Please supply the following information:

The group's name	
Venue where you meet	
Frequency of meetings	
Estimate of numbers	
Contact person – name	
Address	
Postcode	
Telephone	
Email	

Please tick to confirm:

- Yes, I have read and agree to abide by the Local Group Guidelines.
- Yes, I have sent/updated the details of the group for the Regional Diary.
- Yes, I have read and agree that our group will abide by EO's Diversity & Equality policy and the Child Protection Policy.
- Yes, I am a current member of EO

Signed: Date:

All the above policies are available from EO's website: www.education-otherwise.org and can be downloaded and distributed to other group members.

We would particularly like to draw your attention to:

Children and young people under the age of 18 remain the responsibility of their parents or guardians.

Whilst some groups distinguish between age groups, the group must be fully inclusive.

Whilst the group may be called an Education Otherwise group, it is not necessary that all members belong to Education Otherwise the charity.

To continue cover you must update your details by end of June each year before EO's policy is renewed. If any details about the group (except numbers attending) or yourself change, please complete a new form. Otherwise just let us know that you wish cover to continue and the estimated numbers attending, by letter or email.

Thank you for completing this form – we hope your group has a great time. Please return the form via email to EOInsuranceCover@education-otherwise.org or to the address above.

Send your group details for the Regional Diary to: jo4eo@aol.com

EO Disability Group

In April, after discussion on the EO Forums, an email list to discuss Disability Awareness in EO was created. The members of that group, as with all other EO Groups, will be formalising their remit, policies and procedures. However, they want to get working now...and not wait for the bureaucracy.

To that end, they have asked that as many members as possible complete this short questionnaire and return it to the address at the bottom.

For the purposes of this survey, people with disabilities include people who are blind or visually impaired; deaf or hard of hearing; people with heart conditions, learning disabilities or dyslexia; people with mobility and manual dexterity problems; people who have experienced mental health problems; people who have epilepsy or incontinence. This is not an exhaustive list and other disabilities will also qualify.

1	Are you a member of Education Otherwise?	Yes		No	
2	How many adults in your family do you consider to be disabled?				
3	How many children in total do you have in your family?				
4	How many of your children do you consider to be disabled?				
5	Have you ever been to a national EO event?	Yes			Go to Question 6
		No			Go to Question 7
6	Have you ever found it difficult to access the meetings because of a disability? By this we include difficulty in hearing, understanding or seeing; physical access to the building or place where the meeting was; difficulty in travelling to where the meeting was, or any other difficulty. Please give details and use separate sheet if necessary:				
7	What changes could be made to make national events and meetings to make them more accessible to you and your family? Tick all that apply. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Meetings held in buildings which are fully accessible <input type="checkbox"/> Meetings held in areas which are accessible by public transport <input type="checkbox"/> Information send to you in Braille, large print or sound recording <input type="checkbox"/> A crèche that can meet the needs of disabled children <input type="checkbox"/> Anything else – please give details 				
8	If these changes were made would you be more likely to come to a national event?	Yes		No	
9	Please indicate what disabilities exist within your family making attendance at meetings difficult.				
If there is anything else you want to tell the Disability small group, or if you would like to join them, please don't hesitate to include it here, or contact them directly.					
Return this survey electronically to eo-disability@education-otherwise.org					
Or by post to: EO disability survey, 4 Farm Lane, Leighterton, Tetbury, Glos GL8 8US					

At the Open Council Meeting in Sheffield in March, it was agreed that two policies were to be approved as working documents immediately. For information of all members, the two policies are published here.

Education Otherwise

Privacy Policy

Education Otherwise ("We"/"Us"/"Our") takes the privacy rights of its members, volunteers, customers, and users ("You"/"Your") of Our services very seriously and We seek to ensure the highest standards of compliance with UK Data Protection Laws and Regulations and Human Rights Legislation. These privacy rights extend to every individual regardless of age.

We have an up-to-date entry on the Data Protection Register. This can be seen at www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk This Privacy Policy explains to you how we may use your data (as defined in 1.1 below)

This Privacy Policy is incorporated in Our Terms & Conditions. This Privacy Policy explains to You how We may use Your Data (as defined in 1.1 below). By completing a membership form, purchasing goods from the website, online membership requests, requesting an event ticket and/or making a donation to Us, You expressly consent to the use of Your Data in accordance with this Privacy Policy.

1. Your Data

1.1 "Your Data" means any information about You which is personally identifiable or otherwise relates to You, including, without limitation, Your name, address, date of birth, telephone number, email address, other contact details, financial details, comments, opinions, transactions, call requests and other information from which You can be identified and which You or anyone else may disclose to us at any time

2. When do We collect Your data?

2.1 We collect Your Data from You when You:

2.1.1 buy any goods on Our website;

2.1.2 make a request for event information or tickets;

2.1.3 make a donation to Us

2.1.4 apply to join Education Otherwise

2.1.5 and/or anyone else otherwise disclose(s) Your Data to Us at any other point

3. How do We use Your Data?

3.1 We use Your Data to:

3.1.1 process any order, membership request, event ticket request or donation including the administration of payments that You may make to Us;

3.1.2 confirm and investigate any transactions or transfers of monies that may occur in respect of any order, membership request, event ticket request or donation You make;

3.1.3 monitor, develop and improve Our websites and services;

3.1.4 process and deal with any complaints or enquiries made by or about You;

3.1.5 monitor and investigate any suspected breach of Our Terms & Conditions or any suspected unlawful activity, relating to You; and

3.1.6 where You have given your consent, to send You information about Us.

4. Will we pass on Your Data to third parties?

4.1 We may pass Your Data to other parties as follows:

4.1.1 to Our employees [and agents and partners and affiliates] and volunteers to process an order, event ticket request or donation and to administer these and any other services provided to You by Us now or in the future or any correspondence entered into between You and Us, including any marketing activities to which You have consented under paragraph 3.1.6 above;

4.1.2 We may disclose Your Data to the police, regulatory bodies, enforcement authorities or legal advisers in connection with any alleged criminal offence or unlawful activity

4.2 Other than in the circumstances outlined in paragraph 4.1 above, we will not provide Your Data to any third party without Your written consent or unless We are required to do so by law. Please note that We will not pass Your Data to third parties for marketing purposes without Your consent.

4.3 Education Otherwise takes the privacy of its members, staff, volunteers and users extremely seriously. If any person or organisation that is in any way associated with Education Otherwise shares your personal data other than as permitted in paragraph 4.1 above, Education Otherwise will immediately terminate their membership or, in the case of organisations, cease all further association.

5. Control of your personal information

You may choose not to have your personal information used in any of the ways described in this Privacy policy. Where your personal information is collected we will ensure that you will be given the opportunity to give or refuse your consent to any use of your personal information. If at any time you wish to have your personal information removed from our records, or you wish us to stop using your personal information in certain ways, or if you wish to discover the extent of personal information that we hold about you ("Subject Access Request") then please write to the Data Protection Officer, Education Otherwise, PO Box 325, Kings Lynn PE34 3XW. If you make a Subject Access Request, we make a £10 charge for supplying you with this information; cheques should be made payable to Education Otherwise Association Ltd. To help us to find the information that we may hold on you, it would be helpful if you would include, in any Subject Access Request letter, as much information as you can about how you believe we came to hold your personal information.

Data Security and Transfers

5.1 We endeavour to take all reasonable steps to protect Your Data. All the data collected by Us is stored in an encrypted form on a secure computer.

5.2 We will not knowingly transfer Your Data outside of the European Economic Area for any purpose other than in connection with the potential storage of data and systems on servers that may be located elsewhere. This may be the case for some electronic mailing lists. However, we will always endeavour to ensure such lists are subject to required restrictions in accordance with relevant data protection laws.



Education Otherwise

Data Disclosure Policy

Data Disclosure Policy – (overseen by Data Disclosure Officer) ;

Our employees [and agents and partners and affiliates] and volunteers must take particular care when disclosing personal data to third parties, to ensure that there is no breach of the Data Protection Act or the law of confidence.

Disclosure may be unlawful even if the third party is a family member of the data subject, or a local authority, government department or the police. A key point to consider is whether the disclosure is relevant to and necessary for the conduct of the organisation's business. For example, it would generally be appropriate to disclose a volunteer's telephone number in response to an enquiry relating to a function for which they are responsible, but it would not be reasonable or appropriate to disclose a volunteer's address or bank account details.

The disclosure of personal data represents a form of processing of the data. This means that the conditions for fair and lawful processing of personal data and sensitive personal data set out in first Data Protection Principle must be met. Consideration should also be given as to whether the disclosure was one of the purposes for which the data were originally gathered; in particular, whether the disclosure is covered by Education Otherwise's entry in the Information Commissioner's Public Register of Data Controllers, or is a purpose to which the data subject has consented. If not, the disclosure is likely to represent further processing contrary to the second Data Protection Principle.

Disclosure of personal data which are not sensitive personal data is most likely to be justified if one or more of the following conditions applies:

- The data subject has given his/her consent to the disclosure (e.g. at the time when the data were gathered).
- The disclosure is in the legitimate interests of Education Otherwise or of the third party to whom the data are to be disclosed, and does not prejudice the rights, freedoms or legitimate interests of the data subject.
- There is a statutory or legal obligation to disclose the data.
- The disclosure is required for the performance of a contract (e.g. between a member and a contractor).
- The disclosure is necessary to protect the vital interests of the data subject.

More stringent restrictions apply to the processing of sensitive personal data. The most likely conditions that would justify disclosure of sensitive personal data are:

- The data subject has given his/her explicit (ideally written) consent to the disclosure, or
- There is a statutory or legal obligation to disclose the data, or
- The disclosure is necessary to protect the vital interests of the data subject.
- The Data Protection Act also allows personal data to be disclosed to third parties without the consent of the data subject, in the following circumstances:
- The disclosure is necessary for safeguarding national security.
- The disclosure is necessary for the prevention or detection of crime, or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.
- The disclosure is necessary for the assessment or collection of any tax or duty.
- The disclosure is necessary for the discharge of regulatory functions (including the health, safety and welfare of people at work).

- The data to be disclosed are to be used for research purposes, subject to the rules governing the Use of personal data in research.
- The data are information which Education Otherwise is obliged by legislation to provide to the public.
- The disclosure of the data is required by legislation, rule of law or the order of a court.

Staff and volunteers should always exercise caution when dealing with requests from third parties for the disclosure of personal data. Disclosure requests should normally be required to be in writing, and should be responded to in writing. Where reasonable, the party making the request should be required to provide a statement explaining the purpose for which the data is requested, the length of time for which the data will be held, and an undertaking that the data will be held and processed according to the Data Protection Principles. Where the request relates to the prevention/detection of crime, the apprehension/prosecution of offenders, assessment/collection of any tax or duty, or the discharge of regulatory functions, appropriate paperwork should be produced by the enquirer to support their request (e.g. official documentation stating that the information is required in support of an ongoing investigation).

Personal data should only be disclosed over the telephone in emergencies, where the health or welfare of the data subject would be at stake. If data have to be disclosed by telephone, it is good practice to ask the enquirer for their number and to call them back.

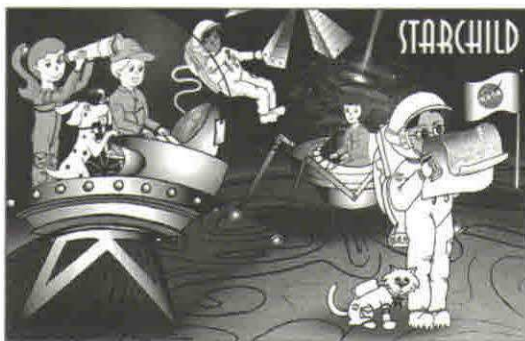
Members of Education Otherwise may have reasons for not wanting contact with parents, other relatives or friends. Requests from relatives, friends etc for the contact details of members should therefore be treated with caution. It is good practice to offer to pass on any message without providing contact details or confirming or denying that the person is a member of Education Otherwise.

