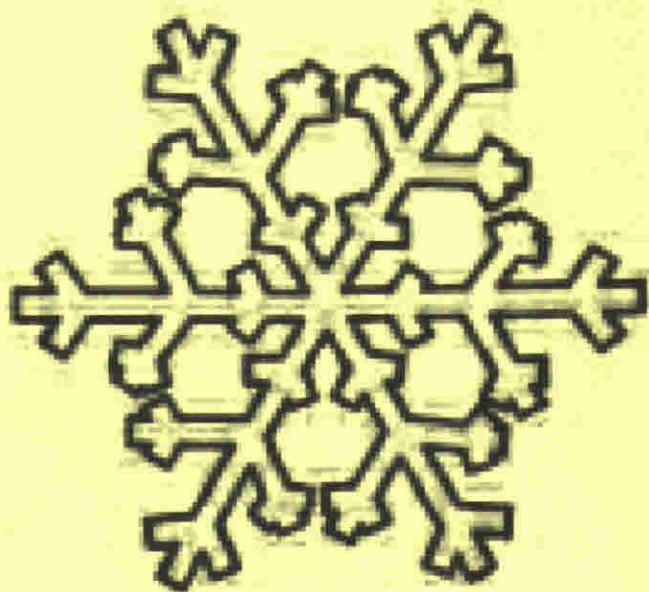


education otherwise



No. 179 – December 2007

£2

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS: 1st January 2008

Please mark material 'for publication' and include your name, address, phone number and e-mail (if you have it) as we may need to contact you to discuss your contribution (your personal details may be withheld from the publication on request).

E-mail contributions will be acknowledged within a few days. If you require a postal acknowledgement, please include an SAE. If no acknowledgement is received, or in the case of queries, please contact the NL Co-ordinator (see inside back cover). *Please also ensure that your EO membership is up-to-date.*

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

LETTERS & ARTICLES

Sue White, 2 Pretoria Villas, Eye Road, Brome,
Eye, Suffolk IP23 8AL
Tel: 1379 870036 E-mail: articles@education-otherwise.org

BOOK & SOFTWARE REVIEWS

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Tel: 01559 370798 E-mail: reviews@education-otherwise.org

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Vacant

COMPETITION

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Lancashire FY5 2DS
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Editor for the next Children's Pages: 20th December 2007

Please send all material to Jacqui Houlding, Children's Pages Co-ordinator (temporary) who will forward it to the relevant Children's Editors. This is to ensure that if there is a problem submissions from other children will not 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.

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Education Otherwise 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 Education Otherwise. We try to consult with authors when this is necessary but we reserve the right not to print anything we consider puts Education Otherwise at risk.

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If you change your address, phone number, e-mail or other details, or if your Newsletter does not arrive, please contact the Database Administrator (see inside back cover)

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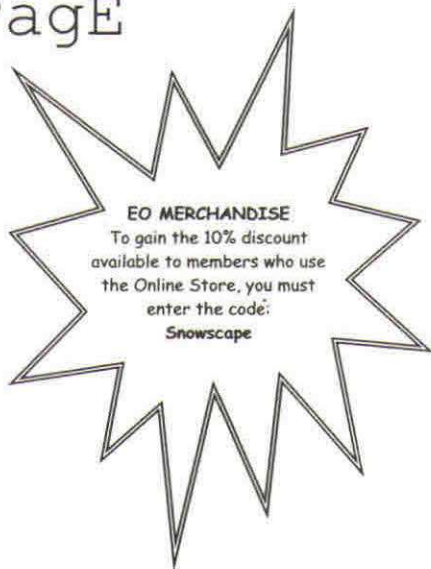
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Cheap Broadband and Phone Calls

The Phone Co-op has introduced a tiered rate for Broadband, so at last, if you are a low user, you will pay less. EO has an affiliation scheme with the Phone Co-op so quote our affinity number *017* when you sign up for inexpensive phone calls, dial-up, broadband, line-rental and much more. The co-operative is "owned" by the members and any profits go back to the members, not into the pockets of phone moguls!

Three ways to find out more: go straight to their web site www.thephone.coop go to the bottom of the front page of the EO website or phone 0845 458 9000. Remember to quote the affinity No 017.



Letter from the Co-ordinator

There are changes afoot with the EO Newsletter. Myself and Martine Frampton have taken over as co-ordinators and will take it in turns to co-ordinate the Newsletter.

More information about possible changes is included in the Articles section of the Newsletter.

Further to this, we will continue to take into account feedback so far - and as ever, submissions are very welcome.

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate the winners of the Christmas Card competition. All the entries were wonderful and I hope members enjoy sending out the winning cards.

Nikki Haxell



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.

BUSINESS

What the trustees have been up to since the October newsletter

The EO Council wants to be as open and inclusive as possible about what it is doing, to encourage more active participation in the organisation by members and more ideas for its future. Given the number of areas where work is needed to bring EO up to comply with changes in the law and good practice, this council has its work cut out for it. With this in mind we want to tell members about what we have been doing. Much of this is still in progress:

We are planning a Festival of Home Education Day for our AGM on the 23rd February 2008 in London (see advert). Even if you have never been to an AGM before or even if you have, please put the date in your diary and plan to come for the whole day. In the morning there will be a talk about where the new council see EO going and how we plan to get there, followed by the key note speaker, Terri Dowty from ARCH, talking about HE and the new Contact Point. In the afternoon, as well as a short AGM, there will be an open discussion with Ian Dowty about extending the EO Helpline to include advice from solicitors, how this would work and be funded. This will be followed by workshops in several different areas of interest to home educators. There will be stalls and a small café as well. So it should be a great day. The exact details will be in the February newsletter.

The new Articles and Memorandum have taken a lot of our time. Each section needs to be understood and examined for relevance to EO as an organisation, as well as with regard to its democratic nature and openness and how it will affect us in the future. It takes a lot of thought and hours of work! We now have the second draft of the A&M, which will shortly be put on the forums and website. The most important change is the lowering of trustee numbers from 14-19 to 6-11. This will make the trustees a small over-seeing body, with the daily work done by a new managerial structure as explained in the last newsletter. We feel this new draft answers all the issues raised so far from the first draft and allows us as open as possible structure for EO to move forward with in the future.

We have been writing policies for several areas of EO. This work is not easy or able to be done quickly. It is time consuming and sometimes dreary. Reading and understanding the minutiae of policies is not an everyday activity. These, as you can imagine, take some time to finish. First they are put together, then edited, then put onto the forums and comments gathered, re-edited and then agreed by Council. So far we have a Helpline confidentiality policy; privacy and data storage policies are finished. The volunteer policy, application form and agreement are all nearly done, as is a general confidentiality policy for the whole organisation.

We have also been supporting home educators in trouble with their respective authorities in Germany and Spain by sending letters and emails to the required authorities.

There are several areas of outstanding business that also need attention and we have been consulting solicitors over these; such as the status of EO Trading and how it can best go

forward and EO's relationship to the people who work for it in various roles.

We are also in the process of sorting out many issues under our new data protection policies including issues over the storage of data both for safe keeping and so that the trustees are able to access relevant passwords and accounts.

We have been asked to endorse a new book by Ross Mountney (who wrote the home education diary in the EO newsletter for some time). We are reluctant to endorse the book until we see it, but all the drafts that Ross has sent so far look very promising.

Finally, very good news, congratulations to Joss and his family on the arrival of their child, and we'd like to extend a warm welcome to the little one.

If anyone would like to stand for the EO Council they need to put a write-up about themselves, their relevant experience, and what they feel they can bring to the EO Council, into the February newsletter. The deadline is 1st January 2008. Thank you.

Leslie Barson (for EO Council)

Please come and help us celebrate

Education Otherwise and Home Education

at EO's new look

Festival of Home Education Day

and

Annual General Meeting

Key note speaker: Terri Dowty from ARCH

Discussion about new plans for EO

Workshops, cafe, children's room

23 February 10-5pm

Westbourne Grove Church

Westbourne Grove,

Notting Hill, London W11 2RW

(corner of Ledbury Road and Westbourne Grove)

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

Meet the Council....

My name is Judi Wilson. I live in NW London with my eight year old son, who attended nursery school and is now home educated. My own education was school-based and examination-led, which even at the time felt inconsequential and of dubious value; it was not something I chose, but felt it was imposed upon me. I gained a university degree but few life skills and no sense of direction.

I have had various jobs, from catering to painting and decorating, but worked mainly in the voluntary sector for a range of charities, in both a campaigning and supporting role. In 1993 I was employed as HIV and women's counsellor for an holistic centre working with people with addictions. I became increasingly interested in complementary medicine, and I qualified as an acupuncturist in 1999.

It was purely by chance that I discovered home education is a legal option. I then completed a year's training as a classroom assistant, which gave me an illuminating insight into how the National Curriculum is 'delivered' and into the daily routine of a primary school. For the past three years I have been involved in local home education groups, visits and activities.

I am joining the EO Council in the hope that I can assist in moving the organisation forward during a critical time. I have been a management committee member of three charities, at different times, and I was a parent governor at my son's nursery school for two years, when the institution was undergoing significant structural change.

I believe very strongly that we must protect our right to home educate, and that we need a strong and stable national organisation to lobby government, educate the public, and provide support to home educators across the country and abroad.

Judi Wilson, EO Council Member

I am Jo Berry and have home educated for 17 years. I have 3 daughters who have never been to school. I have been a Trustee for EO since January and I am also on Complaints Group. I am passionate about our right to home educate and I believe that EO is the best vehicle to support home educators and to help us have the freedom for the future.

I hope to bring my skills and experience from my work, I am creating a charity, Building Bridges For Peace. I call myself a peace-builder which means I work in a number of areas, supporting post conflict and conflict communities, anti-bullying and supporting victims of terrorism and reconciliation. I am Chair of International Network for Peace.

Jo Berry, EO Council Member

Invitation to potential Council Members

In our present Articles and Memorandum EO council, which has overall responsibility for the running of the organisation, has to have a minimum of 14 council members to do any business. However, it can have up to 19 members. Past councils and this one as well, have found it difficult to find this large number of council members when the work load is great and the issues complicated.

Further, if, with 14 council members, any one council member decides to leave Council for any reason the rest of Council has to spend time recruiting another member quickly. This is not always easy but Council is not allowed to do any business until it is up to the minimum number. This is one of the main reasons why reducing the number of council members is so crucial and we hope will be done in February.

