

education otherwise



How would you like to spend your Summer?

No. 177 – August 2007



DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS 1ST September 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

Sue White, 2 Pretoria Villas, Eye Road,
Brome, Eye, Suffolk IP23 8AL
01379 870036 sue_white@lineone.net
or sannw@tiscali.co.uk

BOOK AND SOFTWARE REVIEWS

Sally Hall, Nant-y-Gareg Farm, Saron,
Llandysul, Carmarthenshire, SA44 5EJ
01559 370798 sally@aecb.net

HOME EDUCATION in the NEWS

Tanya Heasley, Amberley Lodge, Common Lane,
Great Witchingham, Norfolk, NR9 5QH
tanyaheasley@yahoo.co.uk

COMPETITION

Tracy Mayer, 79 Cumberland Avenue, Cleveleys
Lancs. FY5 2DS 01253 858840
tracysolooney@tiscall.co.uk

ADVERTISEMENTS/FLYERS

(subject/envelope "EO Advertising" please)
Justine Kinney-Graham 020 7328 6433
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
(VERY TEMPORARY)**

Jacqui Houlding, 38 Garwood Close, Westbrook,
Warrington. WA5 8TF. 01925 654856.
Jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk

Editor for next CHILDREN'S PAGES N.B. deadline 20th August 2007

Please send all material to Jacqui Houlding, Children's Pages Co-ordinator (VERY TEMPORARY) 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.

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**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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EO Merchandise

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

holidays

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

Co-ordinatorial

If you had complaints about my efforts in the last newsletter, you were very nice and didn't express them out loud.

I trust that you like what we have in this one for you as well...a wide variety of things and ideas of what we'd like to be able to provide you with in future. The couple of comments I have heard over the past two or three issues are that you like the fact that we have tried to include more articles and that's certainly what you like.

So please, write in with your own articles for others to read. You don't have to worry about them being professional. YOU are the professional when it comes to facilitating your child's (or children's) education and we are looking to each other for inspiration.

If you think you have a skill to offer the newsletter team on a regular basis (like Ross does with the Diary of an HE Nobody) please come forward and offer your services. Just because we haven't asked, doesn't mean we don't want. It usually means we're so snowed under or stuck in a rut, that we haven't thought about it.

I think we're all approachable and friendly, so stick your head above the parapet, walk into the lion's den, face down the spider in her parlour (shut me up) and come forward.

Finally, Page 33. Please involve your children in designing a Christmas card for EO for 2007.

Jacqui Hoalding



Any Safeguarding Children concerns should be reported to the NSPCC. NSPCC Helpline Telephone Number is 0808 800 5000.

If you are a child and you need someone to talk to, contact Childline on 0800 1111

EO Business

OPEN COUNCIL MEETING

to be held at 10:00 for 10.30 am start
Saturday, 1 September 2007

Whitecross Community Centre, Lexden Road, Warrington, Cheshire

All members are welcome to attend

To place an item on the agenda, it must be sent to Jacqui by midnight on Wednesday, 8 August 2007. All agenda items must be accompanied by a report supporting the item you wish added to the agenda otherwise, unless the item is already part of the agenda due to it being a Matter Arising, it will not appear on this agenda and will not be discussed at the meeting. This is to enable all attendees to consider the item prior to the meeting and allow them to prepare their own thoughts on the issue.

If you place a supported item on the agenda, but cannot attend the meeting yourself, please nominate someone (with their agreement) to speak for you. If you do not have anyone to speak for you, please feel free to contact me (Jacqui Houlding, 38 Garwood Close, Westbrook, Warrington WA5 8TF. 01925 654856. Jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk). If you require creche facilities book with Jacqui by Friday 10th August.

Meeting Venue

Located on the outskirts of Warrington Town Centre, Whitecross Community Centre is set back off the main road with access to the nearby Sankey Valley Park.

Warrington has two train stations, Bank Quay Station and Central Station. Central Station is the 'east/west' line and Bank Quay Station is the 'north/south' line.

If you are arriving by train, please contact Warrington Borough Transport for details of which bus numbers you would need from the station to the Community Centre. The number for WBC Helpline is 01925 634296 and they will have the information for bus routes, departure bays and times.

There are usually taxis waiting right outside both stations. However, if you need special access taxis, please ring a taxi company to find out what facilities they have and if they fit your specific needs. Some numbers for taxi firms in Warrington are:

Abba - 01925 414444

Crown - 01925 234567

These are the two main cab companies in Warrington. Further numbers can be found online at <http://www.britinfo.net/taxis/TDIMP28050.htm>

A map of the area, showing the location, can be found is shown here. It can also be seen online at <http://tinyurl.com/3x88kj>

A five minute walk from the Centre is a pub...have no idea what it is like as it's not 'my' area of Warrington. A further five minute walk gets a fish and chip shop which does Chinese, and next door to that is an Indian takeaway.



ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

Following advice received by the last Council of Trustees from the Charity Commission and from a specialist charity lawyer, it is the intention of this Council to call for an Extraordinary General Meeting for the purpose of adopting new Memorandum and Articles of Association for the charity.

The Council has engaged the services of Peter Korn, a solicitor with Interchange Legal Advisory Service in London (<http://www.interchange.org.uk>) to produce this document so that, in addition to it conforming to all legal requirements under the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2006, those areas suggested by the Charity Commission will be addressed. Therefore, in addition to the reduction of trustee numbers, Council is asking that teleconferencing be included as a decision making tool for all groups to reduce financial costs to EO and to the carbon footprint left by the charity's activities.

It is planned that the proposed Memorandum and Articles of Association be published with the October Newsletter and sent to all members together with the announcement of the proposed EGM. In the meantime, they will be available in the Members Area of the EO website as soon as they have been received from the solicitor. Paper copies can be requested by Signed Up Members in advance of the newsletter publication from Jacqui Houlding (contact details below) Non-Signed Up Members are requested to send an SAE to Jacqui for a copy.

Proxy Voting forms will also be provided with the October newsletter for Signed Up Members (SUM). If you wish to vote, and you are not a SUM, a form is printed below and you should complete it and return it to Janet Wilkinson, Company Secretary.

Please address any queries relating to the proposed Memorandum and Articles of Association to Jacqui Houlding who will collate them and forward them to Council.

Jacqui Houlding, 38 Garwood Close, Westbrook, Warrington. WA5 8TF. Jacqui@thecrystalball.org.uk

SIGNED-UP MEMBERS (EO Membership Declaration)

I (Print Name)wish to become a member of Education Otherwise Association Ltd.

In the event of the Association being wound up I agree to contribute up to £10 in payment of any debts and liabilities it may have incurred.

Signature of Member

Date

Address (print in full).....

.....

.....

.....

This form may be completed by current members who have paid their annual subscription, and should be returned to:

The EO Company Secretary, 31 Framlingham Road, Peterborough, PE2 8UG

Business Meetings

EO business is dealt with at Council Meetings and at General Meetings. Council meetings, which can be quite informal, cater for the routine running of the organisation. General meetings, which have to be conducted in a much more formal way by company law, allow *signed up members*

- a) to appoint council members,
- b) to consider the accounts, and c) occasionally to vote on special resolutions and formal issues. Special resolutions have to be put in the newsletter, or posted out to all guarantors, along with statutory notice of General Meetings.

Signed up members are members who have guaranteed to pay £10 in the event of EO going bankrupt, thus 'acquiring an interest in the company' and becoming eligible to vote at general meetings.

UPDATE FROM EO GOVERNMENT POLICY GROUP

By the time you read this article the consultation on draft Home Education Guidelines for local authorities will have just closed at the end of July.

EO Government Policy Group made a comprehensive response to the consultation on behalf of members and we also encouraged hundreds of individual responses, all of which will contribute to defend our freedom.

We have been assisted by barrister and home education expert Ian Dowty who has been retained by Education Otherwise to give his professional opinion on the government's draft guidelines and also to assist EO Government Policy Group with redrafting EO's consultation response. Ian has been readily available throughout the redrafting process above and beyond the call of duty and home educators have good reason to be extremely grateful to him.

Many people will know Ian from HESFES and from the help he has offered to home educating families over the years.

Ian is a barrister and solicitor. He works as a consultant for McCormacks Solicitors LLP who are based in Mile End Road, London E3 and also in Essex.

Ian is also a Director and Company Secretary for ARCH, Action on Rights for Children <http://www.arch-ed.org/>

The other main news which will affect the work of EO Government Policy Group is that when Gordon Brown became Prime Minister he divided the DfES into two departments, one for Children, Schools and Families and the other for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/aboutus/>

This means that there will no longer be an "Education Minister". The new Secretary of State for Children Schools and Families is Ed Balls MP and the other Ministers are Jim Knight MP, Beverley Hughes MP, Lord Adonis and Kevin Brennan MP.

Fiona Nicholson

Will 'ContactPoint' lead automatically to ID Cards?

Previously known as the Information Sharing Index

I have not seen evidence that ContactPoint will automatically lead to ID cards.

EO made a detailed response to the last consultation on the national database (when it was called the Information Sharing Index) and I had long phone call with Anne Wade and Jane Bathgate in early December 2006 on the subject in order to get their input from the Child Protection Group angle.

There are two things here. One is the national database and the other is the initiative on "Children Missing Education". The two of them together will more or less find all the unknown home educators particularly since the database will probably include input from Child Benefit records.

For me, the main issue about the database is that it affects ALL children and ALL families, not just home educating families. We believe the data can easily be hacked and the government ministers



and officials who are promoting the database do not appear to have any understanding of IT security. Insofar as the national database stands or fails, this will be the crucial point.