If in any doubt a volunteer should contact the Education Otherwise Data Disclosure Officer (details in the EO Newsletter) before disclosing any personal data.

Star Child

A learning centre for young astronomers

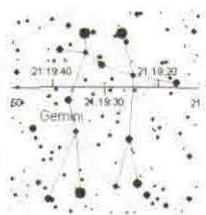
<http://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/StarChild.html>



Heavens-Above

If you're interested in satellites or astronomy, you've come to the right place! Our aim is to provide you with all the information you need to observe satellites such as the **International Space Station** and the **Space Shuttle**, spectacular events such as the dazzlingly bright **flares from Iridium satellites** as well as a wealth of other spaceflight and astronomical information.

<http://www.heavens-above.com/>



Government Policy Group/Campaign Group Activities

GOOD NEWS ABOUT THE THREATENED CONSULTATION

The last two newsletters have been full of information about what the DfES is planning for home education in the way of "light touch changes to monitoring".

Hundreds of us who wrote to Elaine Haste at the DfES in Darlington asking to be told more about the consultation will now have had the following letter from Helen White at DfES Consultations Unit in London.

On 8th May the Department for Education and Skills published a consultation on guidelines for local authorities on elective home education. The publication of this consultation follows discussions with several groups representing home educators and with local authorities. Following these discussions it has been decided not to propose any changes to monitoring arrangements or legislation so this consultation is solely on the issuing of guidelines. The guidelines set out our view on the best approach to balancing the rights of parents and the obligations of local authorities. The consultation will run until 31st July, and the document can be found at www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations or you can reply by email to homeeducation.consultation@dfes.qsi.gov.uk. I look forward to your response.

Thanks
Helen White

The most significant part is "it has been decided not to propose any changes to monitoring arrangements or legislation so this consultation is solely on the issuing of guidelines."

We thought we would be looking at changes to monitoring and possibly to new laws governing home education. Instead we have a full public consultation into written Guidelines for Local Authorities and unlike previous discussions about Guidelines a couple of years ago this is a consultation where we can ALL take part.

I am writing this on Friday 11th May and already I have been getting a lot of emails people asking the following questions :

- 1/ Why IS this good news exactly (I have got all confused about these consultations; I thought we didn't want one and now we are celebrating because we got one, so what exactly is going on ?)
- 2/ WHY did the DfES drop those other plans ?
- 3/ Is there anything I should be particularly bothered about with these draft Guidelines ?
- 4/ Actually, these Guidelines look quite good. If this goes through can we make the LAs stick to them ?
- 5/ What about people who don't have the internet ?
- 6/ Will you tell us what EO is going to write, then ?
- 7 / What's the catch ???

1/ It is good news because if we had changes to monitoring and a definition of "suitable" education then we would have lost valuable case law precedent which allows us to determine our own educational aims and objectives and not be legally bound by any sort of expectations from local or national government.

2/ It is my belief that the DfES dropped the earlier plans to oppress us because Ministers and officials belatedly realised the scale of the opposition to their plans (eg with hundreds of people

registering an interest at the DfES and with 1,600+ signatories to a Downing Street petition against more interference from the authorities). I think they just knew it would be unworkable and potentially extremely expensive. A lot of these decisions come down to money. We already know that the DfES was asking Local Authorities how much it cost to enforce a School Attendance Order relative to the cost of monitoring.

National politics plays its part as well, because we have known for some time that Tony Blair plans to stand down in early Summer and that there will be elections for the Deputy Leadership of the Labour Party, which will probably involve a major cabinet reshuffle . A full public consultation takes 3 months so once they failed to launch it by the end of February they couldn't get it done and out of the way before all the politicking started in earnest.

In short I believe we forced their hand because we had advance information which helped us to organise ourselves. This made all the difference and we need to thank Stephen Tarlton one more time for his dedication in writing to the DfES over and over last year until the Communications Unit let slip the news about a consultation into "light touch changes to monitoring" which started all the alarm bells ringing. The situation would have been very different if we had learned about it for the first time at the DfES meeting on the 19th December.

3/ Is there anything we should be particularly bothered about in the draft Guidelines ? We will all be going through this with a fine tooth comb and it will be discussed on internet support groups such as HE-consult [Subscribe: HE-consult-UK-subscribe@yahoogroups.com]

It will also be discussed on the EO Campaign Website

<http://www.freedomforchildrentogrow.org/indexa.htm> so please keep checking in to the LATEST page

<http://www.freedomforchildrentogrow.org/update.htm> for updates.

The SEN section is not good nor is the part about Travellers.

4/ If the Guidelines are any good, can we make the Local Authorities stick to them ?

Yes and no. Good Guidelines are better than bad Guidelines; good Guidelines are also better than no Guidelines and any Guidelines are better than light touch changes to monitoring, but it is not planned that Guidelines will be legally enforceable. So I think we need now more than ever to involve our Local Authorities in a discussion about Guidelines so that they understand more of our perspective and about how home education can really work well .

Putting it bluntly, we need our Local Authorities to become less paranoid but we also need them to know that we will not compromise our values. The consultation is an ideal opportunity to make contact with the Children's Directorate as set out in the EO Campaign Website pages on What Your Local Authority Can Do For You <http://www.freedomforchildrentogrow.org/la.htm>

I personally believe that a full public consultation into Guidelines is a good first step in this direction because if we play this right then more LAs will feel as if they own the Guidelines and they will recognise that the most important thing is to have a workable document with which the majority of home educators will co-operate. This saves the LA time and of course money and it also covers their backs in terms of meeting statutory obligations. An additional point is that the LA are to be Ofsted'ed on all their work with children and young people and we should play this up in terms of observing the Guidelines.

EO Government Policy Group has further Regional workshops planned to support home educators to make the best possible informed response to the consultation. We are looking at the East Midlands, North Yorkshire, East Anglia and possibly the Bristol area.

If you are interested in a workshop, please contact governmentpolicy@education-otherwise.org or write or telephone me at the address given at the foot of this article. We have until 31st July to make this an overwhelmingly successful consultation response. EO has pledged financial support to workshops in the regions so all you need to do is drum up local support and find a suitable venue (good public transport links, free onsite parking, disabled access , suitable provision for children/childcare etc . Please contact me for more details)

We should think about why the Guidelines in Wales and Scotland are largely ignored by the Authorities and consider how best we can prevent that from happening here. (For those who are interested , here are online links to the Welsh and Scottish Guidelines <http://tinyurl.com/273c4w>

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/4038232/403829/403829/932746/ips-section-6-elective-home1.pdf?lang=en> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2004/03/19061/34286#4>)

5/ What about people who don't have the internet ? Well, you can ask a friend with internet access and printer to download all the relevant sections from this page <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/conDetails.cfm?consultationId=1479>

Alternatively you can phone the DfES Publications Unit Prolog on 0845 6022260 and request a paper copy of :the following relating to : CONSULTATION ON HOME EDUCATION GUIDELINES LAUNCHED ON 8TH MAY

- i/ the consultation document
- ii/ impact assesments,
- iii/ Draft Guidelines
- iv/ response form

The phone number for Elaine Haste at Darlington who is dealing with this consultation is 0870 000 2288 and the phone number for the DfES Consultations Unit in London is 01928 794 888.

6/ What is EO going to write in its official response ? We will be compiling statistics and views to inform our response and we will post regular updates and drafts on the EO Campaign Website and on the EO message group Subscribe: eo-subscribe@yahoogroups.com and on the EO Members Forum <http://www.education-otherwise.org/About%20EO/Joining/MemberArea.htm>.. I hope that people will use our draft responses as a springboard for their own ideas.

7/ What's the catch ? I really don't know. This seems the least bad outcome we could expect following all the pressure on the DfES from Local Authorities and from vocal opponents of home education in the media such as Tony Mooney.

Fiona Nicholson
Acting Chair of Education Otherwise Government Policy Group.
205 Leverton Gardens
Sheffield
S11 8FD

0114 2751142
fiona_j_nicholson@yahoo.co.uk (the middle letter here is j for jam)

Spotlight on Regions

What a wonderful county is Tyne and Wear!
Rosemary New. LC Tyne & Wear

The sequel to the Tyne and Wear article:

Since writing the article about Tyne and Wear which appeared in the April issue, more – wonderful – things have happened up here.

The area has for years been blighted by strife and there have been a number of divisions among us which have been hugely upsetting. However, shortly after sending in the article, events brought a completely unexpected 'turn around' in the situation and we have seen the wonderful effects of reconciliation with all of the local groups in the north east joining forces to work collaboratively.

I'm telling you this because reconciliation IS possible and I want to encourage everyone to work towards it in every sphere of life including your HE scene. Life is too short to nurse grudges, even if you are the one in the 'right'.

One result is that there are now even more activities going on in Tyne and Wear than I'd mentioned in the previous article!

Another result – and partly due to the pre-Consultation Workshop (thank you Consultation!) – is that the LCs and loop owners from North Yorkshire to the Borders are now collaborating and supporting each other with a view to improving HE in the whole region. We call ourselves NERHEN (don't laugh) – North East Regional Home Educators' Network – and can use this when approaching officials to indicate that we have the backing of a substantial number of HEers over a large area. It's also wonderful having the support of other LCs and loop owners to bounce ideas off and work with. I personally find it enormously helpful to be in touch others in the same position as myself.

I believe reconciliation and working together is our way forward.

Letters

Every Child Matters....

Being somewhat ignorant of the 2004 Children's Act I found myself wondering whether Fiona Nicholson was referring to the Act or to her own personal philosophy regarding the 5 Outcomes of Every Child Matters: Be Healthy; Stay Safe; Enjoy and Achieve through Learning; Make

a Positive Contribution to Society; Achieve Economic Well-being. However, a little searching revealed that this is indeed the new government policy and speak, and as a result one must question why "every child matters" now; and seemingly, not before this policy emerged from the civil service think tanks.

As I was not at the Sunderland workshop and unable to partake in the discussions on these weighty topics, I would be pleased to read a draft of the content of the presentation and arguments and implications so discussed.

After brief consideration of these 5 points, so emblazoned on the DfES website: <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/information/> I found myself immediately questioning the first 3 points with regard to their delivery through mainstream school based education. Applying commonly accepted linguistic understanding and meaning for the aspirations of:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve through learning

I was led to the conclusion that the education system has failed to deliver these in the past; does not do so in the present; and if it hopes to deliver them in the future, wondering just how it intends to achieve such broad-sweeping and auspicious aims. All 5 points need considerable refined definition, but the latter two reek of something rather unpleasant in terms of value based judgement, and ring true with Gordon Brown's recent derogatory statements about "lifestylers". Regarding the first of these, what is to be classed as a "positive contribution to society"? Are all our children to make a prescribed amount and type of contribution, regardless of whom they are and their abilities? How and where are they to do this? Are they to do this while they are achieving the last, but presumably not least-desired outcome of "economic well-being". What does this one mean? How does the government expect all to achieve such an unclassified target and still have a functioning socio economic system? When key workers, such as nurses, ambulance drivers, those in the fire-service, police and teaching profession cannot currently afford to get on the home ownership ladder, what chance is there for shop assistants, and other 'key' workers? In fact, what job is not key work for a fully functioning society? Remember the late 70's and the national miner's and dustmen's strikes. However, we need not worry, these tedious and low paid jobs can be, and are being done by migrant

workers, who in a way are out of the mainstream system, as were the slaves of the past, and do not need to achieve economic well-being. However, this latter point may not be absolutely true, because these workers earn better than average wages than they could back in Poland, Indonesia, or Bulgaria, thus improving their economic well-being when eventually they repatriate.

As to our own children, they will have huge educational loan debts after their university courses, will have learnt to live with debt, will not balk at borrowing more in order to have more material goods and foreign holidays now. And will be sold into the sort of doctrinaire slavery favoured by Hitler and described in Huxley's 'Brave New World', and boy had they better be brave, or have enough "soma" to keep them from thinking and reacting against the system. And it's already a fact, cocaine is the current drug of choice for 80% of university students, while 12 year olds are off on a dope trip, and all are happy to be consumers.