A result of this constant need for new council members is that it leads to the standing council members asking those they know to be co-opted onto the council, which in turn leads to accusations of undemocratic practices. In order to avoid this, the present council would like to have more than 14 council members, and invites anyone who would like to have more information about coming onto council to contact lesliebarson@yahoo.com or write to EO at P.O. Box 325, Kings Lynn, PE34 3XW.

Leslie Barson (for EO Council)

Farewell and a heartfelt thank you to Jacqui

It is with a heavy heart that the EO Council has to announce that Jacqui Houlding stepped down from her post at the end of November.

Jacqui has been an important part of EO for some years now. Her work in designing, maintaining and running the website, and the many lists and forums, has been invaluable. She has also been sending out the Enquiries and Local Contact packs, which are so big that, last time she brought them to a meeting her car suspension was showing what it could do!

It would be impossible to list all the jobs that Jacqui has picked up because nobody else was doing them, and we are most grateful to her. We will miss her indeed and wish her every happiness and success in all her new endeavours.



Government Policy Group Update

By the time you read this, EO Government Policy Group will have met on November 19th with Iain Campbell and Denise Hunter, Elaine Haste's replacements from the Department of Children Schools and Families (formerly the DfES). EO has been in regular contact with the new team by phone and email since August.

A report of the meeting will appear in the February Newsletter, but in the meantime people with internet access can check on the EO main website and EO Campaign website for details, or write to me and I will post a copy of the report. All addresses are given at the end of this article.

As everyone knows, the consultation on written Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities closed at the end of July. Government departments are supposed to publish a consultation report within 3 months of the closing date, but by the third week of October it was clear that the report wasn't going to be ready, probably because there were so many consultation responses.

Since the Guidelines consultation closed, EO Government Policy Group has been quite busy. One of our main areas of activity has been 14-19 education and training. We have been following up the consultation in June about raising the school leaving age, making sure that home education is a valid legal option post 16. (The initial Government consultation document proposed that the only valid forms of participation for 16-18 year olds would be attendance at a recognised institution working towards accredited qualifications.) We have also worked jointly with EO Disability Group to campaign for sufficient flexibility, support and funding in the system for disabled you--

people and those with special educational needs.

Annette Taberner of EO GPG finally received official acknowledgement of home education for post 16s from the Secretary of State, Ed Balls at a meeting in London on 5th November. There is a link to a Press Release about this at the foot of the article, which gives the link to the relevant new DCSF publication.

Secretary of State for Education, Ed Balls, confirms that Home Education will still be a legal choice for post-16s

EO members who don't have access to the internet can order copies of the booklet directly from DCSF. There has been some exaggerated reporting of this area in the press and it may be quite reassuring a/ to see how much ground the DCSF is already conceding and b/ to realise that it is very early days for these proposals. They will not come into force for at least 6 years and EO is at the heart of the discussion from this early stage. A policy representative from the 14-19 Unit will attend the DCSF/EO meeting on the 19th November.

The details of how to order the booklet about raising the school leaving age are given at the end of this article.

We have also been busy networking and promoting and protecting the interests of home educators in other ways. At the end of September the Policy Group secured invitations for 11 representatives to the Time to Talk events in Birmingham, Leeds, London and Portsmouth. There were fewer than 400 participants in total throughout the country and EO was not included on the guest list until we made a bit of a fuss.

We knew there would be Ministers at the events and we didn't want to waste the opportunity. In Leeds, Annette spoke to Ed Balls about home education and in London Alex Dowty explained to Lord Adonis how the Government was getting things wrong. Home educated teenagers were featured in the Teachers TV videos for Leeds, Birmingham and Portsmouth and Ann Newstead, EO Media co-ordinator was interviewed on film in London. GPG also made a formal written consultation response on the issues which were debated during Time to Talk.

Another major area of work for GPG has been tackling the Department of Work and Pensions about moving lone parents off Income Support and onto Jobseeker's Allowance. EO would not normally be involved in the work of this Department, but if these proposals go through they will obviously have an impact on the home education community. The defining feature of JSA is that it is an active benefit with conditions attached; the JSA claimant has to be actively seeking work, has to sign on regularly, go to interviews, is not allowed to turn down job offers, has to be available for work-focused training etc. The DWP ran a public consultation on proposals to move lone parents onto JSA when the youngest child is 12 in 2008 and further reducing that age to 7.

The first priority for the Policy Group was to speak to the DWP about the inaccessibility of the Department's website and to do everything we could to make it possible for members to give feedback to the Government. It wasn't clear where to find the questions or how to respond. We also raised this issue with the Cabinet Office who were very helpful. Annette has

maintained a good working relationship with the Cabinet Office since attending a Government seminar in Leeds during the recent Cabinet Office consultation into better consultation practice.

When I spoke to the DWP Consultation Co-ordinator, I established that there was no online interactive response form but that the Department would welcome feedback in the form of letters or emails and that respondents were not tied to the specific consultation questions. We then used the EO Campaign Website to publicise the consultation and to set out the issues and give sample responses from home educators.

On behalf of EO, the Government Policy Group also made a formal response to the DWP, pointing out in no uncertain terms that home educating lone parents were already doing a full-time job educating their children and that many lone parents also had additional caring responsibilities for children with disabilities and special educational needs.

We expect a consultation report some time early in the New Year and GPG will publicise the details on the EO campaign site and in the February or April edition of the Newsletter, depending on the timing. It would be a good idea for as many of us as possible to get in touch with our MP and outline why it would be devastating for home educated children if these proposals went through.

Fiona Nicholson

Education Otherwise Government Policy
Group
205 Leverton Gardens
Sheffield
S11 8FD

Site map for the EO campaign website. This is where you will find the links on the DWP proposals to move lone parents off Income Support (look under "DCSF/Government")

For a copy of the booklet about raising the school leaving age :

RAISING EXPECTATIONS: STAYING IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING POST 16. FROM POLICY TO LEGISLATION.

DCSF PUBLICATIONS

PO BOX 5050

SHERWOOD PARK

ANNESLEY

NOTTINGHAM

NG15 0DJ

TEL. 0845 6022260

QUOTE THE REF. 00896-2007BKT-EN

Links:

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

Education Otherwise main website

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

Updates from Education Otherwise campaign website

[http://www.education-](http://www.education-otherwise.org/Legal/Consultations/english/raisingexpectationsconsultationjune07website.pdf)

[otherwise.org/Legal/Consultations/english/raisingexpectationsconsultationjune07website.pdf](http://www.education-otherwise.org/Legal/Consultations/english/raisingexpectationsconsultationjune07website.pdf)

Consultation response about raising the school leaving age (includes correspondence with the 14-19 Unit)

<http://www.freedomforchildrentogrow.org/pr061107.pdf>

EO press release : Ed Balls confirms that home education will still be legal for post 16s

<http://www.teachers.tv/video/browser/1072?page=2>

What Next For Children. Leeds. Birmingham. Portsmouth. 15 minute videos from the Time to Talk regional events.

<http://www.freedomforchildrentogrow.org/sitemap.htm>



Eo Vacancies & Changes

Vacancy for Volunteer to Update the Concessions List in Members Handbook

We'd like to thank Dawn Waddington for all the hard work she's put into this in previous years. She would now like to step down from this role.

The listing is well-used and really popular with many members, so we're looking for a volunteer/(s) who can update this and perhaps contact new places to add to the Concessions list in the annual Members Handbook.

Please contact Lynda for more information - database@education-otherwise.org or telephone 08445 867541

Vacancy for Volunteer Treasurer for the trading arm of EO

This really is a small job and will not take up much time. You need to be able to use Excel spreadsheets (or another similar software) and be reliable about writing the few expenses cheques, and checking the accuracy of the figures. Plenty of back-up available to give you a good start. Contact Priscilla Park Weir Tel: 01980 629 737 or p@pvpw.fsnet.co.uk

New local contacts:

West Midlands, Wolverhampton: Debbie Chandler

Norfolk South: Anne Bury McMurdock

If you would be like to consider being a Local Contact please contact Carla tel 0117 9354389, carlaeolcc@googlemail.com Even if your area has a Local Contact, please consider volunteering to job share with the current post holder. The following areas are without Local Contacts or the current post holder has given notice that they wish to resign when some one has volunteered to replace them.

England:

Bedfordshire

Essex: *both Barking and Dagenham and SE*

South Gloucester

Gloucestershire

Herefordshire

Kent - *South East*

Lancaster Bolton

London - *North West*

London - *Richmond and Kingston*

Merseyside

Oxfordshire

Birmingham and Solihull

West Midlands - *Dudley*

Yorkshire West - *Leeds, Calderdale and Kirklees*

Yorkshire East - *Hull*

Yorkshire North

Scotland:

Angus, Dundee, Perth and Kinross

Angyll and Bute

Edinburgh and Lothians

Inverclyde and The Ayrshires

Glasgow

Fife

Wales:

Mid Glamorgan

West Glamorgan

Vale of Glamorgan

Gwynedd

Powys

Articles

Celebrating Saturnalia Day

Back in December 2003 we were reading Caroline Lawrence's 'The Twelve Tasks of Flavia', one of the books in her 'Roman Mysteries' series. In it the Roman festival of Saturnalia is described.

So we decided that we would have a Saturnalia day on December 21st that year. *Io Saturnalia!*

We researched into it by checking out various websites as well as reading the book. Then we invited another home educating family for a Sunday lunch with a difference. In Roman times the festival would run for several days but we decided that one day would suffice, especially as we still had Christmas to come and so many of the Christmas traditions were originally based on Saturnalia. In fact it is said that the Christians stole Saturnalia from the Pagans, then commercialism stole it from the Christians, and now the Pagans are trying to take it back again!

We dispensed with the usual sacrifice at the temple, but we did choose a Lord of Misrule for the day. Actually, we chose a Lord and a Lady, the two seven year olds! The idea of this is that the servants and children become the rulers for the day. In Roman times it was all part of the fun, so they weren't really rulers for the day, but the citizens of Rome played the part of the servants and the servants and children were waited on for the day. So for that day we let the children play at being in charge. Unfortunately I am also the regular servant in the house so I was still in charge of serving the food!

We decorated the house with greenery from the garden, just as the Romans would have. Although the Christmas tree didn't come into play until much later, the Romans would have had garlands similar to the ivy ones we put up that day.

Dolls and hats featured in Roman Saturnalia. Dolls were traditionally given to the children and dolls featured in the plot of Caroline Lawrence's book. So we sat down to make some clothes-peg dolls to give to each other. We also had a bag of scraps with which we made silly hats for each other. This tradition lives on today in the form of the paper hats that come out of the Christmas crackers.