<http://tinyurl.com/24j77y> is the EO response to ISI.

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

is the page on the EO website about the national database AND Children Missing Education (which is from the Education and Inspection Act 2006), creating a duty on every local authority to identify a child's place of education wherever possible. These two things together mean that home educators will become KNOWN, but not necessarily that they will be investigated or monitored, and this is what we have said in all our EO campaign workshops and in Newsletter articles.

Phil Hicks made an excellent submission to the DfES on draft statutory Guidance for Children Missing Education last November and the DfES acceded to EO's point that the guidance MUST specify that home educated children are NOT "children missing education".

<http://www.education-otherwise.org/Legal/Consultations/other/clause%204%20consultation%20short%20final%20response%20301106.pdf>

<http://tinyurl.com/2pmgts>

It is anticipated by government that ContactPoint will be rolled out in 2008. However we have ongoing reports from the specialist IT press that many authorities IT departments are not ready and certainly are not ready to integrate local systems with a national database. Moreover there is starting to be some rumbling in the press and media about ContactPoint, particularly from the angle that it can so easily be hacked.

On Friday 22nd June the Guardian newspaper printed a letter signed by Jonathan Shephard Independent Schools Council, Ross Anderson Foundation Information Policy Research, Simon Davies Privacy International, Becky Hogge Open Rights Group and Terri Dowty Action on Rights for Children highlighting concerns which we share.

<http://society.guardian.co.uk/children/comment/0,,2108663,00.html>

In the letter they say:

"In the coming weeks, parliament will be asked to pass regulations with no evidence that the system proposed can be secured... the result will be that sensitive information will fall into the hands of potential abusers of children and traders of information."

"As the proposals stand, the dangers of user-abuse and hacking have not been quantified. The problems of a potentially leaky system must be solved before the plan gets any further."

"The government acknowledges the risks by instituting protocols to "shield" details of celebrity and vulnerable children. But all children are potentially vulnerable to misuse of information, and the potential for this is enormous."

Evidence of inappropriate access to the NHS database should ring alarm bells.

The letter goes on to outline how evidence presented last year to the management board of the Leeds NHS Trust showed that in one month the 14,000 staff logged 70,000 incidents of inappropriate access to the NHS database. (Campaigners established a right for individuals to opt out of this database.)

The letter states that:

"On the basis of these figures, misuse of ContactPoint could run to 1,650,000 incidents a month."

There was also an article in the Guardian on June 18th

http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,,2105187,00.html

Lucy Ward, social affairs correspondent

Guidance on the £224m project warns those authorised to use the system not to access it in internet cafes or on computers in public reception areas, and instructs them never to leave the database logged on in case of unauthorised use.

Though it stresses the sophistication of the electronic security surrounding the databank, it acknowledges: "No system can be 100% guaranteed against misuse." The government was warned by family campaigners that parents would be concerned about the number of people able to search the database, and about the potential security risk.

Mary MacLeod, chief executive of the Family and Parenting Institute, said: "Our research with parents suggests they will have great anxiety about the proposals."

The universal database, forecast to cost £41m a year to run, has prompted controversy since the government set out its legal underpinning in the 2004 Children Act. Ministers argue the system will help prevent the lack of communication between children's services revealed in the Laming inquiry into the death of eight-year-old Victoria Climbié, and will boost early intervention where children need it.

However, critics argue it breaches a child's right to privacy, while others have raised concerns about security.

The database, named ContactPoint, will store basic identifying information including date of birth, address, name of parent and an identifying number for each child up to the age of 18. It will also hold contact details for services involved with the child, including school and GP practice but also others, though consent is required for details of sensitive services such as sexual and mental health.

No one will be allowed to opt out of the database, but children or their parents will have the right to ask to see information about them and challenge it if it is wrong. Children's details can also be electronically "shielded" if they are considered to be at increased risk - an exemption which, controversially, could extend to the offspring of high-profile figures."

By the time the newsletter is published EO Government Policy Group will have submitted a response to the consultation on ContactPoint

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/conDetails.cfm?consultationId=1482>

However, this consultation is only about the clarity of the draft guidance and not about the principle of ContactPoint itself, so I think the battle will be fought in the media.

EO Government Policy Group will also be greatly amplifying the point made in the previous database consultation response about how local authorities will NOT get any extra funding for IT equipment, so since local authority spending is capped, this will inevitably take money away from frontline services.

Both parents and children will be able to access the child's information held on the database. We know that people can opt out of the NHS "spine", which is the database of medical records. This is largely due to a successful media campaign led by Professor Ross Anderson. This might

conceivably be replicated with ContactPoint and Terri Dowty of ARCH works closely with Ross Anderson, so it is worth getting in touch with ARCH and asking how you can support their campaign.

<http://www.arch-ed.org/>

Annette reports that Ian Dowty's workshop at HESFES was most helpful on the point about the Gillick competence test for whether or not children might offer informed consent for any data to be included and this will form part of EO's further challenge to ContactPoint.

Fiona

Vacancies & Changes

Make-up of EO Council

There have been some changes to the membership of the Council. Council is now quorate again. The fourteen members of the Council are:

Leslie Barson	Jo Berry
Emma Birkenshaw	Gail Borrows
Darren Braecklein	Pauline Butterworth
Laurie Charlton	Imogen Cooper
Carla McGregor	Joss Nowell
Anne Rix	Janet Wilkinson
Rowenna Williams	June Wilson-Billing

On behalf of the Council and the members of EO, thank you to the new council members for taking on what can be a pretty thankless task at times and thank you to those outgoing council members for all you've done for EO. Good luck with whatever you take on in the future.

Stationary Person

Debbie Barker has taken on the distribution of Stationary for EO. Would anyone holding Stationary Order Forms please ensure that they change the forms to reflect this. Debbie's contact details are:

Debbie Barker, 19 Cedar Drive, Worlingham, Beccles, Suffolk. NR34 7EW | 01502 714413
debs.barker7@btinternet.com

Thank you to Gail Borrows who has been doing this job for at least a couple of years...probably longer. Hopefully this will leave you more time to concentrate on taking EO into the 21 Century.

NB: If you know you are going to want a lot of a particular leaflet or poster for an event, please give Debbie enough notice to order some more if necessary.

Vacancy - Newsletter Co-ordinator

Unfortunately the notice in the June newsletter did not result in us having a new Newsletter Co-ordinator, but we do have a new volunteer to help bring new articles to the newsletter on a regular basis. Therefore, there is still a vacancy. The Newsletter Co-ordinator role

requires someone who is very organised and available for intensive and time consuming work once every other month. S/he will be co-ordinating all the information provided by the various editors and finding 'filler' information when and where necessary to try and bring an informative, interesting and relevant newsletter to our members. It will be necessary for him/her to be very literate as it is often necessary to summarise information sent to the Co-ordinator to fit into the space available. If you think you would enjoy doing all of this, please contact Jacqui Houlding. Contact details in back of newsletter.

Children's Pages Liaison

Having set the standard for change on the Children's Pages and helping them to produce a really interesting and well presented publication, Julie Arnold is now moving on. Many thanks to Julie for helping to move this forward. We now need a new Children's Pages Liaison person. If you have computer skills and can help the children to produce their newsletter and encourage them to bring interest and innovation to their newsletter, please contact Jacqui Houlding. Contact details in back of newsletter.

Newsletter Editors

In EO we have a number of editors who take responsibility for collecting and collating the submissions for the newsletter ready for the Newsletter Co-ordinator to put together to make up the newsletter you see. We currently have Sue White as editor for letters and articles; Sally Hall as editor for the Book reviews, Justine Kinney-Graham who co-ordinates the adverts and Jo Borthen who looks after the Regional Diary. Ross Mountney regularly contributes for the 'Diary of a Home Ed Nobody'; Sarah Guthrie produces Archie and Maria Thomas has just joined us and will be producing an article/idea for craft activities that can be undertaken with your children.

We would like to have a new regular feature where an article will appear in the newsletter which gives information about a vocations and jobs. Many young people do not have easy access to information about careers and going to a local Connexions Office is not something many want to try. We would like parents to write in and, each month, we publish an article about a job. We would also like them to be personal stories because sometimes people get into something in a roundabout way...and our home educated young people, by virtue of being home educated, could well be doing the same. We are looking for an editor who will chase up members (as well as their friends and neighbours) to produce an article talking about what is needed for a particular job in terms of personality traits, qualifications, height restrictions etc if relevant – ex air hostess here, it was relevant – as well as information on what the good and bad things about a job are. If you could give up a little time to collect (by fair means or foul) articles of this nature, please contact Jacqui Houlding. Contact details in back of newsletter.

Article Writers

Rather than write it all again, if you read the paragraph above, you will see one of the sorts of articles we would like from you. Can you write about your job(s), past or present, in a way that will inspire a young person to pursue further knowledge in that field...or give them enough information they know they 'never want to try that?'

What are you interested in? Have you got an 'ology'? Could you write an article about that for the newsletter to inspire others? Archaeology? Biology? Astronomy? Bird Watching? Collecting things? Campanology? We all learn by being inspired. What do you do in your spare time? Please send in an article, to Sue White (contact details on inside front page of the newsletter) and, if this appeal is successful, you may not see your article in the next issue, but Sue will save them

all and they will appear in a forthcoming issue. We would like this to be an ongoing feature as well...so if you have a friend who you think can inspire as well...get them writing.