Long live autonomous education, but what chance is there for our kids when colleges and employers, not being able to see further than a grade 'C' GCSE, will not accept an Open University 60 credit Certificate in Natural Sciences (with merit) without a level 2 pass in an adult literacy test. Have you seen these tests?

What a system...

*Keith Haworth
Wales*

Experience of Thundering Year's Camp

I first found out about the Thundering Year's camp when my mum received the newsletter from Education Otherwise; the camp was advertised in there. So my friend and I travelled from Lancashire all the way down to Hastings by train, even managing to get there on time.

The things we did there, involved carving, the building of sweat lodge, helping to cook the meals on a camp fire, drumming and telling wild and wonderful stories in the tepee.

We weren't forced to do things we didn't want to and we were respected for who we were, so I decided to give it my all in every thing we did, as a way of respecting the Elders. In the evening we told more wild stories and we also drummed in the round house.

I thought the Camp was a wonderful place to be and I loved every minute of it even if it was something I wasn't too interested in. I came back home feeling more mature about things, also I felt a sense of freedom in life. So thanks Elders for giving me an experience I will never forget.

Bob Wood

Option to opt out?

We are asked to shred the Children's Pages when we have finished with them. I do not have a shredder and I am not about to buy one. Would it therefore be more appropriate for me to be able to opt out of receiving the children's pages?

Priscilla Park Weir

Educating Otherwise?

Over the years I have subscribed to a magazine called 'The New Internationalist', a political magazine focussing on global issues. They used to advertise with the slogan "If you don't stand for something you'll fall for anything". As a passionately committed and long standing member I am coming to the conclusion that Education Otherwise must decide what it stands for before the upcoming government consultation tries to impose its definition on the whole concept of "education" and force all young people into an educational straight jacket dictated by government policy.

The roots of Education Otherwise sprang from the notion that school is not what we want for our children; that we do not want their experience of learning and growing to

be dictated by the state. The school model of what education is dominates our society and most people's way of thinking about learning. I see EO as standing in opposition to this thinking, part of a grand tradition of non-conformity. It is all very well taking your children out of the school building but how much does it really help if you don't take your thinking out of the schooling box.

Part of EO's role has been to challenge people's ideas, making them consider why they do what they do and why they think what they think. If you look at EO publications or on the web site you will see everywhere the guidance that education doesn't have to be like school; you don't have to give formal lessons and you don't have to take exams. And yet over the years this appears to have become just a token gesture that gets lost amid the queries about "how many hours schoolwork a week is enough?" and "how can my child do GCSEs at home?" EO started out convincing each new generation of parents that it is okay to trust their children and to guide them through their learning. What we do now is recommend maths schemes to each other and discuss the best age to start teaching reading.

In gearing up to challenge whatever new regulations the government may have planned for EOers we have to be able to say what we believe in. While EO has always stood by the notion that we do not tell parents how they should go about educating their children, that we offer support to all comers, I believe we have to take our stand on the issue that learning is a unique and uncontrollable process for each individual, and that children have a right to a unique education. Some people chose to fit what they do at home neatly within the school model of education, and I am not trying to oppose their right to do this, but EO must stand for the right to have control over all aspects of the style, content and process of learning. It is not just a matter of the choice of school or not school, we have to challenge government assumptions about education and focus the debate on the real nature of learning.

The government wants to lump us all together into a homogenous group of 'home educators' and impose a narrow definition of what they will allow us to do for our children. Section 7 of the Education Act does in effect recognise the unique nature of learning. In theory the Act offers a personalized education to all children, and what we need is an education policy that lives up to the requirements specified there. Are we going to spend the next thirty years debating the merits of the Oxford Reading Tree or do we want to make a real impact on thinking about education?

Martine Frampton (Gloucestershire)
martine-frampton@bbmax.co.uk
www.silencingthebell.org.uk

New group

We have a new group for Weston-super-mare area, called W.A.V.E.S.

We meet fortnightly for get-togethers, crafts, outings and activities. All local families welcome – see diary section.

For more information, please contact Viv
Tel: 07957580935
E-mail: vvn_vns@yahoo.co.uk

Accessing 6th Form

I would be very grateful to hear from anyone who has had experience of an EO child going into a 6th form which has high entry requirements - either state or private. Were they prepared to be flexible/accept alternative qualifications/other evidence of

appropriate achievement/a mixture of these, or did they insist on the usual string of 'good' GCSEs? What sort of issues were they concerned about? What helped?
I am trying to gather information ahead of sussing out a school and to help us in deciding how far down the GCSE route we feel we want to go,
Did you skip the whole GCSE/A level business altogether but get into a university level course recently? (I know it used to be possible but I wonder if it has all become harder now?)

Sue 01263 733630 (I'm happy to call you back) or *s.pattullo@gmail.com*

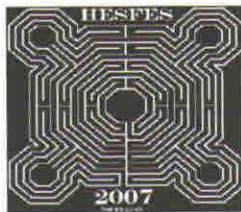
All Grown Up Now

Hello,

I just wanted to say that we took our son out of school in 1983, age 13, after useless attempts from his school to stop bullying. At that time it was a very unusual thing to do and we were looked upon as freaks, although we did use Education Otherwise as support. He re-entered the system aged 16 at a sixth form college for A levels. My son is now 37 and married with a young family. His career ambition in life achieved without conventional schooling..... he is a pilot for Easyjet and soon to be upgraded from first officer to captain!
Please pass on my information to your members for encouragement if you can. For us it was the best thing we could ever have done for a very unhappy child.
Good luck to all of you!!!

Maureen Beech

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Archives

This may raise some memories for some of our more long term members:

Taken at the University of Birmingham in 1982
For a conference organised for John Holt



Dick Kitto & John Holt



Geoff & Iris Harrison, Ivan Geffen & Roland Meighan

EO Merchandise

Where to Find Resources

A list of information on National Curriculum materials and resources and where you can get them is available free from:

Henrietta.turnbull@btinternet.com

(rtf or wpd or doc file);

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

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

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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

Space Colony Webquest

This one is for older children and needs to be done in a group – possibly brothers/sisters, or friends.

<http://www.coollessons.org/spacecolony.htm>

Ethical Phone Calls

EO has an affiliation scheme with the Phone Co-op. This excellent organisation provides inexpensive phone calls, line rental, dial-up, broadband and much more. There are a number of different phone call schemes to suit your needs. The co-operative is "owned" by the members and any profits go back to the members, not into the pockets of phone moguls!

If you buy your phone calls through the Phone Co-op, EO benefits with a small percentage. So help us and help yourself. Just remember to quote our affinity number when you sign up – **016**.

Three ways to find out more: go straight to their web site www.thephone.coop; go to the bottom of the front page of the EO web site or phone 0845 458 9000.

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 is now

reduced to £15.

Subscribe through the website or phone Lynda on 01553 617551

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

Education Spot

My son sent me this a couple of nights ago and I just had to share it!

I OWE MY MOTHER:

1. My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE.

"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."

2. My mother taught me RELIGION.
"If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the "You better pray that this will come out of the carpet."

3. My mother taught me about TIME TRAVEL.

"If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

4. My mother taught me LOGIC.
"Because I said so, that's why."

5. My mother taught me MORE LOGIC.
"If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."

6. My mother taught me FORESIGHT.
"Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."

7. My mother taught me IRONY.
"Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."

8. My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS.

"Shut your mouth and eat your supper."
9. My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM.

"Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"

10. My mother taught me about STAMINA
"You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."

11. My mother taught me about WEATHER.
"This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."

12. My mother taught me about HYPOCRISY
"If I told you once, I've told you a million times. Don't exaggerate!"

13. My mother taught me the CIRCLE OF LIFE.

"I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

14. My mother taught me about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION.

"Stop acting like your father!"

15. My mother taught me about ENVY.
"There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do."

16. My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION.

"Just wait until we get home."

17. My mother taught me about RECEIVING.

"You are going to get it when you get home!"

18. My mother taught me MEDICAL SCIENCE.

"If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to get stuck that way."

19. My mother taught me ESP
"Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?"

20. My mother taught me HUMOR.
"When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."

21. My mother taught me HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT.

"If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."

22. My mother taught me GENETICS.
"You're just like your father."

23. My mother taught me about my ROOTS.

"Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?"

24. My mother taught me WISDOM.
"When you get to be my age, you'll understand."

25. And my favorite: My mother taught me about JUSTICE

"One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you

Advertisements

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

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www.orgonecore.org.uk



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to Laurie McAulay, 17 Crossleys, Fleckney, Leics.
LE8 8BY

or e-mail lauriemcaulay@hotmail.co.uk

The campsite can be viewed at www.jlw.me.uk
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on 0116 282 7929

or e-mail pam@phonecoop.coop

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Astronomy

The theme of the 'filler' windows this issue will be astronomy and space exploration. Most of the links have been recommended by other home educators at some point.

<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/education/explore/>

EXPLORE. Fun with science. A program designed to engage youth in space and planetary science in the library and other informal learning environments. Through video explorations and related hands on activities, and supporting resources, children of all ages are immersed in the wonder of rockets, space colonies, our solar system, how our planets were shaped...and much more.

Articles

Diary Of A Home-Educating Nobody.

Wouldn't be easy if children had blinkers on!

Then they wouldn't be distracted by the Lego they can see out of their eye corner. Or the dog doing something really exciting – like lying on the mat asleep. Or something else they've just spotted that they absolutely have to attend to straight away. Anything other than attending to the subject we want them to attend to!

It would be so easy if we could just steer them down a straight and narrow path, with no turn-offs, no distractions, no tangents of other interest, no buts and no whys!

What an easy educational route that would be. I daydream about it! Like I'm sure the health visitor daydreams about her little charts. The ones where the children's growth pattern maps out a nice average line on the development graph. Where everything progresses in a predictable and linear fashion. Wouldn't it be easy if Home Education were linear like that? Wouldn't it be worry-less!

If I'm honest, I would like my children to start at the beginning of a mapped out, graded workbook, progress enthusiastically through it, and arrive at the other end having satisfactorily digested and learnt all the information and skills in between. And I'd like them to approach all the subjects on the National Curriculum that way. Not only that, I would like them to approach it with self-motivation, without me constantly having to encourage and cajole, or worse! This would keep a nice straight line on a progress chart and it would keep a nice straight line on my self-confidence graph too, if I had one!

It would be great to have a home educating life like that. It would be great to have managed the children to do it like that. But I never managed it. However, I did manage to learn something that is quite comforting. I have learnt that actually learning isn't really linear – it certainly doesn't have to be to be successful. It isn't always straight and narrow. And in reality children don't progress in satisfying gradients as we'd like them to – but actually, it doesn't matter.

I used to worry myself endlessly that we had a very dipped-into, hotchpotch kind of approach to subjects. I used to worry about how it was all going to turn out when we learnt about world war two one minute and Henry VIII the next without regard for any chronological order. I used to worry that we were could discuss complicated concepts like genetic modification, but we didn't know something more basic about biology like what organs we have in our own bodies! And we'd skipped doing loads of sums because some of the shapes pages further ahead in the maths book looked interesting.

I used to worry about all this a lot. About the fact that we weren't progressing in a linear fashion through subjects like educationalists suggest we do.

Until I realised, as time's gone on, that it really doesn't matter that much. It doesn't matter because our brain has this wonderful self-organising function which makes sense of it all, pieces it all together in the right order, in a way I sorely wish my computer would do with all my jumbled files!

I find that although we might have discussed various aspects in history in no chronological order the children are piecing together the order for themselves. That although we didn't start at the beginning of a scheme book in science and work through, when we looked back over a book I found the other day the children saw how it all fitted together. They seem to organise the information for themselves and understand how it all relates.

There actually doesn't necessarily have to be a starting point. A linear approach doesn't necessarily mean that children are going to be better educated than if they had a non-linear approach. And there never actually has to be an end to education either.