No festival is complete without a feast, so we had a Roman feast while reclining on cushions on the floor. Unfortunately we couldn't come up with authentic couches! We used earthenware to serve the food on, ate off of platters, and used our fingers. We stuck to food available in Roman times: olives; roast chicken with a modern version of garam; green beans, olives and salad; home made bread made with grape juice; and for dessert dates and almonds roasted with honey and black pepper. The children even bravely tried the warm drink that Flavia has for breakfast: half milk, half spiced wine with a little grated cheese over the top.

The two families had a wonderful day that day, but unfortunately we have never again been in the same place at the same time to recreate Saturnalia. But we still decorate the house for Christmas on the Solstice with greenery, and say 'Io Saturnalia' to each other.

<http://www.novaroma.org/religio%5Fromana/saturnalia.html>

Abbie Green

E-mail: abbieramgreen@aol.com



Home Education in Germany

The Neubronner's story begins in a way that is personally familiar to many home educators. Their elder son, Moritz, began school along with his age mates. For two years his parents, Tilman and Dagmar, watched their son struggle mentally, emotionally, and physically with his new life style. His enthusiasm for life and learning drained gradually away and finally his health began to suffer. Try as they might to find a solution for his unhappiness within the system, Tilman and Dagmar felt as defeated as Moritz clearly was. When their younger son Thomas began school it looked frighteningly as if he were about to repeat his brother's negative experiences. Within days he was telling his parents that he would prefer to stay at home, complaining that he had headaches and that school "smelled funny".

At the end of 2005 the family decided that they could struggle on no longer. Moritz and Thomas could not be asked to continue enduring a life style so detrimental to their well being and their parents removed them from school. In giving up one battle, the Neubronners took on another. There can be few new comers to home educators who do not feel some degree of trepidation at the task before them but in Germany, where the Neubronners come from, an extra deep breath is required. There of course, home education is a criminal activity which the authorities are determined to rout out no matter what might be the cost of such zeal.

In the initial legal action taken against them the Neubronners argued that school was making their children ill. The court found that this was not a sufficient reason to keep them at home and when Thomas and Moritz subsequently failed to turn up at school a fine of 1,500 Euros was levied. This, the Neubronners declined to pay. Whilst the legal machine ground into action, Moritz and Thomas were savouring life at home. About once a month two teachers from the school at which they were still registered came to their house to monitor their progress. The boys undertook written tests and received encouraging reports but their parents noticed their learning growing much more significantly than this. Dagmar likens the whole process of natural learning to that of a growing plant; an organic process in which her sons' minds do not simply develop but in which they thrive and flourish. The Neubronners' enthusiasm for and joy in home education is palpable.

They need to be convinced of what they are doing. Their fines have been raised within the last few weeks to 4,500 Euros and bailiffs have visited their home in a fruitless search to impound property that might release this sum. The Neubronners are determined not to pay, they are also determined not to follow the route of several other German home educators who, with their backs against the wall, have decided to move to more liberal countries. It will take a good deal of courage to stick to this line if prison sentences and child protection orders ensue, as they have in other cases.

Whilst the Neubronners motivation may not be hard for fellow home educators to fathom, the thought processes behind the German authorities' actions is a tougher call. Yes, compulsory school attendance is the law since Hitler made it so, but on what grounds is it so stringently upheld? The arguments against fostering religious extremism or the creation of the bogey man "parallel" societies clearly do not apply to the middle class, main stream Neubronners. Nor can arguments about the children's educational progress hold any sway; by the school's own

measures they are doing well. The bulldozer reactions of the authorities look much more like a crass show of strength - do it our way or else - than a considered approach to child welfare. The Neubronners are doing well at generating interest and publicity around their cause with newspaper reports and TV appearances. Disseminating news about their case both at home and abroad will help turn the spotlight onto the authority's next move. Let us all hope that it is to recognise that in the Neubronners they have finally met their match so that, at long last, a sensible and public debate about educational alternatives can take place on German soil.

Those who would like to express their views on this matter directly to the Education Secretary for Bremen may do so at the following address:

Senatorin fuer Bildung and Wissenschaft
Rembertiring 8-12
D-28195 Bremen
Germany

A legal fund has been set up for the Neubronners by their lawyer to which donations can be made through:

<http://www.moneybookers.com> to the following address: westerholt@die-rechtsanwaelte.com

Possible Changes to the Newsletter

It has been noted that some feedback regarding the Newsletter has suggested a more 'magazine-style' approach. I have been getting various quotes in for a 'magazine' Newsletter, including the possibility of changing the size of the Newsletter to A4. Of course such a format offers wider possibilities with regards to the presentation of the Newsletter. One example would be the ability to better reproduce photos, opening up the opportunity for members or local groups to send photos of activities in and for young people to send photos that they have taken in (with the added possibility of photo competitions etc.) I'm aware that various groups and families are involved with all sorts of fund-raising activities. I know one of the local groups to me have recently raised money for Children In Need and it would be really great to be able to see a photo, plus information on the event - this is the sort of article that I, personally, would love to see more of. Essentially it would offer a more colourful and potentially approachable Newsletter.

Another possible idea is to merge the Children's Pages with the main Newsletter, also giving the young people involved with the Children's Pages more scope for items to include and also meaning that when drawings and paintings are submitted, colour can be shown. There have also been suggestions regarding young people being more involved with the Newsletter as a whole.

Naturally, such changes would have a financial implication, possible ways of addressing this would be to look at advertising (with consideration to the general ethos behind EO) as well as the possibility of going for external funding.

What are YOUR thoughts on this? Would you like to see a more 'magazine-style' Newsletter? What are your thoughts about advertising? Going for funding? Please send in your feedback to nlco-ordinator@education-otherwise.org or by post to 21 Grangefield Avenue, Rossington DN11 0LY

Nikki Haxell

The Bitter Homeschooler's Wish List

1. Please stop asking us if it's legal. If it is — and it is — it's insulting to imply that we're criminals. And if we were criminals, would we admit it?
2. Learn what the words "socialize" and "socialization" mean, and use the one you really mean instead of mixing them up the way you do now. Socializing means hanging out with other people for fun. Socialization means having acquired the skills necessary to do so successfully and pleasantly. If you're talking to me and my kids, that means that we do in fact go outside now and then to visit the other human beings on the planet, and you can safely assume that we've got a decent grasp of both concepts.
3. Quit interrupting my kid at her dance lesson, scout meeting, choir practice, baseball game, art class, field trip, park day, music class, 4H club, or soccer lesson to ask her if as a homeschooler she ever gets to socialize.
4. Don't assume that every homeschooler you meet is homeschooling for the same reasons and in the same way as that one homeschooler you know.
5. If that homeschooler you know is actually someone you saw on TV, either on the news or on a "reality" show, the above goes double.
6. Please stop telling us horror stories about the homeschoolers you know, know of, or think you might know who ruined their lives by homeschooling. You're probably the same little bluebird of happiness whose hobby is running up to pregnant women and inducing premature labor by telling them every ghastly birth story you've ever heard. We all hate you, so please go away.
7. We don't look horrified and start quizzing your kids when we hear they're in public school. Please stop drilling our children like potential oil fields to see if we're doing what you consider an adequate job of homeschooling.
8. Stop assuming all homeschoolers are religious.
9. Stop assuming that if we're religious, we must be homeschooling for religious reasons.
10. We didn't go through all the reading, learning, thinking, weighing of options, experimenting, and worrying that goes into homeschooling just to annoy you. Really. This was a deeply personal decision, tailored to the specifics of our family. Stop taking the bare fact of our being homeschoolers as either an affront or a judgment about your own educational decisions.
11. Please stop questioning my competency and demanding to see my credentials. I didn't have to complete a course in catering to successfully cook dinner for my family; I don't need a degree in teaching to educate my children. If spending at least twelve years in the kind of chew-it-up-and-spit-it-out educational facility we call public school left me with so little information in my memory banks that I can't teach the basics of an elementary education to my nearest and dearest, maybe there's a reason I'm so reluctant to send my child to school.
12. If my kid's only six and you ask me with a straight face how I can possibly teach him what he'd learn in school, please understand that you're calling me an idiot. Don't act shocked if I decide to respond in kind.

13. Stop assuming that because the word "home" is right there in "homeschool," we never leave the house. We're the ones who go to the amusement parks, museums, and zoos in the middle of the week and in the off-season and laugh at you because you have to go on weekends and holidays when it's crowded and icky.
14. Stop assuming that because the word "school" is right there in homeschool, we must sit around at a desk for six or eight hours every day, just like your kid does. Even if we're into the "school" side of education — and many of us prefer a more organic approach — we can burn through a lot of material a lot more efficiently, because we don't have to gear our lessons to the lowest common denominator.
15. Stop asking, "But what about the Prom?" Even if the idea that my kid might not be able to indulge in a night of over-hyped, over-priced revelry was enough to break my heart, plenty of kids who do go to school don't get to go to the Prom. For all you know, I'm one of them. I might still be bitter about it. So go be shallow somewhere else.
16. Don't ask my kid if she wouldn't rather go to school unless you don't mind if I ask your kid if he wouldn't rather stay home and get some sleep now and then.
17. Stop saying, "Oh, I could never homeschool!" Even if you think it's some kind of compliment, it sounds more like you're horrified. One of these days, I won't bother disagreeing with you any more.
18. If you can remember anything from chemistry or calculus class, you're allowed to ask how we'll teach these subjects to our kids. If you can't, thank you for the reassurance that we couldn't possibly do a worse job than your teachers did, and might even do a better one.
19. Stop asking about how hard it must be to be my child's teacher as well as her parent. I don't see much difference between bossing my kid around academically and bossing him around the way I do about everything else.
20. Stop saying that my kid is shy, outgoing, aggressive, anxious, quiet, boisterous, argumentative, pouty, fidgety, chatty, whiny, or loud because he's homeschooled. It's not fair that all the kids who go to school can be as annoying as they want to without being branded as representative of anything but childhood.
21. Quit assuming that my kid must be some kind of prodigy because she's homeschooled.
22. Quit assuming that I must be some kind of prodigy because I homeschool my kids.
23. Quit assuming that I must be some kind of saint because I homeschool my kids.
24. Stop talking about all the great childhood memories my kids won't get because they don't go to school, unless you want me to start asking about all the not-so-great childhood memories you have because you went to school.
25. Here's a thought: If you can't say something nice about homeschooling, shut up!

Deborah Markus

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<http://www.secular-homeschooling.com>

Diary of a Home Educating Nobody

Sometimes I think HE is a bit like housework. It certainly adds to it with all the junk about the house, the paint marks on the table and the bits on the floor!