Local Contacts

You're used to seeing this one! We have vacancies all over the country for people to act as Local Contacts for Education Otherwise. If you can be a point of contact and help pass on your knowledge and experience to potential new home educators, please contact Lynda Hitchman for more information. Even if your area is not in the list below, if you are interested, ideally we'd like more than one person in each area. This spreads any workload and gives you someone to share ideas and responsibilities with. Although it seems like the EO Local Contact has to organise groups or be a contact with the Local Authority, while nice, it is not an essential part of being a Local Contact. The essential part is to be there to listen when a home educator has a problem and use personal experience or other resources to help that home educator.

New Acting Local Contacts:

Buckinghamshire, South –
Sandi Breen
Devon, North – Jo Kaufman-
Hill
Dorset, Poole – Carol Stone
Flintshire – Sarah Conyers
Leicestershire, Joint –
Samantha Woods
Lincolnshire, South – Susanna
Matthan
London, Central, Joint Contact
– Tina Robbins
Overseas, America – Sandy
Whitehead

Resigning Local Contacts

Buckinghamshire, South –
Gail Borrows
Devon, North – Amanda
Barrud
Dorset, Poole – Vicki Skinner
Lincolnshire, South – Lorraine
King

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
Gloucestershire
Herefordshire
Lancashire – Bolton
Lancashire (excl. Blackpool
and Bolton)
London – North West
London West – Richmond &
Kingston
Norfolk - West
Norfolk – Breckland
Norfolk – Great Yarmouth
Sussex East - Brighton

West Midlands – Birmingham
& Solihull
West Midlands –
Wolverhampton & Walsall
West Midlands – Dudley
Yorkshire West – Leeds
Yorkshire East - Hull

SCOTLAND

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

WALES

Glamorgan, Mid
Glamorgan, Vale
Glamorgan, West
Flintshire

Media Contact Vacancies exist for:

Can you talk with press and media? Can you help find families who will talk to press and media? If you'd like to know more and live in one of the areas below, please contact the Media Co-ordinator, Ann Newstead on 01689 826504 or thenewstead5@yahoo.co.uk

Scotland
NI
North West
Midlands
London(2)

Your Letters

In the news

Thousands of grandparents who have taken over the upbringing of their grandchildren are being "bullied" by jobcentre staff to go back to work, Frank Field, a former Labour welfare minister, has claimed.

Source: *Guardian* 01 June 2007

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/guardianpolitics/story/0,,2092834,00.html>

and another

20% of 8-15 year-olds have met in person someone who they have made friends with online, according to a survey by web security firm Garlik. 40% of children regularly visit websites that are specifically prohibited by their parents and many give out sensitive information without parental consent.

Source: *BBC Online*

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/6706565.stm>
30 May 2007

Hospitality in Italy

Small family of self-sufficient farmers in central Italy offers hospitality in country in exchange for help with agricultural work and work on a raw-earth building.

Plenty of time and space for hiking/cycling

Possibility of learning basket-making and other crafts

Children welcome, especially if home-educated

Please write to:

*Francesco and Geraldine d'Ingiullo,
Casetta dei Buoi, 66050 Palmoli, Italy*

Special Offer

For EO Members



A special offer for members who want to try a structured approach to learning to read with their children. Normally sold by us for £16.50 this is a great offer.

A Complete Guide to Reading for both Parent and Child by Maurice Pope, Helen Morrison and Selena Codd.

The child learns on a graded system and advances gently from the simplest sounds to full command.

Parents are told about the problems of reading in general and of English spelling in particular so that they can answer questions with reasons rather than rules.

The goal is not just to read but to read with understanding and enjoyment.

Includes the book and Exercise Pack which includes Playing Cards, Book-marker, Word Cards and Instructions.

Please send a cheque made payable to Education Otherwise Association Ltd for £5 plus £2 P&P to 38 Garwood Close, Westbrook, Warrington. WA5 8TF. For credit card payments, use the on line store.

Articles

Diary of a Home Educating Nobody.

Thank you so much for your responses to my request in the last newsletter. They've been great – please keep them coming. Not only are they fascinating, it's also heartening to know that folks do read my articles. And even more encouraging for me to discover they're actually of help!

Many people have told me over the years I've been writing for the newsletter that it's sometimes the only thing that keeps them sane!

I know exactly what you mean. HEing can sometimes make you feel you're going insane! Especially if you've got several demanding children round you all day every day and you seldom get a break from them. It's not really anything to do with education. Education is almost the easy bit, when they're young. It's more to do with parenting; with being with children one hundred percent of the time, and managing to survive as a person in the meantime! Anyone who's done that for any length of time would agree, I think, that it sometimes feels that insanity lurks just around the corner!

I certainly have felt like that sometimes. In fact, my children would probably say that my insanity shows itself more than I'm aware, most particularly when I've got my lips curled back like a hyena – but I won't go into details!

Those dodgy moments aside, I have loved being a parent. Still love being a parent nearly seventeen years later. I almost feel it is the best honour that anyone could have bestowed upon them. For what could be of more value than raising the next generation of beings who will be in charge of this lovely planet and the people on it.

For that's what our children are: the next custodians of this world. Who will in turn raise the new custodians to take their place. How valuable is that! And how important is the job we have of raising them. Parenting is so valuable a job, although I think many underestimate it. Society certainly does.

When my children first went to school I felt that some of that duty was removed from me to a place that did not seem to honour the children in a way that I would wish. It appeared that the school did not even seem to feel that children were valuable at all. Or that it was an honour for schools to have charge of the future of these important little members of the human race. The school seemed more concerned with fulfilling institutional needs than children's needs. So it wasn't long before we removed them!

That was when I discovered that to be a HEing parent was to have the greatest blessing of all. Because we have the chance to be fully in charge of that next generation who can contribute so much. For every child will make a contribution to the world. Have you ever thought about that? It's true. Every child will make some sort of contribution.

It may not necessarily be a glamorous contribution, or even publicly noticeable. It certainly doesn't have to be, to be of value. But all our children *will* make a difference. For, as well as the obvious saving-the-planet type of contributions, even one small gift of friendship or support to another is a contribution. Raising a caring human being is as valuable as raising a neurosurgeon. Developing a being who is considerate, mindful of what they do, questioning and responsible is about as important a job as we could have. And as HEers we have the opportunity to influence that contribution even more through education.

Phew! No small burden there then! Which is why you and your sanity and well-being are also of paramount importance.

I'm sure I've said before that successfully HEing is as much about management of our personal lives as it is about educating the children. That's as true with older children as it is with babies, toddlers, or tear-away pre-schoolers, when all the parenting books stipulate how important respite time from parenting is.

This is especially true for HEers. Particularly those whose partners are out all day, or single parents. Respite time is as essential as contact time. For both parties; parents and children! When we are HEing, the children get our full attention. They get far more concentrated attention than they would in school. But it doesn't have to be all day every day. In fact, no one could actually focus for that amount of time. It might be just for ten minutes each hour. Or one hour out of three. So you could plan respite time as much as 'focus' time. And loving time devoted to raising loving people.

Educating the next generation is as much about raising lovely people as it is about knowledge and skills. For an educated person is someone who not only knows things. But someone who also cares about what they do with what they know, who cares for others and for their environment and the wider world, who cares what effect they have upon that world. And cares what contribution they make to it.

We need to pay as much attention to that as to any curriculum of knowledge. I sometimes wonder if it is this essential part of a child's education that schools neglect purely because they don't really understand how to honour, respect and value each individual. Or see the potential in each individual to make a difference.

All our children will make a difference. You're already making a bigger difference merely by HEing them, by raising them in a committed, caring environment, where people do not abuse or bully one another, where learning is to savour rather than to resist.

And I sincerely hope that in doing so you're not being driven insane! Just remember; childhood is only a very small section of a life, although it feels a bit overwhelming when they're small and endlessly irritating! That's why it is so important to *look after yourself*. Plan in 'sanity time' as well as education time. Plan time to be easy and chatty and caring together, rather than always pushing 'education'. Plan time just to be you. And always remind yourself that you're doing such an *important and valuable* job.

Ross Mountney.

Anyone who wants to send their thoughts on HEing to me can do so at ross.mountney@tiscali.co.uk In particular I want to address these issues in my future work: what your HE days are like; your contact with other HEers; your experiences in HEing children with special needs; anything you'd like to add...Thank you. Ross.

Our Right to Home Educate, Advertising Home Educating and the Consequences

In response to Diary of a Home Educating Nobody, April 2007

This is the first time I have ever put pen to paper on any topic anywhere, so if I waffle I apologise in advance. We have been members of EO for three years now and I read with interest every article that is printed. This particular article is one I am pleased to see, as it is a topic I feel very strongly about. I think the threat of governmental interference is very likely in the distant if not near future.

Ursula Clark's letter certainly opened the closet door on all us structured edders, didn't she. I'm afraid we are structured Home edders as well and it works for us. Jokes aside, this is what Home educating is all about, each to their own, we all have different ways and opinions on how to educate our children (which creates such wonderful diversity). We have one thing in common though and that is we all want our children to be educated without unnecessary pressure, learning should be a positive thing.

However we should have one other thing in common and that is a sense of duty to help keep our freedom and future parents freedom of right to educate our children. It's no good burying our head in the sand thinking somebody else in the know will sort it out. This little problem is a distant elephant that is picking up speed. It's only a scrap of law that is allowing us this freedom and as we all know to well, this present day government is only too willing to amend any laws that it believes are not providing an appropriate level of control.