Sometimes, obviously, some skills and understanding need to be based on the skills and understanding that have been accomplished before. But it is comforting to know that it hasn't always got to be the case. There hasn't always got to be a starting point, a middle and an end! The best place to start, and the best way to progress, is from the child's real needs and abilities, and not from the need to keep a chart.

I think we sometimes get caught up in worry over maintaining a very linear approach to acquiring knowledge. It certainly is easier and if that had suited our family we would have done it like that. It certainly is reassuring.

But it does help to remember that it isn't the only approach, even though that's the way it is done in school. It helps to remember that the children would have plenty of distractions in school. It helps when I see the children watching a complicated programme on natural history one minute, then return to watching something simple like 'Words And Pictures' the next, get an equal amount of unrelated information from both and store it away in the right brain files!

So now whether we work through our books from start to finish, or jump ahead and back again, I'm not going to worry about it. Instead, I'm going to try and keep in touch with my belief that it will all come together in the right order eventually!

Ross Mounthey

I need a little help from you!

I wonder if there are any home educators out there who would be willing to help me. I have been asked to write a book about home education and want to include the real experiences of real home educators! I would like to do this in the form of quotes directly from you about: why you HEed; how you structure (or not) your days/life; how HE has worked for you; what you feel about it, HEing special needs children, where your HEed children ended up, etc. etc. anything you'd like to tell me (or others) really! There would be no names appear with your quote – I would simply accredit it by saying 'parent of two children HEing for two years', for example.

I would be so very grateful for any thoughts you might like to offer. You can email me, or write to the address below.

Thank you so much. Ross

Email: ross.mounthey@tiscali.co.uk

Address: The Sailors Home, Sea Lane, Old Leake, Boston, Lincs. PE22 9JL

Our experiences

We have really enjoyed reading the last two issues of the Newsletter – more than we have for a long time. Issue 174 was heavy, but interesting all the same and had the Ursula Clark letter, which we found very heartening. And then to read the follow-up letters in issue 175 was the

extra motivation we needed to finally write this letter. We have been thinking about writing to let others know about our experiences since we finished officially home educating 18 months ago. We really enjoyed the process, and continue to give support, and feel thoroughly vindicated in our decision to take our 2 children out of school and teach them ourselves.

Our son and daughter, now 19 and 18, went to school as normal until they were 10 and 9. Our son was glad to come out of school because he hated it. He was slow, never got his work finished, and although he's slim and fit, he was never any good at football – the obligatory playtime game – and so he felt very isolated. He was basically very unhappy both in lesson times and at playtimes. Our daughter mostly enjoyed school and had friends amongst the girls and boys because she was pretty and sporty too.

Our son never regretted for one day leaving school. Our daughter did at first. She kept in touch with one or two friends but it was never quite the same.

Initially, I didn't feel confident that we'd be able to teach them once they got to secondary school age, but my husband was always sure. It was partly in case they wanted to return to school that we concentrated on the basics of maths, English and science. Then they would hopefully be at a similar level to classmates. A typical day began slowly and they would do a couple of hours work in the morning. They had a longish lunch break and played and then did another hour or two in the afternoon. We reckoned that if they were at school they wouldn't, in reality, be studying for more than 3-4 hours once you took off the time for registration, assembly, breaks, moving from class to class and settling down for each lesson. It seems that children are at school for many hours with not much quality time being spent on teaching and learning.

It was very different at home. Our daughter came to enjoy the relaxed time. We had lots of days out when places weren't busy and took long camping holidays out of season. They were both happier and most definitely healthier.

Our daughter still had moments of wanting to go to school again, especially around the time when she would have moved on to secondary school. But before long, one particular friend told her of the bullying and tormenting that she was suffering. She was having to change her behaviour and start swearing in order to be like the others. One of the most common arguments that we hear against home education is that if children don't go to school they miss out on social aspects. What social aspects are those, we ask! If you're thinking about home education but worry about the social bit, don't worry. Your children don't need it! There will be plenty of opportunities, either in further education or at work, to socialise without the unhappiness that (sadly) is often associated with school these days.

So our daughter was glad to be out of school and has since said that if she ever has children of her own she would home educate them. Our son knew all along that he would have been completely crucified every day of his school life. We also soon realised that the work that their friends and neighbours were doing in their first 2 or 3 years of secondary school was hardly more advanced than they'd been doing at primary school, the quality was poor and there wasn't much of it. We were encouraged that our own children were certainly not lagging behind in their education. Admittedly they weren't doing the range of subjects. But many of these get dropped anyway and our children were getting a broad general education with lots of conversation.

Apart from our children's own choices of some Geography, drawing, music and computer skills, we basically concentrated on giving them a thorough grounding in maths and English. We did buy some maths and English Key Stage 3 books and found that these were more or less sufficient to take them up to what was expected at GCSE level. We also felt motivated to write and publish our own books for maths, English and science specifically with home educating families in mind. We wanted people who didn't know if they would be able to teach their children

the basics, to have the resources they would need to do it. So our books gave instruction on the basics of maths, English and science and practical exercises and experiments to do for each subject. Some EO families bought them (hope they were useful) and they've even been used in a couple of local schools to help those who've never grasped the basics.

We considered having our books reviewed in the EO Newsletter but were told that, although they wouldn't give them bad reviews, they would have to be careful who they asked to review them because many people in EO are not keen on the traditional workbook with instructions and exercises. This confirmed the feeling we'd had a few years ago and was echoed in Jenny Morton's article in issue 175. There was a distinct feeling that those who pursued the traditional approach were somehow doing it wrong. Yes, everyone was entitled to home educate in their own way, but really the free approach was what it was all about. Those of us still teaching our children were left feeling as though perhaps we shouldn't belong to EO. This attitude seemed to last for several years and it is only very recently that we are beginning to feel that all approaches are genuinely accepted. The Diary of a Home-Educating Nobody has also helped (the piece about GCSE English was spot on as far as our experience with our daughter is concerned). It made us realise that there are others taking the traditional approach but in the relaxed atmosphere of home.

To bring things up to date, when our son was 16 and could leave (!! he did some part-time computer related courses at a local college. A year later, our daughter turned 16 and decided she wanted to get 5 GCSEs so that she could go into nursing. She enrolled on a 1 year course at a local college. Unfortunately she was suffering from a fairly rare medical condition that put her out of action for a while and eventually meant she needed a total hip replacement. She got good grades in 3 subjects (including maths and English!) and so she's back at college this year having a second crack at it. We're very proud of what she's achieved considering the trauma of her operation at the age of 17.

Meanwhile, we encouraged our son to also enrol on a course. Computers have always been his interest. He's always found reading, writing and spelling very difficult. He was accepted on a BTEC course (equivalent to 3 A levels). The entry requirement was 5 GCSEs but he had no qualifications at all. He was accepted following a personal interview with the tutor on condition that if he wasn't making the grade in the first term he would be kicked off the course. He went from strength to strength, being voted the Student Rep, winning the Student of the Year award and now on the brink of going to university with offers from all the 5 that he applied to. He has support for his dyslexia which the college assessed as being severe.

We are very proud of the achievements of both our children. Take courage in what you are doing. We really hope that EO will encompass all attitudes and approaches and make all feel fully included and valued.

Best wishes to you all.
Mike and Jill Finch
snailalley@hotmail.com

Orgonomy Today

Conference and Exhibition – The Science of the Life Energy 2007 Chipping Village Hall, Lancashire, August 13th –17th

The founder of orgonomy, Wilhelm Reich, was a great friend of A S Neill, the pioneering advocate of children's right to autonomy in their education. 2007 is the fiftieth anniversary of Reich's death and orgonomic organisations are holding conferences to celebrate his life-work

and place orgonomy before a wider public. The Centre for Orgonomic Research and Education (C O R E), the UK's only orgonomic organisation, is running a conference and exhibition in the Village Hall in Chipping, Lancashire from August 13th to 17th. Admission to the exhibition is free. Visitors will be able to examine experiments in progress using our microscopes, observe the atmospheric orgone energy through binoculars and telescopes, look at the night sky through a high quality telescope, sit in an orgone accumulator, and examine seed-germination experiments going on in a small experimental accumulator. If your child likes science but finds ordinary science rather soulless, they should find this exhibition enthralling. If conditions are suitable we hope to show an orgone-charged vacuum tube luminating in the dark.

The exhibition will appeal to children who are interested in biology, micro-life, evolution and the origins of life, astronomy and cosmology, physics, and organic gardening, not to mention the connections between life-energy and psychology. There will be impromptu talks and demonstrations to take people through the exhibition. Please bring anything that you would like to look at down a microscope. Organic gardeners may like to have the bio-energetic vitality of a sample of their soil or compost measured with our life energy meter. You can also see the strength of your own energy using this apparatus. Adults interested in alternative models of health should also find the exhibition of interest

Chipping is 10 miles east of Preston, in an AONB, the Trough of Bowland. The hall is surrounded by a large playing field. There is also a smaller fenced-in play park. Participants may attend for the whole week with accommodation provided for an all-in fee. Day-attenders are also welcome. Children under 18 half-price, those under 8 free, babies-in-arms welcome. On the 18th there will be a presentation by Peter Jones, former EO parent and C O R E's founder, on orgone-therapeutic support in childbirth, of interest to anyone expecting a baby. After the break there will be a demonstration of orgone-therapy with babies. Please bring your own baby (up to the age of about 3), if you would like to take part in this. There will also be presentations on cloud-busting (what's that?!) by the world's expert, Dr James DeMeo, and on life-energy, soil, and food by Joseph Heckman, Professor of Soil Science at Rutgers University. For more information and a brochure contact C O R E on 01772 258948. If you are thinking of coming, please book, even as a day-attender, so we can plan meals and drinks. Peter Jones and C O R E look forward to seeing you.

Response to "Developing the Regions and Democratising EO"

I have been a member of EO since 1986, involved in local groups in Leeds and in Cumbria, Local Contact for Cumbria, GCSE contact, served a 3 year term as a Trustee/Council member (CM) from Feb 2004 to Feb 2007, and for the last 9 months of that term was Chair. EO began life as a small group of families who met together, face to face, not virtually, for friendship and support, to fight for the right to educate their children outside the school system. Thanks to their pioneering work home education in the UK has the profile and acceptance that it has today - when I began to 'officially' home educate 19 years ago few folk had heard of home education when I explained, in response to the "No school today?" question. These days the information that I educate my children out of school is more often acknowledged as something that the enquirer has heard of.

It has become increasingly obvious to those involved as Trustees that EO as an organisation has outgrown itself, and work has been done intermittently, particularly in recent years, to address the issue of change in the organisation. As Gwen said, the principle of involving all members in running the organisation and of consensus decision making, that have stood EO in such good stead for so long, are no longer feasible. EO is now a large membership organisation (4500 member families) providing support to a vast number of families considering or

undertaking home education, as well as working with the statutory authorities to maintain the rights and freedom to home educate in the UK.

The main decision making forum in EO is via Open Council Meetings (OCM), which are open to any interested members. Currently (although changes are afoot) EO Council holds 3 OCMs a year. In my experience as a Trustee it is not possible to effectively manage an organisation the size of EO at 3 meetings a year – the meetings are marathons, at least 6 hours long, business gets passed over through lack of time or not given sufficient consideration due to fatigue. Even at a large meeting maybe 40 or 50 members are present, a small proportion of EO's membership, thus compromising the ethos of member involvement in running the organisation. EO has a council of 14 (minimum, 19 maximum) Trustees and a network of around 150 volunteer post holders, but has no clear management structure, which results in the overload and burnout of Trustees as they cope with much of the day-to-day running of EO, as well as the strategic organisation of EO. Change is much overdue and urgently needed. EO is not the first or the only charitable organisation to have been a victim of its success, and to have required some kind of overhaul to remain functioning and viable as it has outgrown its founding organisational structure. There is much support and funding available for charitable organisations facing up to major change processes and EO could do with investigating the various options that might be available.