I can never find any appeal in housework. I always detest clearing up. But by far the worst thing about it is that most of your attempts are invisible to everyone else. Never endorsed. No one ever says 'what a good job you've made of cleaning the toilet', for example!

And it's just struck me that HEing is a bit like that. No endorsement. Little encouragement. In fact you're more likely to get the opposite. From the children; 'Do I have to do this?' Or: 'This is so boring', or; 'You can't make me'. (It's true, and very tricky when they get old enough to find this out!) From the relatives you get 'shouldn't the children be doing proper lessons?' Or 'shouldn't they be going to school now they're older?' Or worse still you get poker-faced silence when you're talking about your HE day and a look on their faces that says 'who are you trying to kid'!

Then there's your inner voice grinding on in the background; 'Oh God! We haven't done any writing for ages'. 'Are we doing the right thing?' and 'How many hours on the Nintendo is reasonable?'

And of course there's all the other parents of school children with satisfying ticks on bits of paper, satisfying heaps of written work, and satisfying SATs results that they can quote at us. None of which I've got.

And just like no one ever says that the toilet looks beautiful and shiny, no one ever seems to say 'congratulations, your children are such bright sociable beings I'm sure you're doing the right thing'. Probably it's because the children used to dismantle their sofas and make an ingenious den, or fiddle with the media centre in an attempt to get it working because they've got bright enquiring minds. But adults don't see it like that.

The reason I'm talking about this is not because I'm some sad person who needs to get out away from the toilet more? It's because I want to give you some encouragement. I want to endorse HEing as a style of educating that definitely *works*.

I want to make sure that you know that these years you are spending at home with your children are worthwhile even though it's hard to see it sometimes, it's hard to keep going when you never get reassuring praise, never get the satisfaction of people telling you your child is right on track and will go far.

What I want to tell you is that you may have to *wait* for that reassurance. And if you feel that HEing is right for your family then don't be put off through lack of encouragement or reassuring signs. If your heart tells you it's right then stick with it. And trust.

Many times during the eight years we HEed our eldest we have doubted. Many times I would

have given anything for a sign that we were doing okay, that she was doing okay. We had no test results, no heaps of paper, no ticks in Lixes.

And we did only little of the National Curriculum formally, practising a few essential skills but mostly allowing her to follow her own path and study the things that interested her, guiding her towards skills she needed. Educating from our hearts more than from anything else.

And finally, like an eureka moment, we have had some endorsement. What an accolade...I'm almost too embarrassed to tell you. But I want you to know so that you are encouraged as others who've gone before have encouraged me. So that you are encouraged to keep faith with your own beliefs, your own style of educating, your own curriculum, as we have done.

After eight years HEing our sixteen year old went onto FE college and thus we faced our first parents evening for years. Talk about peculiar! And it was here that we heard that not only was she the best student they've ever had; a straight distinction student, top of her year. But also that she was a beautiful person and a pleasure to have in the college. And that whatever we did while we were HEing we must have got absolutely right!

It was hankies out for us I can tell you! We were moved to silence, not knowing what to say even if we could get something out past the lump in our throats. For as I thought later when the blood had stopped rushing to my head and danger of an emotional stroke had passed, what better endorsement could we have had than that. Rock on Home Ed!

We have had no other proof up to that point. No reassurance, nothing concrete. Maybe I'm just a Saddo for doubting just because there've been no test passes, qualifications, bits of paper apart from the inevitable five metres swimming certificate!

But who needs it now! I'm confident now that she will get wherever she wants to go. Test passes don't matter because she doesn't have a pass or fail mentality. She has an approach where if it doesn't work then you've learned something and can try something else. This is the beauty of HE. It doesn't have to be a pass or fail education. It's a transferable education that gives you a love of learning for life. The paint on the table, the bits on the floor, and the clearing up that HE creates, aren't important. Home Education really works.

So if your HE is feeling a bit like housework right now, if you just want some reassurance and you need a bit of encouragement, hang in there. For it's well worth it! Educating from the heart works as well sometimes as educating from the head!

Have a very Merry Home Educating Christmas!
Ross Mountney.

PLEASE HELP!

I'm working on a book on HE to help parents starting out and would very much like it to include real life experiences of real life HEers like yourselves. I want it to include things like: your typical day, how you used curriculum or took qualifications, how you manage work, how you cope with bad days or being with your children all day, where older children are now. If you'd like to email your experiences to me that would be absolutely great. All material will remain anonymous. Many, many thanks. Ross.
E-mail: ross.mountney@tiscali.co.uk

A Decade in Online Learning

The English and Online Learning Team at Sheffield College is about to launch a fully online taught BA in eCommunications from February 2008.

In the e learning community we are perhaps best known for our online GCSE English course which has taken this most important qualification into the homes of close to a thousand young and adult learners who for a multiplicity of different reasons attending a school or a college was not possible or appropriate. These learners have been enormously successful, achieving 100% pass at grade C and above and 61% achieving A or A* grades.

Coincidentally, our conviction that online learning could reach people on the margins of education in a way that our traditional college provision could not, began exactly ten years before, in February 1998. 'Education Otherwise' has offered us an opportunity to reflect back on a decade in online learning that began with GCSE English and culminates in a BA Hons in e Communications in collaboration with Sheffield Hallam University.

Four students who started a traditional classroom- taught GCSE English back in September 1977 were the catalyst for change. All four had made an excellent start at the beginning of the academic year but had dropped out of the course by Christmas. A was a working mother who lived on a council estate where youths terrorised the streets at night. As the autumn nights grew dark, she became afraid to attend her evening GCSE English class for fear of a violent attack. R worked on a North Sea oilrig and could only attend his college class on alternate weeks. He fell behind and gave up. L was a young carer for her adult parents with poor health as well as her siblings. Home commitments made it impossible for her to continue to attend. 20-year-old T had ME and could not attend college regularly enough to achieve success.

The Sheffield College had already gone some distance with online learning, including developing a course for training teachers in online learning (Lettol) and colleagues suggested we train in online learning and develop an online GCSE English course

The original idea was to reach out to learners in the Sheffield region who could not attend college regularly, enabling them to study from home if they could not attend class, but the course, which took two years to develop and launched in 2001, quickly reached a national audience and soon learners from across the UK were studying GCSE English from home with The Sheffield College.

Reaching learners who have been disadvantaged by the traditional educational system was and still is our goal. Every prospective student is provided with an online application process and initial guidance in order to make sure that the course is suitable for them. This paragraph, which is embedded into the application process of all of our courses, gives a flavour of our learning philosophy:

Help Us to Help You

Many very able people do not achieve GCSE English at school - perhaps they were bullied, perhaps they didn't fit in or were not interested. Some people may have had unrecognised learning difficulties; others have had home difficulties or moved from place to place. There

are lots of reasons why intelligent people are disadvantaged at school. Please explain why you think you did not achieve your potential in English at school. (Please don't worry about this question - it won't affect your place on our course, but it will help us help you.

Regular readers of Education Otherwise will be able to imagine some of the replies we receive in response. People of all ages, from all backgrounds, are surprisingly willing to pour their hearts out to their computer screens, telling us very poignant, often sad and distressing personal stories - of school bullying, of undiagnosed learning or health disabilities that were not recognised - of anxiety, depression, about people being told they were 'failures' at English or Literacy by the age of six or seven and so on.

It's depressing reading for the course leader recipients on the front line but at the end of the year, nothing is more rewarding than seeing the students' confidence transformed through the support, encouragement and high quality learning we believe can only be achieved through a pedagogical grounding in online learning combined with team work and curriculum expertise.

The learners led the direction for us back in 1998 and they still lead the way. Our progress in online learning has been mainly to go where our learners have led us. We developed our online A Level English Language and Literature A Level course back in 2003 because nearly all of our online GCSE English learners had achieved grades A*/A/ B but felt they had nothing to progress to. They clamoured for A Level English online so we developed our online English Language and Literature course.

By 2006 many of those original learners had also achieved excellent grades at A level English and once again were demanding opportunities to progress further. This has been a major reason for joining forces with the online learning team who trained us a decade before, in order to marry our combined experience in the development of an e Communications BA course. Sheffield Hallam University validates the BA course and provides an opportunity for all completers to convert their BA to a BA Hons with them via online learning, if they so wish.

We hope this course will provide the opportunity for many people to finally shake off the limitations imposed by a lack of success in traditional education. Students unable or not wishing to leave home to attend university can take a degree course that enables them not only to study entirely from home but provides educational and professional opportunities in the world's fastest growing industry - e Communications, whilst enhancing the skills associated with internet communications that many learners who are confident users of the internet already have. Learners who go out to work, and cannot take time out for university will discover many ways in which their course can blend into their workplace. Learners who cannot go out to work will be supported in finding professional employment from home via the internet. Many learners will be surprised to discover that not only is their tuition paid for by their LEAs but that they are also entitled to a grant, even while living at home.

Back in 2001 when we began to teach the GCSE English online course we believed that the internet would transform education as we knew it and provide equal opportunities for those who for one reason or another had been forced to opt out of education. It hasn't happened yet, perhaps because there hasn't been sufficient financial incentive for schools, colleges and universities to develop wholly online courses. Those of us with a mission to promote online learning still need to challenge widely the belief that online learning puts traditional learning at

risk or is a cheap and inferior option. We must all continue to push for quality education to be developed for the internet and taken into people's homes, workplaces and communities and we are wholly grateful to Education Otherwise for giving us a chance to bang the drum.

Julie Hooper

E Communications / English Online Manager The Sheffield College

More information about the courses referred to in this article:

Online e Communications Foundation degree:

<http://www.sheffcol.ac.uk/onlinecollege/onlinecourses/foundationdegrees>

Online GCSE English

<http://www.sheffcol.ac.uk/onlinecollege/onlinecourses/gcses/englishgcse>

Online AS and A2 English Language and Literature

<http://www.sheffcol.ac.uk/onlinecollege/onlinecourses/alevels/englishaslevel>

Lettol (Learning to Teach Online)

<http://www.sheffcol.ac.uk/onlinecollege/onlinecourses/onlineprofessional/lettol>

What the HEC's Going On?

(An Update on the Chard Home Education Centre)

Well, I've just come back from another meeting at Chard Home Education Centre. As usual there was plenty going on, which is one of the reasons we have increased our opening times to 10.30 to 4.00 - there was just not enough time to fit everything in! We are also going to be open Fridays as well as Wednesdays from January.

Since I last wrote about the group, we have moved premises, and are now in a fabulous

Youth Centre in Chard. We have use of a big main hall with seating areas, a room for activities, and a good-sized, enclosed, outside space. In the afternoons there is a carpeted lounge area available as well.