When I read articles about how some Home educators are treated by their local LEA's it makes my blood boil and I wonder how many other educators feel the same. I always wonder why the LEA's have no set format for dealing nationally with the Home Educating groups. I realise that inevitably they will and it will not be to our liking. So why is it we are not taking the initiative and co-ordinating ourselves. Perhaps we feel that because we are so diverse we have no common ground to work on, I disagree. We all want the same thing. All we need is a set format for dealing with the LEA's. If we had a set of standard answers for all the usual concerns that the LEA's come up with it wouldn't take too long through communications amongst ourselves, they'd realise they were being met with a structured thought out response, which would make them see EO educators as an organised cohesive group.

The various reactions of different LEA's is typical of the ill thought out education system. The authorities have had a very long time to organise the country's education system and yet they still grope around for an elusive system that educates all and abuses none. Consequently when they are confronted with a potential Home educator in their midst they are inclined to go on the defensive, as if by accepting the individual's wishes they are endorsing an admission of failure on their part. This is the first major stumbling block and one that we have to educate the authorities to understand it is not failure on their part (personal opinions put aside for the advancement of the cause), but a simple case of all children being different. Some cannot thrive in a mass schooling system and that by home educating, said child is being given the best possible chance


It's only a scrap of law that is allowing us this freedom and as we all know to well, this present day government is only too willing to amend any laws that it believes are not providing an appropriate level of control

to learn in a time generous environment under the mantle of an organisation that is designed specifically to help such children and their parents.


A point that would give clout to our cause is, if we could find a way to promote our children's successes in the bigger world. By this I don't mean finding a Home educated child that is now a merchant banker or singing on Broadway (though it might help) but a sort of feedback notice board that shows from our young adults how they are fairing in life and what they feel their Home education has done or not done for them, a sort of testimonial, voluntary of course. We need to show our children are competent valued members of the public that are contributing to the cultural and fiscal richness of our country. After all that's what the authorities are supposed to be doing! It's no good saying, "Why should we bother?", the reality is if we do not, the control will be taken out of our hands.

Which brings me to the next stumbling block, promoting home educating. It's all well saying we should promote ourselves more but it's a double-edged sword. The LEA's are already in a state of panic about us and if we continue to grow at the pace we are and then some more if we advertise ourselves widely, then we run the very real risk of the authorities having a typical knee jerk reaction and pushing to have the law changed and without our input. By far their biggest fear is mass de-registration which they could not stop at present or regulate.

Not all LEA's are rigorously anti home educating, some whilst not prepared to actively support home education do accept (begrudgingly) it's our right to do so and will send out information about alternative organisations. Our LEA in Swansea is one and the information they sent us, EO was at the top of the list (though they make it clear they are not recommending said organisation). Which leads to reason, they do acknowledge us as an alternative education choice but we need to reaffirm it by having a set policy to promote our ethos that they can accept as a valid realistic educational system. At present I think (know, from what our visiting assessor tells us) that the authorities see most home educators as an airy fairy away with the pixies bunch and that given time most of us will fail at our purpose or come to our senses and let the professionals get on with it.



"The LEA's are already in a state of panic about us..."



Maybe the powers to be at EO headquarters could, if this topic warrants enough interest, send out a sheet with the most likely questions being asked by the LEAs and invite members to tick the ones they were asked or write in the ones they were personally asked that may be different, to give us something to work with. Then perhaps we could format a proper across the board united response to any authority wishing to quiz any member of EO, new or old.

Ours is an ever changing world and our country's government has made a policy to create jobs by creating more bureaucracy which is always looking for unchartered territories like ours that they can claim control on. It's time we showed our metal and put our ethos over in hard print!

So what does everybody else think!!!

C Williams

Our Story – Home Educated and Now Grown

Chris was deregistered from his secondary school at the beginning of the second year. He has Asperger's Syndrome and is mildly dyslexic. He was persistently the target of bullies in the school and the teaching staff were not dealing with the situation. They were always removing Chris from the classroom to sit quietly in the library...it was easier to remove one child than take on half a dozen bullies. We were told that Chris was provoking the bullies and that he had a bad attitude and would never achieve anything with his life because he would not fit in and refused to learn. Enough of then...that was the bad times.

When he was deregistered, he made the decision that he no longer wished to see the Educational Psychologist – this was a clean break from his former life. We were well and truly on our own. We didn't know, at the time, that home education was legal. We only knew that our son was deeply unhappy and, because he was being removed from the classroom so often, he was not learning either. I had taken on the responsibility for his education...we quite expected one of us to be spending some time at her majesty's pleasure...and we needed my husband's income.

We started out by doing lots of test things from the internet so I could get an idea of what he knew and what he didn't know. We then sat down, mum, dad & Chris to tell him what we said he needed to have...and to ask him what he wanted to do. We said he had to do English, Maths and one science. He loved maths, wanted physics as a science and was most dischuffed at the English but agreed with us. Anything else he could choose what he wanted to do and we would facilitate it.

He always wanted a very tight routine...typical of someone with AS so we did a timetable...Chris and me together. We agreed to review it after two weeks to see if it was working for us both. After the review, we moved the English to first thing 'to get it out of the way'. Then we moved it two weeks later to mid day when he was awake. We muddled through and eventually had a 10 – 4 timetable. He was more of a clock watcher than I was. 'It's time for WWII now mum. Shall I get the newspapers out?' (We looked at what propaganda and discrimination was and then for a week or so bought every newspaper and, using mainly the headlines worked out what the present day propaganda/discrimination was – gay firemen as I recall.)

Any break in routine was quite traumatic but, as time went by and gradually introducing change, we finally settled on a structured morning of work and more or less what we wanted to do in the afternoons. It's amazing how an 'unstructured' and 'unplanned' hour became ok because the timetable said that was what would happen!

Anyway, Warrington Collegiate Institute reluctantly allowed Chris to start at the college to do A levels when he was fifteen (he had achieved GCSEs in Maths, Physics and IT from home). Their 'we're familiar with home educated students' turned out to be the youngsters they had to deal with who had been excluded from school. Chris was their first electively home educated (EHE) youngster. They've had at least one other since and they now like EHE youngsters. He didn't do well with the A levels. He 'fell apart' in the exams.

He signed on again, this time to do an OND in Electrical and Electronic Engineering. Although he didn't have the right number of GCSEs, the ones he had were relevant to the subject he wanted to do and he impressed the course leader at an interview. He also signed on to an evening class to do an English GCSE.

About six months in to the OND course, he was asked if he would like to move into a work placement which had come in. The course leaders were offering him the chance to do the work placement (ignoring second year students) because it was a brand new company and, if the first apprentice they had was 'good', then the college could put more apprentices into this company. He was offered the placement ahead of second year students. We did a lot of talking to a lot of people to ensure that it was good for Chris and that he wasn't being used because it did mean downgrading the qualification from an OND to an ONC (ie, he does the same qualification but fewer modules).

He started work with this company on an absolutely awful salary. Apprentices apparently didn't have minimum pay rights! But he stuck it out working four days a week and spending one day in college.

He achieved his ONC and an NVQ at Level II, also in Electronics and Electrical Engineering. The college and his employer were really impressed with him. So much so, that he was nominated to City and Guilds for their Young Achiever of the Year Award. Seems that my personal belief that I had a smart lad on my hands was not just maternal pride. The thoughts were shared by others and Chris attended a gala award ceremony in London and received a certificate from Richard Hammond (before he tried to kill himself getting a world landspeed record).

He's just completed an HNC, also in Electrical and Electronic Engineering and is now investigating going to the US to study electronics (field unknown...we've been through the thoughts of fibre optics and aeronautics) in a university there. He's also got a rather nice photograph on one of the pages of Warrington Collegiate's Annual Report.



So the lad who wouldn't achieve anything, the over protectiveness of his mother have all proven to be without foundation. Once we restored his self esteem and convinced him that he 'could' do well, he's gone ahead in leaps and bounds.

He asked for a pay rise recently. He was offered a rise..and demanded another £2,000 writing a nice letter justifying why he was worth so much more than that even. He was given it...and he's just been offered a promotion at work with another pay rise.

So there's one lad for whom, I believe, home education literally and figuratively, saved his life. I can look back on really bad times, on rocky times, at times when we seemed to be going nowhere and, with hindsight, know that he will succeed at things he wants to do.

Jacqui & Chris Houlding

Have things Changed?

Iris & Geoff Harrison have given me the great privilege of looking at some of the early, VERY early editions of the EO Newsletter. I have a single page 'spare' in this newsletter not allocated to anything...so thought I would reproduce something from one of these old newsletters. If you like reading about days gone by, let us know in a letter or an article of your own and I'll root through some more. The following is an extract from Volume 6 Number 5..or Number 25. Haven't figured out the numbering system yet. It's some time in 1982 though!

Not the Editorial by John Elenor

"The production of this issue [of the newsletter] is a foretaste of what we think the newsletter should be; to those who think it ought to maintain its 'home-made' look we apologise, but do not repent.

When Dick Kitto, introducing the Birmingham conference, foresaw the 'voice-in-the-market-place' aspect of EO growing in importance, he did not suggest a time-scale; but I do – the time is now. Dis-satisfaction with schooling is zooming up an exponential curve (even the Times calls it 'respectable') and still LEAs think they are safe to browbeat parents and humiliate them with irrelevant (one might say illegal) demands. Unless EO enters the market-place with a loud voice, parents will remain ignorant of their rights; and unless the voice is also authoritative, officialdom will continue to dismiss us as grass-rooted ecofreaks."