The Strategic Development Group (SDG) was set up in May 2007 with the remit

1. to identify areas where EO's functioning is under resourced, or in need of development
2. to investigate outside sources of advice to assist EO to develop its structure
3. to develop and cost a 5 year strategy

The regionalisation of EO as proposed by Gwen Baldock in the last newsletter is one possible way forward for EO, and would meet the need for continued 'grass root' member involvement in the running of the organisation. But there are other possibilities too. One could be to slim down the central national organisation to continue to provide helpline/enquiries support and the legal/government policy work that has resulted in the rights and freedoms of home education today, but that are continually under threat, while the local group/ regional activities become some kind of franchise arrangement, autonomous but under the umbrella of EO. Another possibility could be a very structured organisation with a staffed office, a paid Chief Executive or Development Manager and volunteer divisional heads managing teams of volunteer postholders in various areas of interest. And there are no doubt many more options inbetween. The practical, functional and financial implications of new structures would need to be looked at in detail before a selection of proposed new structures are put to the membership for consideration, which is what I understood the remit of SDG to be.

In the reply from Joss Nowell to Gwen, it appears that SDG have a "proposed new structure" for EO that will require changes to EO's Articles of Association (the legal governing document of EO) as well as "policies, procedures and remits and postholder descriptions".

As a member of SDG I understood that, up to Feb 2007, one outside expert had been briefly consulted about possible changes to EO's structure and it appears that the proposed new structure is based on his opinion (as outlined in the minutes of the Feb 2007 SDG meeting). I would like to see further model structures and other organisations' examples explored by SDG before selected possibilities are outlined in the newsletter for discussion by EO members. The newsletter is the only means of communication that reaches all members of EO (and if some members choose not to read it that is their responsibility) and like Gwen I believe that it must be used as the main forum for discussion of the development of EO.

The SDG's time frame for the proposed reforms, as outlined by Joss, looks ambitious and does not allow much time for consultation with members. I believe that changes to EO are urgent, but I would like to see some detailed consultation with members before a new structure

and changes to EO's legal governing document are proposed. Policies, procedures, remits and job descriptions would follow, depending on the structure that the organisation decides to take on, and if funding was obtained for a fixed term Development Manager this could be part if their remit to get EO onto a more democratic, stable and focussed footing.

At the first meeting of the SDG there was unanimous agreement that the most important work that EO did was to provide support and information to families. It is vital that we do not lose sight of this role for the organisation, and that those involved in managing the change process do not compromise the founding ethos of EO as a support organisation. Difficult decisions and hard work are ahead but by working together EO will survive.

Sarah Cook

The Old Cottage, Croglin, Carlisle, CA4 9RZ Tel. 01768 896019

"You don't need TV if you have a fire"

When we receive this sort of comment on our feedback sheets we know that we have done our job. 'We' are Circle of Life Rediscovery, a group that has been putting on groups for teenagers for the past three years. We take them out into the woods for anything from two to five days and help them rediscover a life free from TV, mobile phones and all the familiar trappings of the modern world. We sleep in tents and haul in most of our water. There are no hot showers to keep our hair shiny, nor mirrors to monitor our makeup. We discover how cold it gets at night and what a difference the wind makes. We love the patterns the leaves make and the soft spring flowers. Some of us are freaked out at first by the smallest beetle, but we soon get used to sharing our home with smaller beings and soon we scarcely notice them.

The centre of our camp is a fire – here we eat, sing, tell stories, drum, joke, experiment with carving, weaving, pottery, listen to the birds, peer up at the stars through the leaves of the trees. We look into the flames and notice the patterns, we move around to escape the smoke, we cook marshmallows, we collect wood to feed the fire. We spend evenings just watching it and poking it and hanging out in a contented way.

We rediscover how good it is to be a part of the natural world.

In the days we venture away from our warm core and play wild games in the woods, listening like a deer, guarding our nest like an eagle, trying to remember which tree it was that we explored while blindfolded. Running, giggling, stumbling, we find our way around the woods, looking for signs of their occupants.

We learn how other cultures saw life and lived with the land. Those, like the Native Americans who were happy with a subtle way of being that required great understanding and skills to travel through the land. We learn how we might look after ourselves: which twigs are likely to help us light a fire, what foods we might find around us, how we could make a whistle from a tree branch, how we could shelter ourselves.

We sit together in our teepee and talk about issues that concern us – what is it like to have a baby? Can older people really talk about sex? How can one avoid being bullied without joining the bullies? Here, the measures of difference that rank us among our peers have all ceased to exist or to matter. We are all expected to help with tasks that are unfamiliar. When dogs bark in the night, we cling together, as inexperienced as one another, wondering whether there might be wolves roaming the woods.

When it is time to go, the staff watch as the young re emerge into the other world. One comments on how unfamiliar it now seems as she moves towards her mother. Another puts on his hard shell with his city clothes and we know that he needs to come back to regain the softer, enthusiastic boy that he has become over his days with us. But even so, something has been touched and will not be forgotten, just hidden, perhaps as he returns to a hard unfriendly world.

Teenagers will have the opportunity again this year to camp with Circle of Life Rediscovery.

We are affiliated to Rediscovery Canada, with whom our founder, Marina Robb, trained several years ago. Rediscovery Camps are found all over the world and share a common vision:

"Circle of Life Rediscovery aims at empowering people of all ages and cultures to discover the natural world, the worlds between cultures and the worlds within themselves."

Here in the U.K, Marina has been developing the programme and vision with Annie Spencer (www.hartwell.eu.com) to bring a unique energy from this land to the camps, and to offer experiences for young people that will be long-lasting and possibly life-changing.

We are running three camps this year:

The Deer Camp, for young women only ages 14- 17 (June 22nd – 24th); The Thundering Years camp, a mixed camp ages 15 – 18 years (28th – 1st July) and Night on the Mountain camp ages 16 - 19 (August 6th – 12th). Please visit our website for more information. We are now an East Sussex Centre, are risk assessed and all programmes offer the John Muir Award, a nationally recognised conservation award. All staff members are CRB checked.

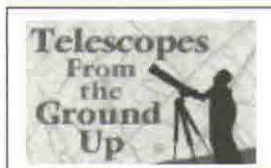
There are 14 places on each camp so early booking is advised.

More information and much more please visit our website www.circleofliferediscovery.com or call 01273-470793 to have a chat.

Amazing Space...

...uses the Hubble Space Telescope's discoveries to inspire and educate about the wonders of our universe.

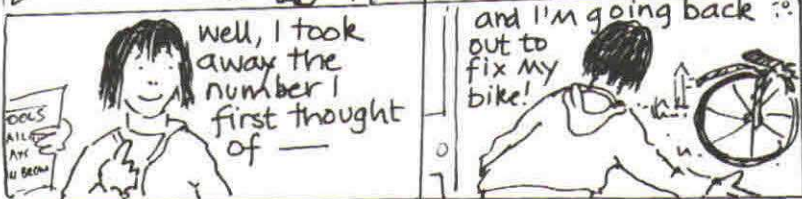
Explore telescopes from the ground up
<http://amazing-space.stsci.edu/>



Hubble Telescope

EDUCATING ARCHIE - stats or Sats?

Mrs G reads the papers ...



Reviews

Additional book reviews can be found in the Members Area of the EO website

One Son is Enough by Peggy Woodford

The story is about twin boys living in nineteenth century Turkey. Born in a nomadic tribe they fall victim to the Sultan's decree that one son is enough for any family and the other son has to go and serve him as a palace slave. The parting is upsetting and they aim to find a way of reuniting, with Osman seeking to rescue his brother Iskander. A very good book, a compelling read. The story pulls you in, you want to know what happens next. It keeps you guessing what will happen to the boys. The two boys are very different, one strong and pessimistic; the other brave and optimistic. There was a lot of sympathy for the boys. It tells you a lot about the hardships, about life in these times providing an opportunity to learn something about a place and time you know little about. Worth recommending - a good book to read, or to read aloud.

Karis (12) and Galen (8)

£6.99 ISBN 1-84428-145-0 Walker

Stinkie Stevie by Christina Sewell

Stevie is a girl whose mother believes passionately in saving the planet, which means no cleaning anything, including her daughter, which earns Stevie the nickname of Stinkie. She moves into a new neighbourhood to look after her poorly grandma, which means she has to attend a new school which causes her all sorts of problems. Stevie gradually wins over her enemies and finally convinces her mother that other people's idea of cleanliness may not be so wrong after all. I really enjoyed the book because it shows how you can succeed in life if you are prepared to put in the work no matter how difficult the situation is.

Jack (10)

£8.99 ISBN 1-84624-073-5 Book Guild

Dark Hours by Gudrun Pausewang

Another great war novel by an excellent German writer. This one describes the horrific events that Gisel and her siblings

endure as the Red Army slowly suffocates the remains of Nazi Germany. They are on the run from their home as the rampant Russians spread havoc and terror and get closer and closer. This is a dark insight into the last months of living in Hitler's shrinking world that thrills and intrigues the reader as the story progresses. The story is told by a grandmother to her granddaughter through a letter, which almost gives the effect of the story being seen through a black and white television. It also includes information on Nazi Germany in the end of the book to help inform those who do not know much about the workings and ways of World War 2. This is a book well worth recommending from my point of view - a book that anyone could get into.

James (15)

£5.99 ISBN 1 74114 921 5 Allen & Unwin

Chimp and Zee's First Words and Pictures

by Catherine and Laurence Anholt

This is a nicely illustrated and fun word and picture book. A few of the pictures are a bit ambiguous but this would only matter if you were determined that your child provides the "correct" answer. The words and pictures are organised on a series of themes and at the end of each theme a question is given to prompt further discussion with your child. Bonnie was already familiar with the Chimp and Zee characters and I think this adds to her enjoyment of the book - she often wants to read another Chimp and Zee story after reading this one. Lottie also enjoys reading and talking about this book with Bonnie. I don't think I would go out and buy this one but it's certainly worth looking out for at the library.

Sarah-Jo with Bonnie (21/2, Lottie 6)

£9.99 ISBN 1-84507 375 4 Frances Lincoln

The Runaway Pancake

retold by Mairi Mackinnon

'First Reading, Level 4 series', this is a simple retelling of the story designed for children learning to read. The illustrations are fun and the text is clear. Although my son is not yet ready to learn to read he has thoroughly enjoyed having this one read to him.

Jane with Freddie (3)

£4.99 ISBN 0-74607-052-7 Usborne

P is for Pakistan

by Shazia Razzak and Prodeepa Das.

This is an attractive and informative book about the culture and people of Pakistan. It is arranged simply in an A-Z format and contains many colourful photographs which accompany the text. The book sets out to give a true flavour of the people and how they live. Annie wrote: "This is a history book about another country. It is written in alphabetical order. I learned things about the country, such as: In Pakistan they write from right to left and they have ice-cream like us! I liked the pretty jewellery and the people seemed happy and friendly. Their clothes looked pretty and bright and colourful. It made me want to try the food". We felt that this was a book to read together with a child and we enjoyed it. We were inspired to find out more about Pakistan. The photographs are fabulous!

Adrian with Annie (6)

£11.99 ISBN 978-0-84507-483-8 Frances Lincoln

The Singing Year by Candy Verney

This takes you on a journey through the seasons, with songs for every occasion. It is beautifully illustrated and comes with a CD of all the songs in the book so those who do not read music easily can learn them as they go along. We were really impressed with the collection of songs about the weather, birds, animals, flowers, insects, celebrations and all that makes up childhood. Definitely the best song book we have come across.

Hilary with Isaac (6) and Finty (2)

£16.99 ISBN 1-903458-39-0 Hawthorne Press

The British Museum Quiz Book

This is a really interesting book as it is full of questions with a small card game board included as part of the back cover, which you pull out and play on. There are hundreds of very interesting questions in four different sections and different levels (fairly easy to hard): the ancient Aztecs, Romans, Greeks and Egyptian. There are 3 answers to choose from and the correct answer enables you to move your counter around the board. The board is based on the four different periods too and the symbols denote which type of question you are asked (subjects relate to the periods). I loved playing the game with my friends and it is a really fun way to learn about these times in history.