On any one day, there is a myriad of activities to choose from in which children participate if they choose to. There is an orchestra, a group of those who play instruments (to varying levels), encouraged and assisted by one of the musical parents; there is a guitar group for budding John Williams's; a French group; a story session; a watercolour group. All these utilise gifts and talents of parents. Sometimes there are workshops run by visitors - last week it was clowning, this week, outside games. The children love to share their passions and interests. They have given talks on history or rocks and fossils. There is always a science table and a craft activity on offer in the activity room.

One of the things many of the children love is drama, and they asked to put on a production of Peter Pan. We have managed to obtain funding from the Local Network Fund to do this, which

means that we have been able to buy materials for sets and costumes, proper lighting and sound equipment.

The ethos of the Centre, and therefore of this production, is that the children are involved as much as possible, and that the adults are facilitators for them. Hence, children have designed the sets and costumes and are involved in painting the scenery; some have written parts of the script; others with musical talents are providing sound effects and background music. The more technically minded youngsters are going to be controlling the lighting and designing posters and tickets.

We would love you to come and see the production, and the other things going on here. So, if you are in Dorset, Somerset or Devon - or further away - do think about coming to watch the show. It will be on **Saturday 8th December**, at Chard Youth Centre. There will be a fundraising fair from 2pm, with the play being performed at 4pm. Or come over one Wednesday, and join in the fun!

Becca Bradley-Carter

(Tel 01404 549479 for directions, or more details about the Centre)

A Qualified Success - one group's experience of the ASDAN qualifications

ASDAN is a fantastically adaptable kind of formal qualification, recognised by over 90% of UK Universities and acceptable in nearly all post-16 institutions. Whilst not everyone will want to go for certificates and qualifications, for those families who do want formal recognition of key skills the ASDAN system is proving very useful.

We first heard of it via one of our parents who was struggling to find ideas for her teenage son. She spoke to a friend of hers, who mentioned the ASDAN scheme. It quickly took off within our group, until at the last count we had 35 children registered on the award scheme, from the ages of 9 to 16.

In schools, ASDAN is usually taught to 14-16 year olds, as an alternative to a full range of GCSEs. As ever with home ed, we have found it to be much more flexible and children as young as 9 or 10 are accessing it happily.

The scheme is modular, with a number of "challenges" to choose from in each module. This provides almost infinite variety of topics which children can gain credit for, from having an overseas pen pal to opening a bank account or doing the gardening! In this respect it works really well with home schooling as it taps into the hobbies and interests which home schooled children have which are outside the normal range of subjects. It also allows for more independent, project-style working than GCSE courses. The portfolios submitted by children in our group reflect a variety of these interests, and credits have been gained for taking part in competitive ice-skating, making sugarcraft flowers to decorate cakes and for joining a historical re-enactment society, to name but a few!

There are a number of possible qualifications, with two main routes through the system. The "bronze" and "silver" awards are the most accessible to start with, with the option of then going on to take the full "gold" award or transferring credit over to the COPE (the rather clunkily named "Certificate of Personal Effectiveness") certificates. COPE 1 and 2 are equivalent to GCSE passes and COPE 3 carries the same points as a grade A at A/S level. In order to complete an award, children have to demonstrate particular skills, such as research, problem solving and working with others.

We now have 3 parents accredited as moderators, and we're registered as an ASDAN centre. This means that we can register entries from children anywhere and provide internal moderation before submitting their final portfolios. Once a term, we hold a support meeting for parents and we are always happy to hear from interested families. For us, having qualified people on hand at our regular group meetings is proving invaluable, as the paperwork can be a little daunting to parents at first. We have found that families new to home schooling are particularly drawn to ASDAN and it seems to provide an ideal bridge for both parents and children from the formal world of school into the freedom of home education.

Inspirational

1 December - World Aids Day	6 January - Epiphany
2 December - Start of Advent	13 January - Festival of St Hilary
3 December - International Day of Disabled Persons	14 January - Makar Sankrant
4 December - Chanukah/Hanukkah (at nightfall)	15 January - Seijin Shiki (Adults' Day)
5 December - International Volunteers Day	20-26 January - Farmhouse Breakfast Week
6 December - Festival of St Nicholas	21-25 January - Food Allergy and Intolerance Week
8 December - Bodhi Day	21 January - Festival of St Agnes
10 December - International Human Rights Day	23 January - Vasant Panchami
13 December - Festival of St Lucia	25 January - Burns Night
20 December - Eid-UI-Adha	25 January - St Dwynwen's Day
22 December - Winter Solstice	25 January - SOS Day
25 December - Christmas Day	27 January - Holocaust Memorial Day
26 December - Boxing Day/St Stephen	29 January - Ashura
31 December - Hogmanay	31 st January - Birthday of Guru Har Rai (Nanakshahi calendar)
4 January - World Braille Day	

THE HAXEY HOOD is carried out each Twelfth Night in the village of Haxey in North Lincolnshire. According to legend, on Twelfth Night Lady de Mowbray was riding on horseback across the fields near Haxey, when a sudden gust of wind blew her large black silk hood. Farm labourers in a nearby field gave chase to rescue it, vying with each other to return it to the Lady. They were given a strip of land for their trouble and the Lady directed that the event should be restaged every year thereafter.

More information available at:

<http://www.northlincs.gov.uk/NorthLincs/Leisure/tourism/placestovisit/placesofhistoricalinterest/HaxeyHood.htm>

Request for information

Gatherings are often an exciting time for many home-educating families, but there are some who would like more advance information. If you are organising a home-ed gathering, it would be really helpful if the Newsletter could print information about it in advance. This might help those families who like to plan in advance and might also encourage families who have not attended a gathering before, to attend.

Also, in advance of the gathering/festival season 2008, what might be of interest would be people's experiences of gatherings, what you enjoy about them (or don't). Practical accounts that might mean that more families consider attending.

In the Kitchen

As the Christmas season approaches, why not consider the Norwegian tradition of baking biscuits (traditionally seven different kinds)? One of the best known are pepperkakke.

3-1/2 fl. oz treacle
150 g (5-1/2 oz) sugar
150g (5-1/2 oz) butter
3-1/2 oz double cream
1/2 tsp ground cloves
1/2 tsp ground ginger
1/2 tsp black pepper
2 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp baking powder
400 g (15 oz) plain flour

Melt the butter, sugar and treacle over a low heat. Stir until the sugar has dissolved and let the mixture cool.

Stir in the double cream.

Mix the spices, baking powder with a little of the flour and add to the mixture.

Add most of the flour, but don't stir more than necessary.

Sprinkle a little flour over the dough and leave it in a cool place overnight.

Roll the dough thinly for biscuits and a little thicker for figures.

Line a baking tray and cook (middle shelf - 175°C - 350°F) for 6 - 8 minutes, depending on thickness.

Let the biscuits cool a little before transferring to a trivet.

Winning Christmas Card Designs

Here are the four winning designs which can be purchased in a set via the Order Form elsewhere in this newsletter.



**Under 5's Winner -
Agnieszka Kolaczynska**



**11-14's Winner -
Becky Fowler**



**6-10's Winner -
Annabel Townsend-Durrant**



Over 15's - Jackie Coyle



Ho Ho EO!

Although not the winner, this card has to come Highly Commended with the next highest number of votes. Congratulations, Niamh Ingle.

Crafty corner

Make a Photoblock

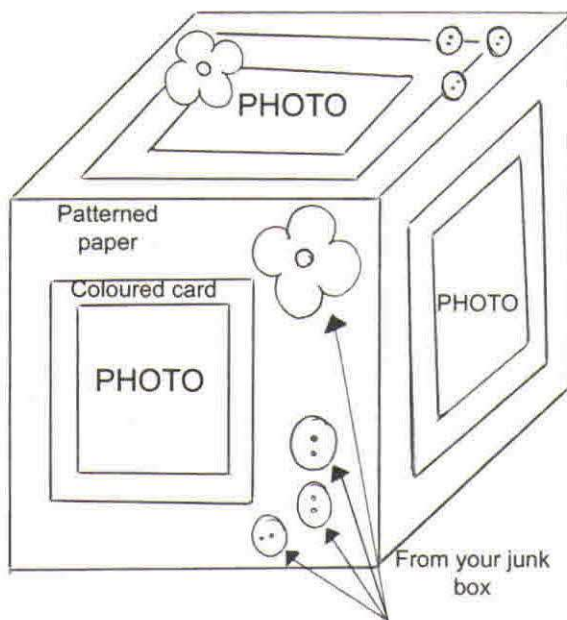
Hi, it's Maria with a crafty idea for Christmas presents that you can make with your children. I always love receiving anything handmade and this is a lovely way to share your favourite photos.

You will need an offcut of timber, some patterned paper or coloured card, double-sided tape or strong glue, some buttons and your favourite photos.

1. Take an offcut of timber and give it a light sand if it's a bit rough.
2. Measure the dimensions of your block and cut some patterned paper or coloured card to the same size. I like to make mine about 4" or 10cm square,
3. Cover the block with your choice of paper or card. Offcuts of wallpaper work well. I tend to use double-sided tape but a strong glue would work just as well.
4. Trim your photos to size and mat them onto some co-ordinating paper slightly larger than the photos.
5. Attach the matted photos to the block. Again, I prefer double sided tape.
6. Add some embellishments to jazz it up a bit. I used buttons and a felt shape but you can use anything you have in your *junk box*.

These make lovely ornaments around the house and make a change from the standard picture frames. They rather sneakily get your children measuring, adding and subtracting which isn't a bad thing in my book.

I hope that you like this idea and I will see you again next month.



Letters

Where do we go from here?

What a joy it was to join Education Otherwise, a happy, friendly, supportive organisation. From day one I felt at home with home educating and with all the people involved, the council members were welcoming, happy to take phone calls and alleviate any doubts I may have had in my ability to home educate. It was a wonderful experience, knowing that there were others who had felt the same doubts as me, knowing that it was natural, learning through other families' experiences, and seeing success staring me in the face, the success of happy children learning because they wanted to learn.

OK, there were many arguments between the autonomous and the structured sides, but most people realised that good home education incorporates a bit of both. That was 10 years ago, the arguments regarding structure and autonomy are still happening, with each side believing they are right, but now there are more serious arguments. People are now at loggerheads over petty issues, attacking others who have been working hard for years for the cause of home education, it no longer feels like the happy and safe place it once was.