This, to me, looks remarkably similar to the sorts of messages seen on the email lists over the past couple of years.

However, I do believe things are changing. The work started by Phil Hicks and the Government Policy Group, the work begun and being continued by Fiona Nicholson and the Government Policy team is all coming together and, I don't know the author of this piece, but I would venture to suggest that the work of our Government Policy Group on the consultation which will have been closed to submissions just before you receive this newsletter, backed up by barrister Ian Dowty's contribution, will definitely be authoritative, will not look like it's from grass-rooted ecofreaks, and will be very difficult to dismiss.

This newsletter had a section, compiled by Sarah Guthrie (who was doing Educating Archie then and is still doing it now) called 'Talking about Schooling'. It's a compilation of quotes about education...not just home education. Just education. I'm reproducing a couple here. If you'd like more in the next newsletter, let us know.

When I look back on all the crap
I learned in high school,
It's a wonder I can think at all.
But the lack of education hasn't hurt me;
I can read the writing on the wall.

(Song lyric by Simon & Garfunkel)

"But I am not a graduate of any sort of nanny's college; I have accumulated my knowledge from many years of experience.

(Barbara Barnes, Royal Nanny, Telegraph 11.5.82)

She wishes she'd had some proper education, but it clearly doesn't bother her very much. "...let's face it, boys need an education while girls can get away without." She scarcely touched down at a school. She was taught a bit in a...caravan on site together with the other Disney kids. "...can't remember anything at all – oh yes, something about Mesopotamia."

(Hayley Mills, interviewed by Polly Toynbee, Guardian, May 1982)

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		4. <i>Home-education research</i>	
		5. <i>Further reading</i>	
		6. <i>Useful organisations (part of membership pack)</i>	
		7. <i>Courses and qualifications</i>	
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		9. <i>Educational resources</i>	
		10. <i>Home-education and Steiner</i>	
		11. <i>Flexi-schooling</i>	
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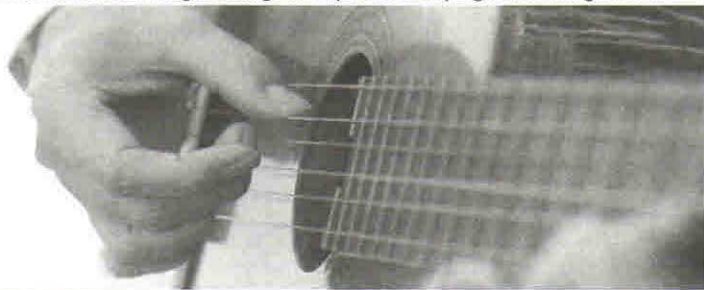
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01908 508964 or
natalie.learning@ntlworld.com



Camp for Climate Action lands at Heathrow 14-21 August 2007

This summer, the Camp for Climate Action will pitch its tents at Heathrow airport for a week of education, sustainable living, and direct action to tackle aviation, the fastest growing source of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK.

All our efforts to tackle climate change in other sectors are undone by massive growth in air travel. Holding the camp at Heathrow will highlight the lunacy of the government's airport expansion plans; confront aviation companies profiting from the climate crisis, and raise awareness of the need to fly less. The camp will also support local residents in their long-term struggle against the building of a third runway and the



destruction of their communities.

The camp will feature dozens of workshops covering topics such as climate change myths, aviation, permaculture in practice, food without oil, Transition Towns, and non-violent direct action skills and much more. Run

Concessions and Activities for the Summer

National Schools Film Week

15th - 19th October: England, Wales, N Ireland, 29th October - 2nd November: Scotland

Organised by Film Education, National Schools Film Week is the biggest event of its kind in Europe and last year took more than ¼ million children to see 1,500 films in over 500 locations throughout the UK! Now in its 12th year, it promises to be bigger than ever!

The focus of this year's National Schools Film Week is **The World We Live In**, a theme relevant to all children and one that encompasses some hard-hitting issues. This year NSFW will programme a range of current and forthcoming films to address issues such as the **environment**, social and racial injustice, bullying, politics and - more broadly - the world young people currently inhabit shown from a variety of different perspectives.



COMPETITION PRIZES

Film Education has a limited number of pairs of VIP tickets to give away for the BAFTA launch party of NSFW in September.

For all further information, or tickets to the BAFTA launch,
please contact Film Education's Press Officer

Cath Mercer T: 01477 549 859 M: 07765 960089 E: cathm.mercer@btinternet.com

The Young Film Critic Awards 2007

Budding young journalists between the ages of 7-19 years are invited to submit a film review of no more than 250 words whilst younger film fans (aged 3-7) can enter the Mini Film Fan Poster Design Competition. The winner of each age category will receive a Yamaha Theatre System as well as a school prize of classroom equipment and film teaching resources.

The competition can be entered through a dedicated website at www.youngfilmcritic.org where teachers and students will find the criteria and downloadable entry forms. Students should submit their review of any film released in cinemas in the past year before the closing date of **21st September 07**. Entries will be judged in four age categories:

- The Young Film Critic of the Year (15-19)
- The Young Film Critic of the Year (11-15)
- The Junior Film Critic of the Year (7-11)
- The Mini Film Fan (3-7)

SENSORY IMPAIRED STUDENTS

Working closely with DTS, NDCS, RNIB and RNID, Film Education ensures that all sensory impaired children throughout the UK are also given the opportunity both to enter the awards and attend free schools screenings in National Schools Film Week.

For all further press information, please contact

Film Education's Press Officer

Cath Mercer T: 01477 549 859 M: 07765 960089 E: cathm.mercer@btinternet.com

www.youngfilmcritic.org

Competition closing date: 21st September 2007

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

The Duke of Edinburgh Award consists of three levels:
Bronze, Silver, Gold

At each level you must take several components:

- Skills - learn something new
- Service - help someone out
- Sport - do something for yourself - get fit
- Expedition - get into your countryside

You don't have to take the award with a school; you can take it with any independent operator.

You don't have to take the award according to any academic calendar, you can start Bronze in the year you turn 14, you can start Silver when you are 15, you can start Gold when you are 16.

You don't have to do one hour a week, for each section, for a period of several months; but you must take the equivalent of one hour a week, and it must be spread out over a few months. At Gold level you have to organise your own residential too.

You don't have to try anything new, for example if you play a musical instrument, or go to a sports club regularly, you can just accredit these to the award.

You can dual accredit for sections of your award, for example at NAGC you can improve your artistic skills and specialise in an art form, and take an Arts Award too.

Contact NAGC West Kent Branch for more information: email to: nagcwestkent@hotmail.com or telephone: 07973 846 731.

Costs are determined by how much the branch assists you in your award; if you have a problem with costs there are grants available, please contact us to discuss possibilities.

Parental consent must be obtained for any prospective candidate under 18 years of age.

Conservation and Environmental Studies

Explorers Club activities including Discovery Walk, Bug Hunt, Pond dip and Arts & Crafts.

Activities 7, 8 & 9 August 2007 at Bedgebury Pinetum.

Cost: £10 per day, per child, concessions available

Booking essential: nagcwestkent@hotmail.com; 07973 846 731

AccessArt forum boards

Practical advice and inspiration relating to all aspects of making and teaching art.

The forum boards aim to create a much needed arena for users to exchange practical information, advice and inspiration relating to all aspects of making and teaching art.

One of AccessArt's great successes has been in bringing together makers from an astonishingly wide variety of backgrounds – connecting curious novice to practicing artist, and placing pupils and students in the same arena as creative professionals and government agencies. AccessArt's audience comes from across the world and includes home users, students, teachers, artists, architects, film makers, educationalist and academics... all of whom are invited to make the forum a really useful and vibrant place.

AccessArt is a UK registered charity and limited company committed to furthering the advancement of education in the visual arts. AccessArt employs new, creative approaches to teaching and learning in the visual arts, and supports and advocates learning pathways for those who learn best visually, spatially and kinaesthetically. Free online learning modules are accessible via the site at www.accessart.org.uk

If you would like further information about our work, or about our forthcoming membership services which will be launched in September 2007 please email info@accessart.org.uk, or contact Paula Briggs 01223 262134

Discounted days out

Tussauds Group give Home Educators school rates at the 6 UK attractions:

Alton Towers

Chessington World of Adventures and Zoo

Thorpe Park

Warwick Castle

The British Airways London Eye

Madame Tussauds London

As well as the discounted school rate, home educators can:

Access to the educational talks available (at the theme parks)

Access to the educational events available (at the theme parks)

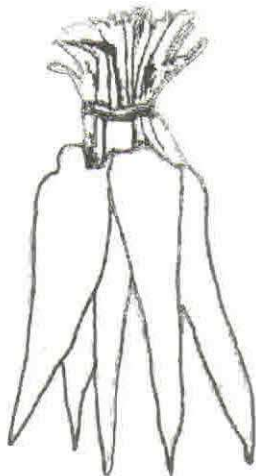
Free educational resources supplied free upon payment of booking

Tel: 0870 429 2356

Fax: 0870 429 5411

<http://www.madame-tussauds.co.uk/>

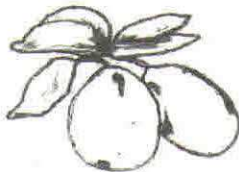
Fruit and Vegetables – See page 35 – it's not that random. ☺