Keith (13)

£6.99 ISBN 0-7141-3035-4 British Museum Press

Zodiac Girls - from Geek to Goddess

by Cathy Hopkins

Emily says: "This book is about an ordinary girl called Gemma, who is worried about moving schools. But when she gets there, she discovers she's much more than just another girl starting boarding school....she's a Zodiac Girl and will get special help from the planets for one month as she tries to deal with friendship problems. I think this is a brilliant book for any budding astrologer like me, aged about 8 plus. This first book in the series is about Gemini. Enjoy!" Jon says: "Two things worried me before I read this book with Emily - the handling of the subject matter, astrology, and the setting of a boarding school. I had visions of Russell Grant meets Enid Blyton producing heaven knows what! I didn't want to like the book, but I did. With laugh out loud moments, identifiable characters and sensitive handling of painful life experiences, there are equal doses of sympathy and humour. Being married to a professional astrologer, I had my doubts about whether the author could make a good job of this subject without trivialising and stereotyping, but it is actually a very readable, enjoyable book. We'll definitely read the others in the series when they're released."

Jonathan with Emily (aged 8)

£4.99 ISBN 987-0-7534-1165-0 Kingfisher

The Postman's Dog by Lisa Shanahan

Elena said, "This is a book about a postman called Charlie and he always got up before the sun. One day his wife died and then he was so upset but someone said, "Maybe having a dog would make you feel better" and it did." And that's it. Gillian said, "It's a nice story about a community who are all nice to each other but not especially interesting unless you're really into the healing power of pets".

Gillian with Elena (6) and Emily (4)

£10.99 ISBN 1-74114-2520 Allen & Unwin

See Inside Science by Alex Frith and Colin King

This chunky 15-page hardback book is attractively laid out. There are lots of flaps on every page (over 50 in the entire book) with additional pictures and information inside the flaps. The book covers a broad range of science ideas with little pictures and snippets of information on each page. I liked 'The

Periodic Table' as it gives meaning and adds a bit of fun into what can be seen as a dull, meaningless chart. I feel this book is a lively, easy to read introduction to science for 8/9 year olds and at £8.99 is good value.

Clare

£8.99 ISBN 0-7460-7744-0 Usborne

Start to series by Search Press

This new series includes four different books; 'Start to Quilt', 'Start to Knit', 'Start to Bead' and 'Start to Embroider'. The books are good value and an excellent introduction to all these crafts, starting with the basics and giving clear instructions. Colour photos clarify the easy instructions. My only criticism is that the models used are all girls and most of the projects are 'girly' as my 13 year old put it. As he is keen on all these crafts it is a shame that this put him off! The recommended age range is 10 - 14 but I am sure many younger children could master these crafts using the books.

Sally

£6.99 each from Search Press

Powder Monkey by Paul Dowswell

This book is about the adventures of Sam Witchall who is just thirteen years old when

he goes to sea on a merchant ship. He is then press-ganged onto a military ship where he is part of a gun crew. He makes friends and enemies of the other crew members. He is bullied whilst on the ship because he is well educated and is able to read and write unlike most of the others. He faces storms, battles and pursuits with other ships. It all makes for a very fast moving adventure story. I would recommend it to over tens who enjoy adventure stories.

Jake (13)

£6.99 ISBN 0-7475-7721-8 Bloomsbury

Jake Jellicoe and the Dread Pirate Redbeard by Joanna Nadin

Jake Jellicoe is poor, so poor that he sleeps on a shelf in the pantry and only ever eats gruel for breakfast, a crust of bread for lunch and fish head soup for tea. In fact the Jellicoes are so poor that in six months time they will be forced to sell the newborn baby for a few coins. Jake for one is not happy about this and runs away from home to find his fortune. He heads to Stinking Porth where he is recruited by the crew of the flounder, as cabin boy on the hunt for the lost treasure of The Dread Pirate Redbeard. But he soon finds that all is not as it seems and the captain of the flounder turns out to be The Dread Pirate Redbeard in disguise, but before Jake can warn the crew he is forced to walk the plank for crimes he did not commit. But all hope is not lost as Jake is rescued by another pirate, Redbeard's arch enemy, together they speed towards the treasure in a vain attempt to beat Redbeard to it. Only to find him waiting for them, in the finale Redbeard and his arch enemy are forced to duel for the treasure, on a desert island in the middle of nowhere, luckily Redbeard cheats and fires too early meaning his arch enemy wins by default. A very treasure island style book that I would recommend to anyone up to the age of 12.

Lewis (12)

£4.99 ISBN 0-7445-5786-0 Walker

Origami by Steve and Megumi Biddle

This book is fantastic. It is origami that is inspired by Japanese prints and whilst traditional origami uses no glue and scissors and some of these models do, this certainly

does not distract from its pleasure value. A 'must have' for anyone who loves origami. My favourite models are the shrimp (it looks so realistic when it is made), the dragonfly, the frog and the boat. It comes with sheets of brightly coloured special origami paper, ingeniously packed neatly as part of the cover. The spiral binding makes it very easy to use as the pages stay nice and flat when you are doing the models.

Keith (13)

£14.99 ISBN 0-7141-2708-6 British Museum Press

The following 2 titles are by Laura Hambleton and Sedat Turhan and published by Milet Publishing.

Reviewed by Julieann with Lydia (5)

Monkey Business Fun with Idioms

Idioms are expressions that don't mean what you expect. There are 11 expressions each with a bright illustration of the actual expression and a list of the expressions and their meaning at the back of the book, i.e. I'm on cloud nine, I am very happy. As young children tend to take things literally the drawings highlight the expression literally which can be quite funny. With an adults input and explanation, for younger children the book can help them make sense of expressions they may hear in their everyday lives. For older children, it is a clever way to introduce idioms into their English comprehension and they could try and find more expressions to illustrate.
ISBN 1-84059-4993

Telling Tales Fun with Homonyms

Homonyms are words that sound the same but have different meanings, i.e. flower, flour.

The book has 11 colourful and bright illustrations of words showing the incorrect word used in the illustration, for example, flower in a cake!

Younger children may need the drawings explained to make sense of why some of the words are used. I feel you get a better sense of the humour if you can read and spell. I'm sure older children would find them funny and it would help them to use the correct spellings in their writing. A fun way to look at words. Both books are more suited to older

children who are writing/reading for themselves but can easily be introduced to younger children.

Lydia found this book funnier once the humour behind the illustration was explained.

ISBN 1-84059-4985

A Brief Chapter in My Impossible Life by Dana Reinhardt

This book is about a girl, Simone, whose birth mother wants to meet her, after she gave her away for adoption sixteen years ago. After much thinking Simone agrees, only to discover her mother is dying of cancer. It's a touching story of love and religion, encompassing a lot of subjects and describing one girl's journey mentally and spiritually. An engaging read.

Molly (13)

£5.99 ISBN 1-4063-01000 Walker

Dead Man's Close by Catherine MacPhail

Part of the FYI (Fiction with Stacks of Facts) Series of books. Spider and Lizzie have gone back in time to the dark streets of Edinburgh in 1861. They meet the young Robert Louis Stevenson, think they've discovered a body snatcher and visit Mary King's Close. The story forms the first half of the book. The second half forms Spiders Notebook, where he writes about what he has learned during his adventure. I really enjoyed the book and would like to read more in the series.

Jack (10)

£5.99 ISBN 1-84299-391-7 Barrington Stoke

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Parenting Across the Autism Spectrum Unexpected Lessons We Have Learned Maureen F. Morrell and Ann Palmer

I thought by now I'd read just about enough personal accounts of surviving and overcoming being the parent of an Autistic Child. I was pleasantly surprised and moved by this book. The authors are mothers of two very different boys: one is High Functioning and the other is Severely Autistic with additional behavioural problems. I liked the fact that the boys were

now grown-up and the authors could give us a positive insight into what happens when our Autistic children become adults. More than a guide into available therapies or an exposé on the nature of Autism, this is an honest account about the different emotions a parent of a disabled child is likely to go through during the various stages of their lives. Most importantly this is a reminder that it is OK to feel, that it is better to acknowledge how you are feeling and then move on; also to recognise that different people react in different ways, are affected in different ways and to acknowledge this in order to foster positive relationships – if possible – with everyone from close family members to professionals. I found this book reassuring, therefore empowering. The tips were useful too – particularly the chapter on advocacy. The only drawback is that there is hardly a mention of home education, apart from as a costly, time-consuming last resort.

Laura

£12.99 ISBN 1-8431-807-0 Jessica Kingsley

Self-Esteem Games for Children by Deborah M. Plummer

Easy to learn games for the 5-11 age group to build up self-esteem. The book offers a various selection of ideas to encourage children to express themselves physically, verbally and non-verbally. It can come across quite structured but may be used as ideas to start off with. Many ideas mention using groups of children but maybe in a family it can work.

Sally P

£12.99 ISBN 1-8431-042-45 Jessica Kingsley

CONTACTS

Note

Prices quoted are the publishers' recommended retail prices (rrp). Shop around for lower prices - try discount book shops, mail order discount book clubs and the internet. Some contact details are set out below but many titles can be ordered from your local book shop. *The Book People* (0870 6077780 www.thebookpeople.co.uk) and *Red House* (0870 1919980 www.redhouse.co.uk) are good, economical sources for books where you can order what you like, when you like (at prices well below publisher's rrp). Postage / packing is usually free on orders over £25 but if you are

ordering less tell them you are home educating and you may be able to get a discount rate. Many *local/EO* groups have meetings where books and other resources are swapped or sold. Don't forget you can usually pick up cheap books at car boot sales, jumble sales etc and the library is a free resource.

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

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

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

CONTACT LIST OF PUBLISHERS

A & C Black 01480 212666

Allen & Unwin – see Francis Lincoln

Andersen Press 020 7840 8701

www.andersenpress.co.uk

Barrington Stokes 0131 557 2020

www.barringtonstoke.co.uk

B Small publishing 020 8974 6851

www.bsmall.co.uk

Bloomsbury www.bloomsbury.com

Book Guild 01273 720900

www.thebookguild.co.uk

British Museum Press Museum 0207 323 1234

www.britishmuseum.co.uk

Frances Lincoln 020 7284 4009

www.franceslincoln.com

Hawthorne Press 01453 757040

www.hawthornepress.com

Jessica Kingsley Publishing 020 7833 2307

www.jkp.com

Kingfisher www.kingfisherpub.com

MILET PUBLISHING WWW.MILET.COM

Search Press 01892 510850

www.searchpress.com

Usborne 020 7430 2800

www.usborne.com

Walker Books 01256 302692

Crafty Space Mobile

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What you need:

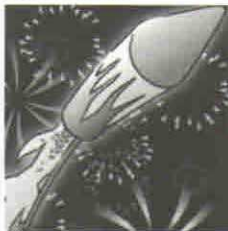
- - Yellow construction paper
- - String or yarn
- - 2 plastic straws
- - Hole puncher
- - Scissors
- - Pencil
- - Eraser
- - Stapler

Steps:

1. Draw 6-8 stars on the yellow construction paper. Each one should be a different shape or size.
2. When you're finished, ask a parent to help you cut out the shapes. Cut around the outside of the lines and then use an eraser to remove the pencil marks.
3. Parent Alert: Using the hole puncher, pierce a hole at the top of each star.
4. Cut a piece of string for each of the stars and tie it around the hole. Tip: Vary the length of the string to help your mobile come to life.
5. Parent Alert: Pick up two straws and make the shape of the letter "X" with them. Staple the straws together where the two meet.
6. Cut and tie a long piece of string to where the staple is and then tie the rest of the strings to one of the four limbs of the X.
7. Hang your mobile by the long string in the middle and in your room from the ceiling or in a favorite corner somewhere around the house. Now, you can look at the stars anytime you want!