So what is the future of EO, do we move onwards and upwards, employing outsiders to do the hard work, or do we remain a mainly volunteer organisation run by home educators for home educators. I know that the world moves on but EO has always been slightly alternative with a friendly ethos, is there really a need for EO to become a small business and if so where is the profit going?

I am longing for a happy EO to re-emerge but fear that the limited company of EO has taken over, hopefully we won't become too much like a government controlled organisation. I'm not sure what any of us can do about this I but urge everyone to attend the AGM in February 2008.

Name and address withheld

Note from Trustees:

EO Council is so glad to hear that you have found EO a supportive and welcoming organisation. EO has been a charity since 1985 and a company limited by guarantee since 1998. Under the proposed changes, EO will remain a charity and a company limited by guarantee run almost entirely by volunteers, as it has always been. At the moment no more paid positions are proposed, and any funds that are not required for running expenses will continue to be used for EO's activities." It has never been suggested that we should be a for profit company. In fact in law, as a charity and company limited by guarantee, we cannot be profit-making. The Council is suggesting only that policies and procedures are adopted for all positions in EO. Although there will be changes to the management structure of EO, the ethos will not change.

Dear Editor,

I was appalled by the question in the October pamphlet, "Education Otherwise in Transition-A brief summary of what Council has been doing and why" (Pgs 9 to 10).

The (rhetorical?) question "Regionalisation-What do members think of regionalisation of EO?" was followed by: "The idea of regionalisation (UK) has long been put forward for EO. The meeting at Okehampton in February 2007 agreed it again. The issue to be considered is how EO should go about this" (my emphasis).

The term "Regionalisation (UK)" disturbs me. Is the use of "(UK)" to camouflage the highly contentious "regionalisation" word and especially what really lies behind it? I am also not sure if we are being asked: (a) whether we want "regionalization" or (b) how we want it? I do not want it at all! What alarms me most is the pamphlet proposes EO adopts a "regional" structure, "using (the) 9 Govt regions plus Wales, Scotland, (and) Northern Ireland".

Did you know the "Govt" referred to, which is imposing these "regions", is the EU, whose "Plan of the Regions" was ratified by the Maastricht Treaty (1991). It has divided the UK into the "regions" of Scotland, Wales, and Ireland (now Northern Ireland), while England is replaced by 9 "regions", some of which encompass parts of mainland Europe! Each "Region" has its own un-elected, un-accountable Assembly. The EU "South East Region" (which subsumes my own County of Hampshire) also encompasses parts of Belgium and France! My President is French and my capital is Paris. I now live in the "Arc Manche Region" and have never been given a chance to vote against it! I hope EO gives me that courtesy.

In the infamous "North East" referendum (Nov. 2004) the people *thought* they had rejected "regionalization". Unknown to them, they were not asked whether they wanted a "Regional Assembly", but how they wanted it (elected or unelected). Is EO following the same anti-democratic EU strategy? Or is our arm being skilfully twisted by those who have twisted other arms into EU "harmonization"? Why else would EO, a nursery of democracy, be considering conforming to the anti-democratic EU Plan of the Regions?

The EU is anti-democratic by definition, since the essence of democracy is *collective free will*, i.e. the people must rule *themselves*. The EU cannot claim democracy simply because its satellite States send their functionaries to aid in its running, or because its "parliament" is elected. The EU can never be democratic because its law is devised in part by functionaries who are foreigners with respect to every one of its satellite States. For instance if a German politician has the power to decide law passed on France, then that is *anti-democratic*, since the French are not ruling themselves. **Some 70% of law imposed on EU satellite states now stems from the EU.** Voila! The EU is *anti-democratic*.

In a democracy, the *people* choose their government, not vice versa. We have never been given the chance to choose whether to be governed by the EU. The 1975 referendum concerned nothing more than our continued membership of a *free trade* arrangement (the Common Market or EEC). This is vastly different to what we now find: An "EU" with its own parliament, legislature, Supreme Court, central bank, currency, army, police, flag, anthem etc. Are these the hallmarks of a *free trading arrangement*? No! The EU has finally moulted into an embryonic State, and we democrats find to our horror we have no *electoral* means to remove it as our "government". **Dissidents of the Soviet Union have long noted the parallels with the European Union.** Do we (EO) really want to take our first toddling steps down the road to EU "harmonization" by "regionalization"?

The EU "Regional Assemblies" will ultimately be answerable *only* to the EU. This threatens EO because *hitherto our right to educate our children in the way we see fit has always been recognized by our own Parliament*. As we sink into EU totalitarianism under a self-perpetuating, irremovable, authoritarian elite, where schools are (illegally) promoting EU propaganda, will our precious right be recognized by the EU? I think not!

If we are seen to conform *willingly* to EU "regionalization", the next step could be the imposition of the State curriculum, mandatory inspections etc. *Otherwise Education* would contract and may survive such a blow, but a next step could be enforced school attendance for so many days of the year. *Sooner or later, Otherwise Education would contract to the point where it could be outlawed without resistance.*

The EU could collapse before then, but meanwhile we must stand firmly united against those Euro-State conformists who would nudge us step by step, until we stand obediently in their shadow. This requires collective resistance to EU harmonization. We must not endanger *Otherwise Education* by willingly conforming to EU "regions". **We must show we are prepared to resist, by retaining our traditional County divisions!** Above all, we must never send a weak signal to the ruthless, for they may seize the opportunity to drive the process to its ultimate conclusion: The abolition of *Otherwise Education*.

Regards,
Peter Stewart
Home Educator since 1991

Note from Trustees:

EO does not normally discuss politics, but we are printing this letter because the subject of 'regionalisation' within EO is topical for members and we wish to encourage discussion on that aspect. ' Outline plans for Local Contact regionalisation were presented to the February 2007 OCM. After consultation with all local contacts, broad agreement was reached for having local contact regions with a Regional Local Contact (RLC) who could be a liaison between the Local Contact Coordinator (LCC) and all of the local contacts which would ease the pressure of work for the LCC. The suggested boundaries of regions were proposed after consulting with Local Contacts in those areas and are grouped together to allow ease of travelling for people living in a region to enable regional initiatives and activities to be developed.

An alternative to GCSEs

When my son was 12 I was wondering how to provide qualifications at home and splashed out on a couple of NEC GCSE courses. I worked with him at first but he was uninspired and I felt it was a bit like school where he was being given work that was not interesting him at all and so was going in one ear and out the other. We gave up after a while and the folders gathered dust on the shelves.

At 13 he showed great interest in computers and so researched all the local courses and correspondence ones too which were very expensive. He found lots of free courses on the net and did these happily for fun. I did invest in one training CD but other than fun I don't think it

was much help and as fast as things change in computers it was soon out of date.

At 14 we applied to the local college for an evening class to get his 'foot in the door'. It was a very basic course (ECDL) and far below his capabilities but the college felt they needed to see him in class and then, if he reapplied for a full-time course later on, they would have seen him in action and would be less challenged by an early application. It did him the world of good as he was with adults in class which he enjoys, realised how much he knew compared to others. He also got used to the college while it was quiet and had a taste of being back in the classroom.

When he was 15 he applied to do a BTEC evening course with them which they immediately said he could not do as he was underage. I pointed out he had studied with them before and they changed tack all together and got a reference from the previous tutor which got him in. I then worried that in the future he would not have the basic English and Maths that might block him from entering university or getting the job he wanted so once again went researching the areas options and came up with a fast track adult qualification he could do when he was 16 that was five two hour preparation classes and then an on-line test. It was free at the adult education college near us although not advertised or in their brochure and it was lucky that, by lots of googling, I found it accidentally.

As soon as he was 16 he did English and Maths this way with no course work or essays required, just basics that you answer ABC or D. This was much more his thing as he disliked writing at this stage and reading literature was not his thing. He could also have gone to our local TBG centre that does adult training for free once a person is 16 in basic subjects like maths, English and computing. I am aware that different areas might not have these facilities and there maybe different names in different towns for the facilities.

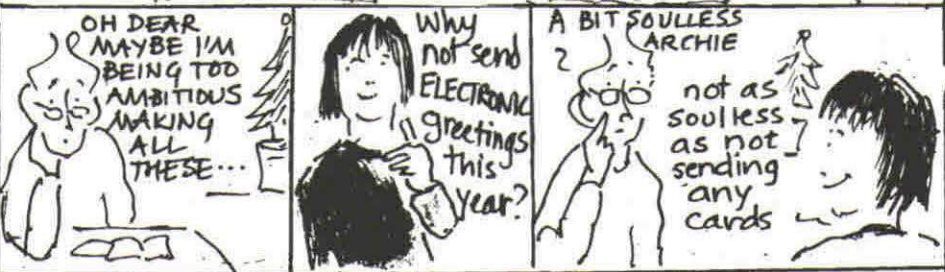
Now at 16 he is on a digital media course which will provide work experience next year and can lead onto a degree course the following year. He also travels a bit now and has done volunteer work for years that has provided lots of interesting experience which I think looks good on a CV.

He does not have any traditional GCSEs to his name but think his selection of qualifications might be more eye catching to a future employer and he didn't have to slog away for two years or more providing essays and course work in subjects he did not enjoy. He has loved all his free time autonomously learning at home and seems to have all he needs to join the 'real world'!

Sally Pain

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REVIEWS

Who Will Save Us by Rebecca Morch

This is a book with a very serious message. It is a useful introduction to climate change for younger children. It shows how they can be part of the solution. Flip and Flap, Waddle, Splash and Littlest are a group of young penguins. They soon discover that the world is changing because of us humans. They notice the ice is melting. The wonderful artwork transports the reader to the cold arctic and then back to civilisation to discover what the environmental problems and solutions are. Old Wise, an adult penguin is confident that the humans will save the planet. The text is clear and very suitable for early readers. The book is unusual in that some of the words use different fonts to reflect the meaning. This is very useful for visualisation of the word. There is a detailed section at the end, which explains the problems in detail and gives lots of useful contacts.

£5.99 ISBN 978-0-9556550-0-5
www.rebeccamorch.co.uk

The Night Before Christmas by Clement C Moore

An innovative paper cut edition of this lovely traditional poem that will delight children of all ages and adults. Moonlit silhouettes bring a surreal quality to the pages and these are linked with the warmth of the family home glimpsed through the cutouts. The final surprise comes at the end of the book as Santa, on his sleigh pulled by the reindeers, fly across the pages in a very clever pop-up.

£12.99 978-1-4063-0200-4 Walker

500 Things to Know about the Ancient World

This is a new title from the British Museum and full of interesting facts about ancient history. Whop wrote with runes? Why did Ancient Egyptian's think dung beetles were

sacred? What is a hippocamp? The sections include animals, death, family life, fashion, food/drink, having fun, inventions, health, the spiritual life and much more. There are plenty of colourful images to bring it all to life.