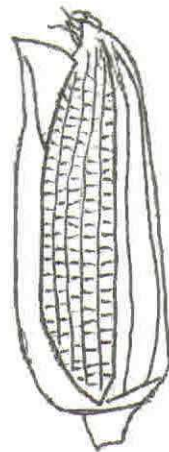
Carrots



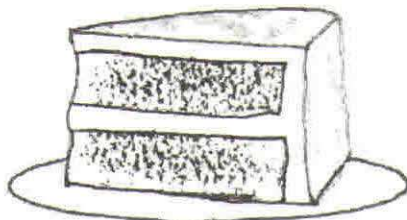
Cherries



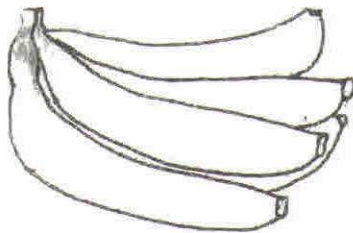
Plums



Corn



Chocolate Cake



Bananas

EDUCATING ARCHIE

The porky pie cafe by *WJ*
 It's festival time for our happy duo



Book Reviews

Shark by Michaela Morgan

This is a short story with quite a few black and white drawings. It is written in a very easy to read way. I enjoyed most of the book but the ending was a bit poor and far-fetched for me. It is the story of a boy called Mark who is mad about sharks. He goes to Florida to see sharks up close in the aquarium but things get much more exciting than that. The book has lots of facts about sharks and while I know a lot of them, it was enjoyable to read and I did learn some new stuff. I especially liked the tips on how to avoid shark attacks. I did enjoy reading it and would read it again, but I thought the ending could have been more realistic and that it made sharks look bad and scary when it could have said more about how fascinating and beautiful they are and that many are in danger of extinction because of us.

George (11)

£5.99 ISBN -84299439-5 Barrington Stoke

Young Gardener by Stefan and Beverly Buczaki

This book is brilliant. If you like gardening as I do you will love this book and even if you don't it's worth getting to give you new ideas of things to do in the garden. It tells you all about what to do in the garden during each season and shows you what to be looking for while you are out there. There are lots of projects to do. So far I have sprouted broad bean seeds in a jar, planted sunflowers to see if I can beat the 7 metre record, sown nasturtiums so we can eat the flowers and spent hours by the pond, looking for things that live there. It covers lots of subjects such as birds and butterflies to look out for but doesn't have pictures of the ones talked about, so you need to get another book for more detail. It is a very easy book to read.

Ben (7)

£12.99 ISBN 1-84507-295-2 Frances Lincoln

Mad Iris Goes Missing by Jeremy Strong

This is the second book about Mad Iris, an ostrich who ran away and now lives at a primary school. In this book Mad Iris is kidnapped and two of her friends from the school set out to rescue her. It is quite funny. Lydia enjoyed it and has asked for it to be read again. The story moves along at a nice pace with mostly short

punchy sentences. We think it is an enjoyable book for capable readers but also a funny book to read aloud to younger children. 5 years and up.

Julieann and Tony with Lydia (4) Stan (2)

£4.99 ISBN: 978-1-84299-365-1 Barrington Stokes

Kidnapped by Robert Louis Stevenson

This is the 'Modern Text Edition' of this old favourite, which has been given a contemporary feel with the use of cartoon-strip illustrations, provided by Cam Kennedy, who has illustrated strips including Batman and Star Wars. The adventure begins when David Balfour's father dies - he must seek out his long-lost uncle and seek his fortune. But young David doesn't get the welcome he expects from his uncle and their meeting is the start of a terrifying and exciting adventure. David escapes being murdered, but then he's kidnapped by his Uncle's friend and is taken to sea where his fight for survival begins.

Caroline with Connor (13) and Jamie (11)

£8.99 ISBN 978-1-84299-501-3 Barrington Stokes

Finding Grace by Alyssa Brugman

This is a quirky, sensitive and beautiful account of a couple of months in a young woman's life as she crosses the threshold from childhood to adulthood. Our heroine Rachel has a live-in job looking after Grace, a beautiful woman with brain injury whose enigmatic past turns out to be both as exciting and ordinary as any woman's. Though both Rachel and the book do go through a process of subtle change, this book is ultimately about the very simple actions of living life, having friends and being yourself.

Sophie (15)

£5.99 ISBN 1-74114-932-0 Allen & Unwin

Snow Wings by Jutta Goetze

This is a thrilling adventure story set in a valley in Germany. Blocked in by avalanches six children must discover the mystery surrounding a black cloud; shadows which walk without anything to cast them; the identity of *I don't know* (the boy who could not remember his name); and a star that hit the earth four thousand years ago. With the help of a strange weatherman they must fight the ice lizards and shadows, which control the weather and their own fears to stop the earth and a strange planet from being destroyed. This is a truly gripping

story with plenty of twists. I hope there will be a sequel.

Keith (13)

£5.99 ISBN 1-7411-4463-9 Allen & Unwin

Orphan of the Sun by Gill Harvey

I really enjoyed this book because it combines fact and fiction brilliantly. It is set in Set Maat (now known as Deir el Medina). In Ancient Egyptian times this was a village where the pharaoh's tomb builders lived. The main character is 13-year-old Meryt-Re, an orphan girl who lives with her aunt and uncle. She receives strange messages in her dreams, which she can't understand. With her cousin seriously ill and many other terrible problems to face she has to decipher them before she has any hope of helping him or solving the mysteries around her. I would recommend this book for people, like myself, who love fantasy stories and history.

Eloise Trett (11)

£5.99 ISBN 978-0-7475-7945-8 Bloomsbury

The Breathing Circle by Nell Smyth

Stories, actions and songs for babies to seven years, inspired by movement and breathing. There are ideas for story telling with props which use symbolic objects to strengthen the child's own imaginative play. There are action rhymes for waking up and actions for relaxation time. The book aims to find ways of integrating movement and thought for the development of a healthy sensory system. Well worth a read, very useful for a group.

Hilary with Isaac (6) and Finty (2)

£14.99 ISBN 1-903458-64-1 Hawthorn Press

The Non-Stop Reader by Maurice Pope, Helen Morrison and Selena Codd

This is billed as 'A Complete Guide To Reading For Both Parent and Child'. I expected this to be the ultimate tool to teach all of my children to be able to read all at once, but as I have found out and as the General rules advise "it is better if letter sounds are already known". My 5 year old was not able to get on with the book as she is currently working through a different scheme to learn her letter sounds, however, my 7 year old, who knows his sounds, enjoyed the book - particularly the rhyming words and the vibrant, colourful pictures. All of the children wanted to go further and look ahead, but we are encouraged to only look at the page being learned and to resist the temptation to flick on further. The exercise pack is an essential tool and the games that can be played are fun. For now, as my eldest is reading well it has been put away, but once my daughter knows her sounds it will come out of the bookshelf and we can begin the path to reading again. A lovely book, full of promises. I would recommend it to those

who have just finished learning their sounds and are now ready to begin the journey of putting together the sounds to make real words in a fun way. Enjoy this book!

Katherine with Samuel (7), Rebekah (5), Jeremy (4) and George (1)

Normally £14.85 from Education Otherwise email merchandise@education-otherwise.org See page 11 of newsletter for special offer.

Give Me Shelter

Selection of stories edited by Tony Bradman

This is a very intriguing and informative collection of fictional stories about children who seek asylum. They are mainly stories about people who are caught in terrible wars in Africa and the poorer European countries. Some are children who have been separated from their family and are searching for a way out and others are about small families of survivors who fight for their lives to find safety. Although only fiction, the stories contained within this book draw a stirring picture of the lives of the asylum seekers that enter our country every year and give the other side of the story. I'd recommend this to anyone as this book could easily correct some of the stereotypes held against immigrants in the UK. Well worth reading all of the stories to hear all of the different opinions and also to note that some of them were written by asylum seekers themselves.

James (15)

£10.99 ISBN 978-1-84507-522-4 Frances Lincoln

The Wings of Rufus by Anne Forbes

This is the sequel to *Dragonfire* and unless you have read this book you won't be able to understand it so well. If you have read *Dragonfire* you will not be able to put it down! It starts where *Dragonfire* ended with the villains making off with the crown. Now the two heroes are back trying to get the sultan's crown off Prince Kalman who is using the power of the crown to create war between France and Scotland. This time Clara and Neal must go back in time with the sultan on winged horses and fight snow witches and the man of the mountain. A brilliant book if you like fantasy - which I do!

Patrick (12)

£5.99 ISBN 978-086315-602-1 Floris Books

Summer Nature Activities for Children by Irmgard Kutch and Brigitte Walden

This is another brilliant book written by the founder of the Children's Nature Garden in Germany. It is packed full of ideas - some great dough recipes for bread cooked on sticks over the embers of a fire. We tried one of the recipes and it was delicious; fun to make and cook. There are instructions for building an outdoor clay oven and even a kiln if you are feeling

ambitious! Some beautiful ideas for ponds and creating a stream with water pump and water play area for your garden. Lots of information on herbs and butterflies, songs, stories and wonderfully inspiring photos of children in wellies having a great time outdoors!
£12.99 ISBN 978-086315-586-4 Floris Books

Here's a Little Poem collected by Jane Yolen and Andrew Fusek Peters

This book describes itself as *A Very First Book of Poetry* so is probably aimed at very young children to be read to them or for early readers as most of the poems are short and easy to read. But even at our ages we loved it. Most of the poems are funny, a lot of them are brilliantly observant about children and family life. Our particular favourites are *Brother* by Mary Ann Hoberman, *The NO-NO Bird* by Andrew Fusek Peters and *Grandpa* by Berlie Doherty. It's a really good collection of poems for any age group and makes a brilliant first introduction to poetry. The illustrations are excellent and as amusing as the poems.