Get Crafty: Space Rocket

Build your own rocketship and blast off into space with this fun kids craft!



What you need:

- - Paper towel tube
- - 1 sheet white construction paper
- - Silver foil
- - Red and yellow tissue paper
- - Small cardboard box
- - Round lid
- - Glue
- - Pencil
- - Ruler
- - Scissors
- - Scotch tape

Steps:

1. Cover the paper towel tube with silver foil and set it apart.
2. Place the construction paper under the round lid. Trace a circle with your pencil and then cut it out. Cut a slit from the edge of the circle to the center.
3. Overlap the edges of your circle so that they form a cone. Tape the cone and cover it in tin foil.
4. Pick up the silver tube and glue the cone to the top of it.
5. Use your cardboard box to cut out 3 triangles. Wrap them in foil and glue all three to the rocket. Be sure to space them out so that one is on top and the other two are on the sides of the rocket.
6. Cut strips of the tissue paper and paste them onto the bottom end of the rocket. Now, you're ready for lift-off!

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

ENGLAND

BEDFORDSHIRE

The **Luton Home Education Group** established 2004 - We are a small but expanding group. For a copy of the latest newsletter contact Fran on 01582 515458 email: franticfran100@yahoo.co.uk

South Bedfordshire Home Education Group, we are a small friendly group covering Houghton Regis, Dunstable and surrounding areas. We meet regularly with a variety of activities. Bernie 01582 866207 or email: southbeds.homeed@ntlworld.com

BERKSHIRE

email list for home educators in **Berkshire** and surrounding counties.

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

Varied activities and HE events for all ages most days

Details and list of all Berks activities from Gail: eostationery@gmail.com or 01628 483895

Hero's Education Centre

4 days / wk – workshops, lessons, activities.

Contact Dawn 01628 783107

thirdEye1@compuserve.com or website

www.homeeducators.co.uk

Lambourn Meeting weekly on Fridays on an organic farm for play, activities and support. Contact Tracey on 01793 813325 or roge.tracey@virgin.net

BRISTOL

Thursdays meeting at St Paul's Adventure Playground; Spanish, Science and Pottery happening on a regular basis. Contact Ian or Silke 0117 9412707

Email list for Bristol and surrounding areas at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BristolHomeEducation>

Also local group website for more information about home ed in Bristol:

www.bristolhomeeducation.org.uk

Bristol Home Education Learning Place

meeting Mondays and Friday afternoons. under 7's, study groups, music, drama, and lots more. Carla 0117 935 4389

BUCKS

Newsletter for Bucks/Northants and Milton Keynes home educators network

extends a warm welcome to all (wherever you live): activities, socials and support. Local Contact Georgeanne 01908 662256 www.mkhen.co.uk

MKHE - Milton Keynes Home Educators, friendly group

welcomes all...arts + crafts, socials, outings, chess club, sports, open afternoons, themed activities etc, monthly newsletter + online discussion room contact Georgina 01908 371945

www.miltonkeyneshomeeducation.co.uk

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

Peterborough Muddle Puddle Group The group is primarily for under 8s and meets 3 Friday afternoons a month. To make contact with the group there is a Yahoo list at: <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/PboroMudPud/>

Cambridge/Norfolk border North Cambridgeshire: Fortnightly at March. Contact Jane 01354 677869 or Sarah 01354 688245 or email Pat: Northcamps@chauntryhouse.fsnet.co.uk

CHESHIRE

Chester area Outside Education Group for details of all events contact Clare 01490 412167 cefarrall@corwen.net

Delamere Weekly alternative education programme with Delamere Forest Rangers 01490 412167

Chester Meetings every other week for music crafts and educational activities 01490 412167

Frodsham Social meetings and Youth achievement/ DoE award meetings every other week 01490 412167

Deeside Monthly ice Skating 01490 412167

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 sheet bi-monthly via email or SAEs. Contact Helen, Pro-Tem, West Pentire Road, Crantock, Newquay, Cornwall, TR5 8RZ Phone 07779 559535 or email Beth on

bethany.sampson@talk21.com Local information on our local home ed website: www.freewebs.com/cornwallhomeed

Menheniot near Liskeard, Home Grown Small School Contact Kath 01752 851091 or Tania 01822 835902.

Pensilva, Forest Day. Last Monday of the month. Contact Ele 0845 345 8596.

Penzance PZ HOME ED Monday afternoons, Contact Ruth Boulton 01736 350887 tboulton@phonecoop.coop

CUMBRIA

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

Kendal 3rd Friday each month Contact Jayne 01539 534541 or email 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, 4th

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

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

Derbyshire

*Family group including tai chi and French plus playtime. £5 per child – thurs pm. Sometimes do informal themed topics/sessions – cost depends*Family swimming sessions in a private pool in Derby. £2 each, adults and kids. Wed pm. Usually families come each week, but we have a bit of space for families who may wish to come occasionally as long as they let us know when they wish to come. Please email lan: lanalderson7758@tiscali.co.uk regarding either session.

DEVON

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

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

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

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 Jo 01237
478211

Bideford area Fortnightly social meetings on
Tuesdays.

Ring Louise 01237 441786 or Amanda
(above)

North Devon

Home Grown Kids. Twice weekly meetings
and events.

Swimbridge Wed 1pm-4pm -
Social, music, science, arts.

Swimbridge Wed 4.30pm-5.30pm French

Swimbridge Fri 10.30am-11.30am - Spanish

Barnstaple Fri Funderzone, general

play. Term time only.

www.homegrownkids.co.uk 01271

830456/830804

South Devon Local Contact Bridget 01803
862158

email: 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

We organise regular meetings for home
educators eg a monthly natural history group,

historical visits group and photography

group. All have yahoo groups to share ideas,

links and photos and to plan activities. We

also help families set up non-profit HE

interest groups and/or to network with like-

minded families. Also organise one-off

events. If interested

contact: Gordon/Hannah: lindnich@tesco.net Or

ring 01803 762788 and for more details on

above groups, see Devon newsletter.

Devon East/Dorset West Lyme Regis,

Axminster, Bridport, Chard. Contact Habiba

0845 4582984

Dorset/Somerset/Devon borders

Regular meetings on Tuesdays, Karen 01460 30461,

on Thursdays, Ali 01297 443816

DORSET

Rosemary 01747 853593

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

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

Durham

email

list:<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/tvhe/>

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

ESSEX

Chelmsford meetings - monthly, third

Thursday. 2-4pm email

Sarah, tower@tesco.net

Colchester Bowling and Swimming monthly
on last Wed except School

holidays. Sharron: sharron@brainydata.com

Southend OTHENA - Older children/Teens

News & Activities (11+) for details contact

Michelle: ab006h6097@blueyonder.co.uk or

01702 307834

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

Tiptree monthly meetings, last Tuesday of

month 2-5pm. Contact Julie, email:

julie.ashton@ntlworld.com

Various venues across Essex, New Teens
Group, meeting monthly -

Sally@brisley.freereserve.co.uk

Around Essex Educational visits twice

monthly Thurs. Details of Essex groups and

events in Epicycle available by email from

Corinne: epicycle@wavy.org 07802630693

Southend Home Education. Regular

monthly meetings, educational and social

trips around Essex/London for all ages and

lots more. We actively welcome and support

new home educators. Phone Shirley on

01702 308698 or email: indigoshirl@gmail.com

Support egroup:

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SouthendHome](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SouthendHomeEducation)

[Education](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SouthendHomeEducation)

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

Caroline 01242 890351 cambrose@ieee.org

Beverley 01242 524091 or Mhairi 01452

384104.

Dursley Home Educators meeting first weds

every month for social, support and

activities. Swimming and occasional outings. All welcome. Contact Paula 01453 519287 email: uks_sneaky@hotmail.com

Gloucester meetings & swimming. Contact Dawn

01452 540019

dawnandmike@blueyonder.co.uk

or Tracy 07941 612092

Stroud regular meetings, 1st Tuesday + 3rd

Thursday every month contact Nick 01453

840036

email: nick.weir@freeuk.com

South Gloucestershire

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

HAMPSHIRE

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

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

Contact Tracey 02392 551870 or Julie 01730 261468,

email: 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

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

Romsey/New Forest area, fortnightly – details email Anne on

anniemax1@yahoo.co.uk

Southampton and area, SEEDS meetings

at least once a week contact Lyn 02380

487879 lynb@dsl.pipex.com

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SEEDS1>

HERTFORDSHIRE (see also N.London)

For events List for Herts Home Educators please

email karenbartlett@btinternet.com

St Albans, Social group meeting at

Sandridge village hall, mornings 2nd + 4th

Thurs. Carolyn 01727 851073

Stevenage Swimming Pool, Swimming Lessons

every Thursday 10.30am, term time. All ages and

abilities. £1.40 per session. Contact Barbara on 01707

891021 or

email: babs.mcdonald@ntlworld.com

ISLE OF MAN

Isle of Man Home Education Network.

Meeting monthly for themed activities. email:

hen-iom@manx.net

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/hen-iom/>

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 and email group: wealdenhomeeducatorsnetwork@yahoo.com

Ash, Sandwich, Dover, Canterbury, Ramsgate

and surrounding areas Contact Leanne 01304 814498

Isle of Thanet Contact: Vanda 01843

842629

Medway towns Contact: Bridget 01634 234938

Tunbridge Wells group meet every Monday from 10-4

for Tae Kwan Do, art and crafts, & many other activities.

Contact Kim 01892 863941

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, regular meetings and visits, contact Liz 01634 323959

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

For comprehensive list of monthly events

please email Pam at:

davidandpam@ntlworld.com or send SAE to:

2 Melia Close, Rossendale, Lancs, BB4

6RQ.

LEICESTERSHIRE

5 regular meeting venues across

Leicestershire.

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

Leicester area-Syston A new group for the under 8s. We will be starting up in the new year and will be meeting twice a month, dates and venue to be confirmed. All are welcome. For more details contact Tammy on mattamsam@btinternet.com or 0116 2692499, or Vikki on martinvikki@aol.com

LINCOLNSHIRE

Activelincs Home Education Group.

Helena 01724 720595

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

Variety of informal events and get togethers.

Contact Christine 01507 338070,

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

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

South East London/Kent borders regular social gatherings, science workshops and other activities, contact Ann 01689 826504

East London HE Group meets on alternate Wednesdays in **Leytonstone** from 1 - 4 pm.

Contact Jo: acoo@mirehall.freereserve.co.uk or call 020 8520 5709

East London Home Educators formerly at Stratford.

New Venue in **Forest Gate**. Meets every

Friday 1 - 3

for unstructured social get togethers and outdoor fun.

All ages welcome (currently 1 - 13) Annalise 0208 5001053

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

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

betleslake@clara.net

Lewisham Thursdays 11-1 then to park afterwards

Joolz: 0208 2895026

teachyourown@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, call 020 8954 1885 or Vicki email: Aceva@btinternet.com

London Hornsey Home Educators Club Currently up to 12, but older kids welcome. Range of activities, socialising and fun.

Thursdays 11-12.30 contact: Tina 020 8340 4212

N London Barnet Group, meets Mondays, contact

Mirelle 020 8449 7868, email lance.e@virgin.net or Lynda 020 8368 9046.

West London (and Middlesex) Home Ed group meets

every Tuesday for varied educational and social activities and visits. Betsy 020 8993

0677 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. 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.

Greater London

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

This group is primarily for Muslim Home Educators in the Greater London area, but is open to those willing to travel in for activities from the neighbouring counties. Entry to the group can only take place after you have met one of the moderators or attended an event organised by Ms. Hen. For information to join, and/or attend the next event please email: fizzatmuslimhomeed@hotmail.co.uk

MANCHESTER

Manchester, contact Sue 0161 881 4830 Madcow Manchester + District events and support email list from Lesley: lesley.blackshaw@ntlworld.com

MIDDLESEX

Hayes, We are an informal group that meets at a Church. We meet every other Thursday, from 10.30 to 1.30. For further details please contact: Jenn 0208 573 9042, email: 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

Downham Market - bimonthly social meetings, including fun and creative activities and occasional outings. All age groups are welcome, as are members from other areas.