£7.99 ISBN 978-0-7141-3118-4
British Museum

HOX by

I loved this adventure story about a boy who has a very special link with a lynx. His mum was a scientist before she died and he was part of an experiment she was working on! He tries to find out the truth. Why can he communicate with the lynx? He ends up running away with the lynx and another wild one from the research centre. They travel through Scotland encountering many hazards as they make their way across the wildest land until they reach the house his grandma left him where his father explains everything. A brilliant story that I couldn't put down.

Jo (12)

£5.99 ISBN 978-086315-621-2
Floris Books

Making Felted Friends by Sue Pearl

This is a lovely book on felt making, with some extremely cute creatures to make. My favourite is the mouse, which reminds me of the dormouse from the Beatrix Potter stories. It has sections of making birds, dogs and even a felt dinosaur and spiders! At the beginning it explains all the materials and equipment you need, plus the range of techniques used. The felt is made by pushing a tool called a needle stamp through the wool (coloured with dyes to give a range of colours) to stick the fibres together. Each model comprises a skeleton made out of pipe cleaners. This frame is stuffed with wool and the felt you have made is then wrapped

around to form the bodies. A brilliant book if you love crafts.

Keith Jnr (13)

£9.99 ISBN 978-1-8444-8304-4

Search Press

A Bell for Ursli by Selina Chonz

Ursli is a boy who lives in Swiss Alps. They have a procession to drive away winter and welcome spring. Ursli goes in search of a cowbell, he needs to find the biggest one to lead the procession. His mother and father were worried but they were pleased when he comes back. I liked the illustrations and the descriptions of life in the Alps.

Isaac (7)

Note

Prices quoted are the publishers' recommended retail prices (rrp). *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.

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.

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

£9.99 ISBN 978-086315-614-4 Floris

Gardening with Young Children

by Beatrys Lockie

Written by an experienced gardener and kindergarten teacher, this lovely book covers every aspect of the gardening year. Full of stories, songs, poems, there's plenty to get children inspired. There are ideas for indoor gardens, jam making and craft activities using natural materials. A great book to encourage children to get outdoors and enjoy nature.

Hilary

£12.99 ISBN 1-9-03458-38-2 Hawthorne



EO Merchandise

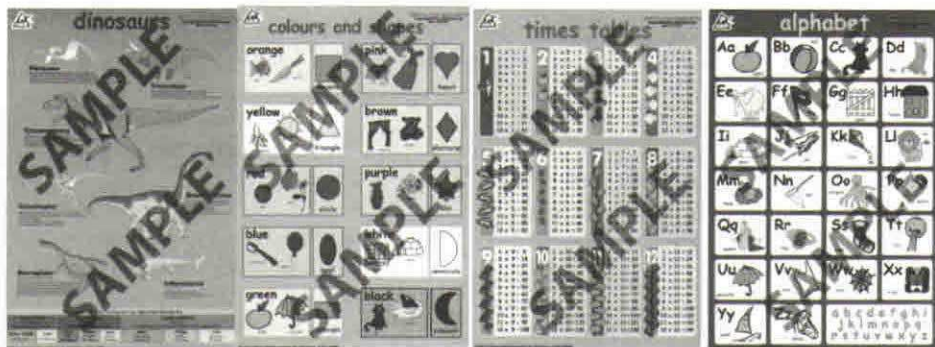
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Free Range Education – Ed. Terri Dowty	£9.90
Home Educating Our Autistic Spectrum Children: Paths are Made by Walking Edited by Terri Dowty and Kitt Cowlshaw	£13.50
Learning from Home Based Education	£4.50
School's Out - Educating Your Child at Home - Jean Bendell	£3.60
Educating Your Child at Home – Jane Lowe & Alan Thomas	£10.75
Evaluation and Research in Education, Special Edition Home Education - Guest Editor Paula Rothenmel	£6.00
Educating Children at Home - Alan Thomas	£9.85
Their Own Voices	£3.15
Paula Rothenmel's PhD Research (2002) Leaflet	£0.54
EO Leaflet Series	
All leaflets are 45p each and are available free to download from the EO website	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Choosing your approach to home-education</i> 2. <i>Deregistration and contact with local education authorities</i> 3. <i>Legal aspects of home-education</i> 4. <i>Home-education research</i> 5. <i>Further reading</i> 6. <i>Useful organisations</i> (part of membership pack) 7. <i>Courses and qualifications</i> 8. <i>GCSEs</i> 9. <i>Educational resources</i> 10. <i>Home-education and Steiner</i> 11. <i>Flexi-schooling</i> 12. <i>School anxieties</i> 13. <i>Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Home Education</i> 14. <i>Dyslexia</i> 	
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Henrietta.turnbull@btinternet.com

(rtf or wpd or doc file);

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

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

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We are Etudeo, a group of Home Educating Families in the South of England. The idea is that, as a group, we can employ highly qualified tutors and coaches for small groups of children, and break down the cost between us to a manageable amount. This enables us to afford really progressive learning for our children. All of the children who attend are out of the State school system for one reason or another, yet all of whom have a right to an excellent education.

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Each Group is ability appropriate and therefore has mixed ages. The maximum number of children ranges, according to the subject, from 4 to 8, except for team games, which takes up to 16 children. Classes cost £4 an hour except for kinder group and swimming which are listed separately

We are based in Storrington West Sussex.

For more information please phone Jo Davis 01903 742989 / 07722818450 or jdavis_@hotmail.co.uk or look us up on Facebook under Etudeo

All regular meetings listed below are included automatically in every issue, please let us know of any changes. 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. Not all groups are run by EO members. Please call the number given for further details of the meeting/event in your area. Changes to Jo: regionaldiary@education-otherwise.org or 01392 438876

ENGLAND

BEDFORDSHIRE

Luton Home Education Group, for a copy of latest newsletter contact Fran:

franticfran100@yahoo.co.uk

South Bedfordshire Home Education Group, covering **Houghton Regis, Dunstable & surrounding areas**. We meet regularly with a variety of activities. Bernie: southbeds.homeed@ntlworld.com

BERKSHIRE

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

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

Varied activities & HE events for all ages most days, details & list of all **Berks** activities from Gail: gborrows@gmail.com or 01628 483895

Hero's Education Centre 4 days/wk, workshops, lessons, activities, Dawn 01628 783107, thirdEye1@compuserve.com or website www.homeeducators.co.uk

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

BRISTOL

Thurs meeting at St Paul's Adventure Playground, Ian or Silke 0117 9412707. Email list for Bristol & surrounding areas at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BristolHomeEducation> n Also local group website for more information about home ed in Bristol: www.bristolhomeeducation.org.uk

Bristol Home Education Learning Place meeting Mons & Fri pm, Carla 0117 935 4389

BUCKS

Newsletter for Bucks/Northants & Milton Keynes home educators network extends a warm welcome to all. Extends a warm to all, multi activities and support, also have excellent relationship with LEA/LA. Local Contact Georgeanne 01908 662256 www.mkhen.co.uk

MKHE - Milton Keynes Home Educators, friendly group welcomes all, monthly newsletter + online

discussion room, Georgina 01908 371945

www.miltonkeyneshomeeducation.co.uk

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

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

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

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Cambridge: regular meetings & outings, Jane: 01223-241925, JLHellings@aol.com

Alconbury monthly activities run by Christian group. All welcome, Audrey 01480 219881

Peterborough weekly meetings, Sarah 01733 265043, sarah.lambert7@ntlworld.com

Peterborough Muddle Puddle Group The group is primarily for under 8s & meets 3 Fri afternoons a month. To contact the group see Yahoo list at:

[http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/PboroMudPud/Cambridge/Norfolk border](http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/PboroMudPud/Cambridge/Norfolk%20border), North Cambridgeshire: Fortnightly at **March**, Jane 01354 677869 or Sarah 01354 688245 or Pat:

Northcamps@chauntryhouse.fsnet.co.uk

CHESHIRE

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

Delamere Weekly alternative education programme with Delamere Forest Rangers, 01490 412167

Chester, meetings every other week for music crafts & educational activities, 01490 412167

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

Deeside Monthly ice Skating, 01490 412167

South Cheshire & North Staffs Contact Carrie 01782 786720, home.ed@ntlworld.com

CLEVELAND & DURHAM (see also DURHAM) email list: <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/tvhe/>

Billingham, 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,
Kath 01752 851091 or Tania
01822 835902.

Pensilva, Forest Day Last Mon of the month. Ele:
0845 345 8596.

Penzance PZ HOME ED Mon pm, Ruth Boulton 01736
350887, tboulton@phonecoop.coop

CUMBRIA

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

Kendal 3rd Fri each month Contact Jayne 01539
534541 or jaynewoodbank@yahoo.co.uk

Kendal alternate Mons, Jo 01539 567005.

Penrith alternate Tues, 1.30-3.30, Sarah 01768
896019

South Lakes, Weds, Lex 01229 885206

DERBYSHIRE

Chesterfield Home Ed Group meet Weds. Outings &
activities, Yvonne 01246 555645,

Suzy 01246 240917, Alastair 01246 520820

Chesterfield - Hasland Village Hall, Art Class, age
10 & over, 4th Thurs of month 12-2pm, Term time only,
Sian or Marek on 01246 473902

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

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

Derbyshire

Family group including tai chi & French plus playtime,
Ian: Ianalderson7758@tiscali.co.uk

Family swimming sessions, Wed pm, Ian:

Ianalderson7758@tiscali.co.uk

Derbyshire & beyond - AHEAD. Meet weekly on
Thurs for French, tai chi, special events & time for
playing/chatting & Weds for swimming. Website:
<http://www.geocities.com/aheadhomeeducation/>

DEVON

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

National Trust (Devon) for details ring Neil 01363
82314

East & Mid Devon Local Contact: Kate 01392 851370
Okehampton Mon, alternate weeks, Barbara 01837
55805

Exeter Wed, Free Range Learning for all ages
contact Annie for details 01392 434167

Exeter Thurs, fortnightly Pottery, Neil 01363 82314

Exeter Fri, Green Woodworking, Neil 01363 82314

Exeter weekly teenage group, Erinn 01392 434167

North Devon local Contact: Jo 01237 478211

Bideford area fortnightly social meetings on Tues,
Louise 01237 441786

North Devon Home Grown Kids, twice weekly
meetings & events.