Ben (7), George (11) and Jake (13)
£12.99 ISBN 978-1-84428-753-6 Walker

The Big Book of Experiments and Activities by Susan Martineau

I really loved this bright and colourful book full of weird and wonderful experiments, which only need stuff you can easily come across and a lot of the activities are unusual and I have not come across them in other books. There are recipes, experiments, inventions and crafty things to do. And I really liked the little snippets on all the pages, which give interesting facts. Just a few of my favourite activities include the onion fish, mega mosaics, paddle power, bony biscuits, whiffy puffs and the pus filled boil for an excellent joke.

Will (9)
£6.99 ISBN 878 1-902915-41-8 B Small

No more school by Meg Harper

Flora is suffering from migraines every time she goes to school. So she starts to truant. Flora meets a boy called Ian who is home-educated. Ian and Flora devise a plan to help Flora stay at home.

"I enjoyed the adventure in this book. It was exciting and possible."

David Hall (11)

'No more school' is a good book and is about Flora who loathes school and truants. She argues with her friend. She hides in a den and learns to read, and has an adventure in a tunnel. I liked the book because it was about home-educated people like me.

Lynsey Hall (9)

No More School ISBN 1-904529-28-3

Published by Back to Front

Available from Amazon or Meg Harper, 6 Turner Close, Warwick CV34 6PZ on receipt of a cheque for £6.75

www.megharper.co.uk

BOOKS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

Career Training and Personal Planning for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders by Vicki Lundine and Catherine Smith

The training programme for ASD students was devised to aid the transition from school to work. The individual is encouraged to review his past, highlighting likes and dislikes, achievements and develop an understanding of his 'uniqueness'. It goes on to explore life skills, hygiene, time management and money. Decision-making and problem solving are also discussed. The final chapters are on career awareness and job preparation including CV writing and interviewing skills, accepting criticism/praise and confidentiality. Personally I find this book of limited value. It is written for professionals and outlines the objective of each lesson with worksheets that can be copied. Certainly it can be dipped into for ideas and used to simulate discussion but don't expect to work through effortlessly from cover to cover. Some lessons may not go according to plan and may not really get the message home.

£29.99 ISBN 1-84310-440-7 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.

CONTACTS

Allen & Unwin – see Frances Lincoln
Barrington Stokes 0131 557 2020

www.barringtonstoke.co.uk

Bloomsbury www.bloomsbury.com
B Small publishing 020 8974 6851

www.bsmall.co.uk

Floris (Book Source) 0870 240 2182
www.florisbooks.co.uk

Frances Lincoln 020 7284 4009
www.franceslincoln.com

Hawthorne Press 01453 757040
www.hawthornepress.com

Jessica Kingsley Publishers 020 7833 2307
www.jkp.com

Walker Books 020 7793 0909
www.walker.co.uk

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

Design a poster for Children's Book Week

This year's theme is the environment and you could think about unusual places in the natural world where you would like to read your favourite books. Would it be up a tree, in a meadow, or by the sea? What animals might you draw? What colours would you use? How would you use text alongside images to promote a special week of celebrating books? The Overall Winner receives a signed book by Michael Rosen, the new Children's Laureate, a £50 book token and gifts from Crayola. The Category Winners receive a Crayola gift and a selection of children's books. Deadline 17th August. www.booktrusted.co.uk/cbw/

Children's Poetry Bookshelf Competition

The Competition is organised by the Children's Poetry Bookshelf, a poetry book club for young people run by the Poetry Book Society. To link with National Poetry Day on Thursday 4 October, children will be asked to write a poem no longer than 25 lines on the theme of 'Dreams'. It is open to individuals, with prizes being awarded in two age groups, 7- 8 year olds and 9 -11 year olds. Entries will be accepted from Thursday 13 September, up until the closing date of Monday 15 October. The winners will be announced at an award ceremony in December.
www.childrenspetrybookshelf.co.uk

Design a Christmas Card

Tight timescale to this so if you'd like to join in, don't put it away 'to do later'.

For those of you who remember it, this will be run in a similar way to the Oskar T shirt competition. We would like you to design a Christmas card which will be sold by EO just for 2007. Four designs will be chosen to form the set.

Design should be 150 mm x 105 mm (6" x 4") and should be non secular in nature

Send your design to Jacqui Houlding, 38 Garwood Close, Westbrook, Warrington WA5 8TF to arrive by first post on Monday, 3 September 2007. All entries will be shown in the newsletter for members to vote.

A pre-order form will appear in the next newsletter. Pack of four cards, with envelopes will cost £2.30 each plus postage and packing

Categories

Age 0 – 5 years

Age 6 – 10

Age 11 – 14

Age 15 upwards

Education Spot

For those of you who do not frequent the Yahoo email lists, you will have missed out on a most enlightening topic of conversation. One of those (for me) yukk discussions. However, it has interested quite a few of the members there, so I'm bringing some of it here to the newsletter so that you can also benefit from the shared experience and knowledge.

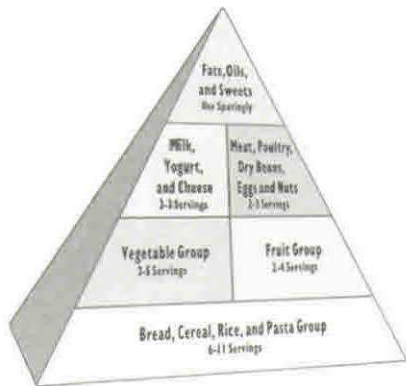
It all started with one list member asking for information on the digestive system and wanting easy to understand information on it. We have here several links to websites, and some suggested activities relating to food, nutrition and digestion. Hopefully there will be bits here that you can adapt for all ages. My thanks to Suzanne, Diane and others on the EO list for their inspiration for this.

"In an experiment to investigate the action of amylase on starch..." A audio visual online. For more see http://lgfl.skoolool.co.uk/viewdetails_ks3.aspx?id=450

Colouring book on food safety - <http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/cbook.html>

Ten steps for food safety in the kitchen - <http://tinyurl.com/35jh2c>

Food Pyramid (right) - The wide part shows the foods you should eat most often each day, and the narrower parts the ones you should eat in lesser amounts (more information at <http://tinyurl.com/3729t8>)



Monitor daily intake of the different food types; plan menus which incorporate all the food types; cut out pictures in magazines and allocate to the particular food types.

Experiment looking at water - Drinking is not the only source of water. People take in water in many foods they eat. How much water is in some foods? Take a small slice of apple, banana, potato, and celery. Weigh each slice and record that weight on a chart. (You'll need a good set of scales for this activity.) Leave the food slices under a light overnight; the light source should be about 1-1/2 feet above the food. The next day, weigh the foods again. Did the foods gain or lose weight? Why? (They lost weight because they lost water.) Which food lost the most weight, or water? the least?

Foods and Digestion (self experimentation) - Keep a journal of what you eat and see how it affects bowel movements. For example, eating a lot of fresh fruit and vegetables and drinking orange juice and note in the journal whether this changes the colour, aroma, consistency and frequency of bowel movements. Apparently, Warn everyone to stand back on the day you experiment with a vindaloo! ...and according to 'Diane', eating lots of beetroot can turn your wee purple!

Eat some sweetcorn or nuts with water (try not to chew them) and wait for them to come out the other end. This gives an indication of how well the bowels are working. Ideally they should come out within 24

hours and within one bowel movement. If they come out over several days...there's a blockage! They should be soft, pass in one, clean movement, little smell and no straining.

Nutrition on the web – for teens

<http://library.thinkquest.org/10991/pyramid.html>

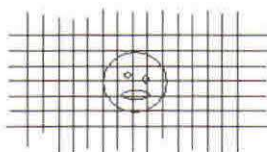
Create rhymes or Haiku's on food.

All manner of lessons on food and nutrition. Adapt one to suit the way your family learns.

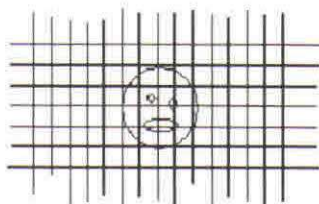
<http://www.lsuagcenter.com/Subjects/eatsmart/lessons.htm>

I'm yellow and I'm sweet.
I'm what monkeys like to eat.
I grow in trees.
Serve me with peanut butter, please!
What am I?

Blow up the fruit and vegetables, here and throughout the newsletter, for young children to colour in. Let older children use a pantograph or add an overlay of half centimetre graph paper and then, using centimetre graph paper, draw the images at double the size eg



Half cm squares



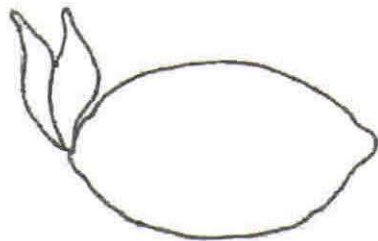
CM squares



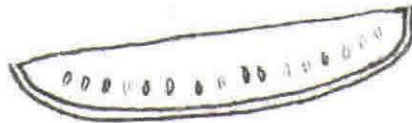
Garlic



Ice Cream



Lemon



Regional Diary

The number of groups and meetings being advertised in the Newsletter is growing. Whilst this is good for EO and home educators, it's taking up a lot of space in the newsletter. Before it becomes totally unmanageable, the entries to the Regional Diary are to be standardised. No 'extra' information will be included in the entries over and above what is asked for below. The contact details printed will allow people to access further information. (This explanation is only appearing in this issue of the newsletter; future issues will include only what is below).