Website: www.freedom.org.uk for more details or email: info@freedom.org.uk Nicola 01366 385380.

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

Yoga Bugs contact Sally 01603 279832

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

Informal group of home educating families meet up for various activities and support.

Anyone welcome.

www.northantshe.org.uk email: info@northantshe.org.uk or phone Imogen 01604 781316 or 07756 011189

Want to get together with other local home ed teens Please contact Lynne 01604 454240

NORTHUMBERLAND/NORTH EAST

<http://groups.msn.com/EducationOtherwise>

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Nottingham Weekly meetings. For full list. Local Contact: Damian 0115 9603005 or damian.carnell@ntlworld.com or Louise 01773 780634

Amber Valley area, meetings, contact: Deborah 01773 778380 or Helen 01332 883545

OXFORDSHIRE

Group meets alternate Thursdays for varied timetable of activities. Children split into 3 age groups. Workshops and regular speakers. Contact: Wendy 01865 514973

SHROPSHIRE

Activities and outings, contact Val 01952 502225

South Shrops regular meetings every Tuesday, outings and workshops. contact: Maria 01588 630314

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

SOMERSET

Bath H.E.L.P. group meets regularly for outings and activities. Louise: 07957618988; jensen-thomas@clara.co.uk

Bath Meetings 3 days per week for semi-structured child-centred learning activities with parents and a teacher. Contact: Andy and Rachel 01373 464754

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

Somerset North W.A.V.E.S group meeting fortnightly for crafts and activities in Weston-Super-Mare. Friendly group. Contact Viv 07957580935

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

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 on 0845 337 0282

SURREY

P.A.C.T. Surrey's home education group. Monthly newsletter containing information about activities, outings, events etc. contact: pact@jellyed.com or Jeremy on 01483 546515

Surrey, Bloo House providing a unique learning environment for primary aged children. Piers 01932 228940

enquiries@bloohouse.co.uk / www.bloohouse.co.uk

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

Brighton, We will meet at parks and beaches in the Brighton area during the summer.

Tel: Elaine on 01273 581852 or email:

elaine.haslip@btinternet.com for details

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: 01243 552472

St Leonards/Hastings call Jenny

01424 434953 for an informal

chat/meeting

Wealden Home Ed website:

www.when.omnia.co.uk also email

group:

wealdenhomeeducatorsnetwork@yahoo.groups.com

TYNE & WEAR and NORTHUMBERLAND

Regular, frequent and varied activities. Age range

from 1 to 17yrs. New members welcome. Website:

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

Music - Rosemary 0191 2853707 or

paul@thenews.icom43net

National Trust & English Heritage Visits

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.

All entries for Helm should now be sent to:

helmeditor2112@blueyonder.co.uk 01562

720046.

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. Program of activities facilitated by qualified teachers, visiting professionals/interesting people/speakers.

Trips out. Parents evenings. Contact: Rachel:

01249 890525 or Amanda: 01380 739845

info@outandaboutlearning.org.uk

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-](mailto:NWilts_HE-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

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, 1st and 3rd

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:

Devizes 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@eldekvist.com

WORCESTERSHIRE

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

Meetings - Karen 01527 835384

Worcester Home Education Group

Meetings 3rd tuesday of every month,

art+craft activities, contact: Jayne: 01905

424451

North Worcs/Kidderminster meetings - Gail Tutchter

01562 822034 email: gail@tqmi.co.uk

YORKSHIRE EAST

Regular meetings and visits. Alison 01405

769902

Bridlington, regular meeting every Thursday morning except first in month. Ring Jacqui

01262 679769 or Alison 01377 240324.

YORKSHIRE NORTH

Near York, new group meets Wednesdays for various educational activities, crafts and social contact. Please email:

contact@yorkeo.co.uk for further details

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

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

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

tess@chrisgeall.com

Scarborough, New Group started on Fridays

contact Tess: 01947 825772 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 kbsbtscott@aol.com

YORKSHIRE SOUTH

Bradway, Mondays fortnightly. 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. **Sheffield, Highfield**, Tuesdays.

Contact: Annette 0114 2583502 or Fiona 0114 22751142

YORKSHIRE WEST

Bradford Weekly meetings and activities. For a monthly schedule of activities, please contact Sarah on (01484) 361206 or email: 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: 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: Gill.Kilner@aol.com

Huddersfield: Swimming every Wednesday - term time except 2nd Wednesday of month. Tracy (01484) 317176.

Huddersfield monthly meeting (2nd Wednesday of month - except Feb when on 2nd Friday of month). Contact Helen (01484) 841041 or Jane (01484) 645034.

Huddersfield "Lunch and Chat" (last Thursday of month) at Civic Centre. Contact Tracy (01484) 317176. **Huddersfield Art Gallery**, Art Workshop, last Thursday of month. 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 & 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 01443231362 (Llantrisant), Bev 02920 797628 (Cardiff), Juliet 01639 760987 (Port Talbot), Amanda 01792 862305 (Swansea) or see: www.swhen.net/firms.com

Mid Glamorgan - Rhondda Cynon Taff meetings on a Friday, contact Lisa 01443 772278

PEMBROKESHIRE and Cardigan area

For local information contact Yvette 0845
458 9251

CEREDIGION & CARMARTHENSHIRE

Lampeter, weekly meetings on Tues, Laura
01545 580528

Aberaeron weekly meetings on Fri, Laura
01545 580528

Llanddeusant monthly meeting, Laura
01545 580528

GWYNEDD

Bangor and area home ed network,
meetings and social activities + Montessori
sessions. Heather 01248 352336

Tregarth Creative Learning and Support
group meet every Wednesday at Tregarth,
Free weekly newsletter of events. Julie 01286
678181 jdchapmanmaurice@aol.com or Nick
(Anglesey) 01407 811049.

POWYS

Welshpool on wednesdays,
swimming/Tumble Towers, workshops,
skateboarding, and events, contact Dee +
Dave 01938 590098

email: d.yeoman@tesco.net

Brecknock/South Powys area occasional
events in South Powys contact Hela 01874
610190 email: ry.ella@tiscali.co.uk

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

N.E. WALES / BORDERS

Oswestry/West Cheshire/NE Wales local
newsletter of events please send your details
and £2 payment to: HENWOS, Berllan Gron, Llanycil,
Bala, Gwynedd LL23 7YG

Froncysyllte fortnightly meetings Sam
01978 861011

Inspirational

June

3-11	Heart Week
4-9	Hearing Dog Week
5	World Environment Day
8	Togs for Dogs
8	World Oceans Day
14	World Blood Donor Day
16-17	BT Giant Sleepover
16	National Badger Day
17-25	Green Transport Week
18-24	Refugee Week

July

1	Children's Art Day
7	Dyspraxia Awareness Day
11	World Population Day

Children Learn What They Live

If children live with hostility,
they learn to fight.

If children live with ridicule,
they learn to be shy.

If children live with tolerance,
they learn to be patient.

If children live with encouragement,
they learn confidence.

If children live with praise,
they learn to appreciate.

If children live with fairness,
they learn justice.

If children live with security,
they learn faith.

If children live with approval,
they learn to like themselves.

If children live with acceptance, and
friendship,
they learn to find love in the world.

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Small Groups

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

Small Groups:

Strategic Planning Group: Phil Hicks, **Laurie McAulay**, Sarah Cook, **Gail Borrows**, Lynda Hitchman, Jacqui Houlding, **Joss Nowell**, Celia McDonagh, **Janet Wilkinson**, **Jo Berry**, Leslie Barson

Finance: **Julie Arnold**, Lynda Hitchman, Ann Samuel Till, Janet Simpson, **Janet Wilkinson**

Enquiries: **Anne Rix**, Geraldine Adams, Iris Harrison, Jo Borthen, Edwina Theunissen

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

Core Govt. Policy: Fiona Nicholson, Annette Taberner, Betsy Anderson, Carole Rutherford, Ann Newstead, Karen Bowlzer, **Anne Rix**, **Jo Berry**, **Emma Birkenshaw**, Ann Samuel Till, Kira Patefield-Smith, Natasha Arthur, **Janet Wilkinson**, **Laurie McAulay**

LA/EA Group: Sarah Cook, Priscilla Park Weir, Kathleen Thompson, **Jo Berry**, **Gail Borrows**, **Joss Nowell**, **Janet Wilkinson**

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

Safeguarding Children: Fzeelah El Sawah, **Jane Bathgate**, Pam Bellinger, Jenny Stevens, **Beverley Young**

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

Julie Arnold 34 Muncaster Drive, Rainford, Merseyside, WA11 8NR 01744 8852434 julielarnold@msn.com

Jo Berry c/o 38 Garwood Close, Westbrook, Warrington. WA5 8TF 07986 461719 jofreespirit@googlemail.com

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: Ann Newstead, 01689 826504 thenewstead5@yahoo.co.uk

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

NI (VACANT) Volunteers please!!

North West: (VACANT) **Volunteers please!!**

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

Midlands: Simon Foster, Birmingham 0121 443 2752 simonf@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

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

South East: 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 shara.ouston@btinternet.com

EO Email Lists & Forums

EO runs four email lists with Yahoo Groups. The **general** discussion list for advice and peer support. The **Single Parents** list for the sharing of problems & solutions. A **Scotland** list for Scottish home educators or those interested. The Children's List for the **children** of members only. All lists may be joined via the EO Home Page at www.education-otherwise.org There is also a **Members Area** on the website with several discussion forums, including a business forum for members to take part in the business of EO. To join the Member's Forum, send an email to forums@education-otherwise.org giving your preferred User Name which should be between four and fifteen characters, your Full (real) Name, the email address you wish to have associated with the forum and either your EO Membership Number or your full postal address.

WHO DOES WHAT IN EO

Council Members

Julie Arnold (Merseyside) 01744 8852434
julielarnold@msn.com (Treasurer)
Jane Bathgate (Borders) 01835 862118
Jo Berry (Cheshire) 07986 461719
jofreespirit@googlemail.com
Emma Birkenshaw (W Yorks) 0113 217 2795
emma.birkenshaw@gmail.com
Gail Borrows (Bucks) Tel: 01628 483895
gail.borrows@gmail.com (Membership Secretary)
Pauline Butterworth (Cleveland) 01642 570786
pollyb47@aol.com
Beverley Cameron-Young (Lancs) 01772 734 314
beverley.young@blueyonder.co.uk
Laurie McAulay (Leics) 0116 2591051
lauriemcaulay@hotmail.co.uk (M: 07837 061126)
Imogen Cooper (Northants) 01604 781316
imogen@rebellalliance.fsife.co.uk
Joss Nowell (Bristol) 0117 9592435
homeed@gmail.com (Publications Secretary)
Anne Rix (Devon) 01237 451535
anne@annerix.demon.co.uk (Enquiries Sec.)
Janet Wilkinson (Peterborough) 01733 554436
thewilkinsons123@ntlworld.com (Company Sec)
Rowenna Williams (Gwynedd) 01678 521348
rowenna73@hotmail.com
June Wilson-Billing (Dorset) tba
educationotherwise@mac.com

Membership

Membership and newsletter subscription enquiries, membership cards, address changes, new member packs, other queries or missing newsletters contact : Database Administrator, Education Otherwise, Lynda Hitchman, 22 Lewis Drive, St Germans, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3FB
01553 617551 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 £4.00 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 SSAE + £1 per card. P.O./cheque (payable to 'Education Otherwise' or in 50p or £1 stamps, to: EO HE Cards, 5 Ridge Way, Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 0HL

Publications

Books, information leaflets and back issues of newsletter. For a full list send SAE to : 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)

Campaign Team Contact: Fiona Nicholson
fiona_j_nicholson@yahoo.co.uk 0114 281 9974
205 Leverton Gardens, Sheffield, S11 8FD

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.freeseve.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

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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:

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