Please fill in the details required and email/send to Jo Borthen, jo4eo@aol.com or at 57 Florida Drive, Exeter, EX4 5EX by 1 September 2007. **The Regional Diary Editor will, if necessary, adjust the information sent.**

County	
Town/Village	
Day/Time (Optional)	
Contact Name	
Telephone ☎	
Email Address (Optional) ✉	
Website (Optional) 🌐	

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.

Please call the number given for further details of the meeting/event in your area.

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 & Friday afternoons, under 7's, study groups, music, drama, & 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

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

High Wycombe, Hughenden Village Hall, 1.30-4pm every Tuesday, call Claire 07841 474398

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

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.

Jane: 01223-241925 JLHellings@aol.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 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 01539 567005.

Penrith alternate Tuesdays Castletown Community Centre 1.30-3.30 Contact: Sarah 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

South West Dorset/South East Devon/South Somerset Every Monday from 10 - 2:30 during term times, all ages welcome. Crafts/Gardening/Outdoor Skills/Pottery/Spacious Grounds/Baking
Shared vegetarian lunch: Mary or Danny 01297 560342

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-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. Sharon: sharon@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.freeserve.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/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@iee.org

Beverley 01242 524091 or Mhairi 01452 384104.

Dursley Home Educators meeting first weds every month for social, support and activities. Swimming and occasional outings. All welcome. Contact Paula 01453 519287 email: uks_sneaky@hotmail.com

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.groups.com

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

Isle of Thanet Contact: Vanda 01843 842629

Medway towns Contact: Bridget 01634 234938

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

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

South Lincolnshire, new drama group. Brothertoft

Village hall, 10 - 12 Tuesdays, 01205 821044

email: Krisistevens@aol.com

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.freeserve.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

bettleslake@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

N London Hornsey Home Educators Club Currently up to 13, but older kids welcome. Range of activities, socialising and fun. Monday mornings. 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

MERSEYSIDE

"Saxophone with Eddie"

Young, home-educated tutor offers tuition at various venues in Liverpool. Home-educating families are especially welcome. Eddie 01517331460

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

Pinner: new group meeting tuesdays- fridays, 10am to 3pm, Qualified Teachers - English, Maths, Science, History and Spanish. Tel: Rebecca 02083865172

NORFOLK

West Norfolk

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

Norfolk, Mattishall The music club here runs fortnightly. Contact alisonbrennan@tiscali.co.uk

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

RUTLAND

Weekly meetings and activities come and join in. Contact: Jackie or Iain 01572 755 959
email: jackiecræe@bluebottle.com

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 'SHINIERS' 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.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.icom43.net

**National Trust & English Heritage Visits
and Woodland visits** - Deborah 01434 674713

WARWICKSHIRE

Coventry and Warwickshire Monthly meetings held at the locations given, plus monthly outings. Full details of meetings and outings given in HELM (see under West Midlands).

Bedworth Meeting usually every 1st Tues, 10.30am - 1.30pm, Bedworth Heath Community Centre. Alison 07769 740925

Coventry Meeting every 4th Tuesday, 1pm - 4pm, Exhall Old School Community Centre. Sarah 024 7627 9633

Wolston Meeting usually every 2nd Thursday, 10.30am - 3.00pm, Wolston Scout Hut. Sue 024 7654 3801

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.

Birmingham HE Group, regular meetings, contact Linda 0121 742 7368 linda@tustin2532.freereserve.co.uk

Coseley, West Midlands We meet at the Coseley Youth Centre/Womens Resource Centre, Old Meeting Road, Coseley, Bilston, West Midlands. We usually get together at 10am on the 3rd Friday of the month but it is subject to change depending on how busy the centre is. Please contact either Debbie : 01902 570787 or Glenda 0121 556 0189 or email highwaygirl@supalife.com

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-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@eldekivist.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 Tutcher 01562 822034 email: gail@tqmi.co.uk

YORKSHIRE EAST

Regular meetings and visits. Alison 01405 769902

Bridlington, contact Jacqui 01262 679769 or Alison 01377 240324 if you want to meet up.

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

North/West Yorkshire Group

STEETON CHURCH HALL. Meets on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month or various themed activities. Contact Sarah Thomas 01535 655405

Skipton Home Ed Group Meets at the Friends Meeting House in Skipton on the 3rd Friday of each month. Contact Judith Hargreaves 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 ksbtscott@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 Chal" (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 and social get-togethers. All welcome. Contact: Nicola 01334 478530 nicola.stubbs@btinternet.com

HIGHLANDS/MORAY

Informal network for information and support, occasional outings and get-together, suggestions welcome.

Contact Toni, email: tee.kay@hotmail.co.uk or 01463 831574 or Rebecca 01343 542245

IRVINE

For details of regular and one-off activities contact: Rhona 01294 273644, Shirley 01563 540063, Vivien 01563 537428

LOTHIAN, CENTRAL & S.E. SCOTLAND

fortnightly group for meetings and outings. contact Jane 01835 862118

WALES

SOUTH WALES

South Wales Home Educators Network, Weekly meetings in **Llantrisant** and **Swansea**, Home Learner's days at local museums, e-mail support list, plus trips, parties and get-togethers. For information and support e-mail: contact: SWHEN@aol.com or

bev1.french@btinternet.com or contact Louise 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

Powys local contact - Dave and Dee 01938 590098 d.yeoman@tesco.net

e-mail list for home ed info david@visionetics.com home ed camps, activities and outings contact dee & dave 01938 590098 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!

August

- 12 - International Youth Day
- 13 - International Left Handers Day
- 19 - 25 World Water Week
- 25 - 27 - European Bat Week
- Notting Hill Carnival
- 27 - National Zoo Awareness Day

September

- 30 - Aug - 8 Sept Red Squirrel Week
- 1 - 15 National Organic Fortnight
- 6 - 9 Heritage Open Days
- 22 World Car Free Day
- 26 - European Day of Languages
- 30 - World Heart Day

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: 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**, **Jo Berry**, Ross Mountney

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

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

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, Wilsden
01535 274520 evaandmary@aol.com

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

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

Wales (N): Edwina Theunissen, Wrexham 01978
661 882 theunissen@freereserve484.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 Yahoo! lists are open to all, members or non members. The forums can be found via the Members Area of the EO Website. See the front page of the EO Website (www.education-otherwise.org) to join one of the Yahoo lists.

To access the Forums, 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

Leslie Barson (London) 0208 969 0893
lesliebarson@yahoo.com
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)
Darren Braecklein (W Yorks) 0113 217 2795
dareneo@googlemail.com
Pauline Butterworth (Cleveland) 01642 570786
pollyb47@aol.com
Carla MacGregor (Bristol) 0117 935 4389
Laurie McAulay (Leics) 0116 2591051
lauriemcaulay@hotmail.co.uk (M: 07837 061126)
Imogen Cooper (Northants) 01604 781316
imogen@rebelalliance.fsflife.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) 01258 471949
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). Debbie Barker, 19 Cedar Drive, Worlingham, Beccles, NR34 01502 714413
email: eostationary@education-otherwise.org

Truancy Cards (HE cards) (free on joining). Extra or replacement truancy and membership cards SSAE + £1 per card. P.O./cheque (payable to 'Education Otherwise' or in 50p or £1 stamps, to Lynda. Contact details as per Membership above.

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 Induced Anxiety Support: Kathleen Thompson 01942 795975 kimusic59@yahoo.co.uk

Anti Bullying Support (Acting) Jacqui Halson (Kent) 01227 277869 12a Clifton Road, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1DQ

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

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

EO LA/EA Bridgebuilder: Kathleen Thompson
Kathleen Thompson 01942 795975
kimusic59@yahoo.co.uk

EO Public Liability Insurance: Emma Birkenshaw
emma-birkenshaw@ntlworld.com 0113 2172795

Research Contact: Sue White, 2 Preforia Villas, Eye Rd., Brome, Eye, Suffolk IP23 8AL 01379 870036
sue_white@lineone.net

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

Newsletter Coordinator: Vacant

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

Local Contacts Co-ordinator: Vacant

Publications Secretary: Joss Nowell (See CM List)

Membership Secretary: Gail Borrows (See CM List)

General Secretary: Vacant

Enquiries Secretary: Anne Rix (See CM List)

Coordinator for Enquiries Secretary: Iris Harrison (Worcs.) 01584 781341 Irishharrison6@aol.com

Company Secretary: Janet Wilkinson (See CM List)

Treasurer: Pauline Butterworth (See CM List)

Chairperson: Vacant

Vice-Chair: Vacant

education otherwise

Education Otherwise is a membership organisation which provides support and information for families whose children are being educated outside school, and for those who wish to uphold the freedom of families to take proper responsibility for the education of their children.

Our principal aims are to:

- encourage learning outside the school system;
- reaffirm that parents have primary responsibility for their children's education and that they have the right to exercise this responsibility by educating them out of school;
- establish the primary right of children to have full consideration given to their wishes and feelings about their education;
- promote knowledge, understanding and acceptance of education otherwise than at school in the world at large.

For further information send an A5 sae to:

PO BOX 325
KINGS LYNN PE34 3XW

Helpline 0845 478 6345

(the 0870 number will be phased out over the next year or two)

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

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