Swimbridge Wed 2pm-5pm, 01271 830456

Barnstaple Fri, Funderzone, term time only.

www.homegrownkids.co.uk 01271 830456/830804

South Devon Local Contact Bridget

01803 862158, bridgetmeadows@onetel.com

South Devon Home Education Group:

Mons: swimming at Totnes, Ivana 01803 840830

Tues: outings, museums + camping trips, Sally 01803
551955

Wed: weekly meetings in hall near Totnes, Helen
01803 665604

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

South Devon, Dart Valley H.E. Network regular
meetings & one-off events.

Gordon/Hannah: lindnich@tesco.net or 01803 762788,
for more details see Devon newsletter.

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

**South West Dorset/South East Devon/South
Somerset**, every Mon from 10-2.30 term time, all
ages welcome. Mary or Danny 01297 560342

Dorset/Somerset/Devon borders

Regular meetings on Tues, Karen 01460 30461, on
Thurs, Ali 01297 443816

DORSET

Rosemary 01747 853593

Bournemouth Weekly Monday Meetings, Carol: 01202
677066, Carolstone@yahoo.co.uk local website:

www.he-ed.org.uk

Durham

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

ESSEX

Chelmsford monthly meetings, third Thurs, 2-4pm,
Sarah: tower@tesco.net

Colchester Bowling & Swimming monthly on last Wed,
term time, Sharron: sharron@brainydata.com

Southend OTHENA - Older children/Teens News &
Activities (11+) for details contact Michelle:
ab006h6097@blueyonder.co.uk or 01702 307834
<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/OTHENA/>

Tipfree monthly meetings, last Tues of month 2-5pm,
julie.ashton@ntlworld.com

Various venues across Essex, New Teens Group,
meeting monthly, Sally@brisley.freereserve.co.uk
Around Essex Educational visits twice monthly
Thurs. Details of Essex groups & events in Epicycle
available from Corinne: epicycle@wavy.org
07802630693

Southend, Shirley: 01702 308698,
indigoshirl@gmail.com

GLoucestershire

Monthly social meetings open to all. Regular
workshops & outings. Website:
<http://members.lycos.co.uk/GlosHomeEducators/index.html> also Email list for events & forum. Rob & Fiona
01684 290087 openhorizons@ntlworld.com Caroline
01242 890351 cambrose@ieee.org Beverley 01242
524091 or Mhairi 01452 384104.

Gloucester meetings & swimming. Dawn 01452
540019 dawnandmike@blueyonder.co.uk or Tracy
07941 612092

Stroud regular meetings, Nick 01453 840036
nick.weir@freeuk.com

South Gloucestershire
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SouthGlosHomeEd>

Hampshire

Havant, meeting most weekdays. Julie 01243
552472, activeo@btinternet.com www.activeo.org.uk
Fareham & Gosport, FAREGOS HE meets twice
weekly for craft, swimming & other activities. Tracey
02392 551870 or Julie 01730 261468, email:
jkbar1955@myrealbox.com

North Hampshire, NHEO. Open to all home
educators in North Hants & surrounding
areas. Regular meetings in **Oakley**, ice skating &
other activities.

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/NHEO/>, Carol
01264 357650, eo@azakit.com

Farnham/Aldershot area, under 10s; fortnightly,
Paula: 01252 316497 paula.oakley@talk21.com or
Emma: 01483 426277 emmajeavons@supanet.com

Romsey/New Forest area, fortnightly,
anniemax1@yahoo.co.uk

Southampton & area, SEEDS meetings at least
weekly, Lyn 02380 487879

lyn@dsl.pipex.com
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SEEDS1>

New Forest "I'm back to running the home ed social
group for the New Forest and we are moving to a new
location. Join us on Fridays between 11am-1pm for
crafts, tea, workshops and socialising! Contact Karen
on 01425 656856 for more information."

HERTFORDSHIRE (see also N.London)

To join **Herts Yahoo Group** please
email: karenbartlett@btinternet.com
Stevenage Swimming Pool. Swimming Lessons every
Thurs 10.30am, term time. email Kathleen:
kathleen.darby@ntlworld.com

ISLE OF MAN

Isle of Man Home Education Network. Meeting
monthly, 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 & visitors
always welcomed, Jude 01983 531680
Isle of Wight Learning Zone, Sue 01983 241095

KENT

Wealden Home Ed website: www.when.omnia.co.uk &
email group:

wealdenhomeeducatorsnetwork@yahoo.groups.com

Ash, Sandwich, Dover, Canterbury, Ramsgate &
surrounding areas, Leanne 01304 814498

Isle of Thanet, Vanda 01843 842629

Medway towns, Bridget 01634 234938

Tunbridge Wells group meet every Mon from 10-4,
Kim 01892 863941

SEFLAGS Edenbridge, Kent; Sussex & Surrey
Weekly sports & meetings, 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, regular meetings & visits, Liz 01634
323959

LANCASHIRE

Old Cobblers, Pam 01706 215585,
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

Blackburn Ice Rink monthly, Jackie 01695 424220

Botany Bay, Angela 01204 659634

Preston Badminton/Swimming, Angela 01204 659634

Lancaster, monthly meetings, Thurs 12-3pm, Gillian,
01524 62918, kenworthyfamily@talktalk.net

LEICESTERSHIRE

5 regular meeting venues across Leicestershire. Alex
Caldwell 0116 2720209 or
alex.caldwell@tiscali.co.uk

Leicester area-Syston Group for the under 8s.
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, regular meetings, Ruth 01522 804583

Variety of informal events & get togethers, Christine 01507 338070, christinehalse1@yahoo.co.uk

Lincoln Cathedral Home-educators - Central Lincoln, regular meetings, Ruth 01522 804583, Christine 01507 338070, christinehalse1@yahoo.co.uk

South Lincs Regular meetings & activities, Lorraine 0845 458 3004

South Lincolnshire, drama group, Brothertoft Village hall, 10 - 12 Tuess, 01205 821044
Krisistevens@aol.com

LONDON

Ladbroke Grove/Queens Park group, Mon & Wed,
Sarah 07816 872841 or Gigi 020 732 88990

South East London/Kent borders regular meetings,
Ann 01689 826504.

East London HE Group alternate Weds in
Leytonstone 1-4pm, Call Jo: 020 8520 5709
acoo@mirehall.freereserve.co.uk

East London Home Educators, Forest Gate, Meeting
Fri 1-3, Annalise 0208 5001053

Bromley/Croydon Chrysalis Group, Jenny 020 8654 3972,
jen9@blueyonder.co.uk

Dulwich, Weds, Gina 020 8299 1135

Forest Hill contact Denise 020 8699 6866

Grove Park group meets every other Fri, Claire 020 8402 5831

Kidbroke rollerblading, Fiona 020 8852 9756
bettleslake@clara.net

Lewisham Thurs 11-1 then to park afterwards, Joolz:
0208 2895026 teachyourown@hotmail.com

New Cross, term time swim on Tues at 12.30, Denise
020 8699 6866

Sydenham, Chrystia + Keith 020 8776 8597

NW London Otherwise Club Leslie 020 8969 0893

Chelsea Open House Project SW London, Mon
afternoons, call Sophie on 020 7581 5238 to book

Stanmore events on Tues & Weds. Programme
available from Vivienne: timsharkey@aol.com, call 020
8954 1885 or Vikki: Aceva@btinternet.com

N London, Hornsey Home Educators Club, Mon
mornings, Tina 020 8340 4212

N London Barnet Group, Mon, Mirelle 020 8449
7868, or lance.e@virgin.net or
Lynda 020 8368 9046

West London (& Middlesex) Home Ed group Tues,
Betsy 020 8993 0677 betsyhomeed@yahoo.com

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

West London, Wed 12-2.30 pm fortnightly during
term time, Alison 020 8569 9398 or Kathryn 020
8566 0543 or kathrynvlynn@hotmail.com or
Alison@rothwell11973.fsnet.co.uk

West London (Chiswick & Ealing) Tues, Naomi 020
8567 7589 or naomisandler@yahoo.co.uk. Also
contact for details of yahoo group membership -
discussion & information about events in the area.

Greater London, meetings,

fizzatmuslimhomeed@hotmail.co.uk

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MuslimSistersHomeE
ducationNetwork](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MuslimSistersHomeEducationNetwork)

MANCHESTER

Manchester, Sue 0161 881 4830

Madcow Manchester + District, events & 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, meetings every other Thurs from 10.30 to
1.30, Jenn 0208 573 9042,

Jenn@shadowdale.demon.co.uk

Pinner, Meadowsweet Home School, Tuess-Fris,
qualified teachers, 10am to 3pm,
Deborah 01895 623640

NORFOLK

West Norfolk

[http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/WestNorfolkHom
eEducators](http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/WestNorfolkHomeEducators): Lynda 01553 617551

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

Downham Market bimonthly social meetings,
www.freedom.org.uk or info@freedom.org.uk or Nicola
01366 385380.

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

Norwich Yoga Bugs, Sally 01603 279832

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

Norwich, Fri, fortnightly activities run by Christian
group, Sue: 01953 454278

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

www.northantshe.org.uk Imogen 01604 781316 or

07756 011189, info@northantshe.org.uk

Daventry, monthly meetings, Ley 01327 360909 or 07772 542966

Northamptonshire, Local home ed teens, Lynne 01604 454240

NORTHUMBERLAND/NORTH EAST

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

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Nottingham Weekly meetings, for full list, Local

Contact: Damian 0115 9603005 or

damiann.carnell@ntlworld.com or Louise 01773 780634

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

OXFORDSHIRE

Group meets alternate Thurs for varied timetable of activities. Children split into 3 age groups.

Workshops & regular speakers. Contact: Wendy 01865 514973

RUTLAND

Weekly meetings & activities, Jackie or Iain 01572

755 959, jackiecrave@bluebottle.com

SHROPSHIRE

South Shrops regular meetings every Tues, outings & workshops, Maria 01588 630314

Newport Nr Telford, meetings & outings, Fri from 12.30, Julieann 01952 401571,

weshalllook@aol.com

SOMERSET

Bath H.E.L.P. group meets regularly for outings & activities. Louise: 07957 618988

jensen-thomas@clara.co.uk

Bath Meetings 3 days per week for semi-structured child-centred learning activities with parents & a teacher, Andy & Rachel, 01373 464754

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

Wiveliscombe/Taunton area - regular get-togethers & outings, Maggie 01984 624651.

Wells & Glastonbury area, regular social meetings, Lesley 01749 689241, Tanya

01458 83487, Steph 01749 812959

Somerset North - Regular get-togethers & activities, Vicky 01275 848425

Somerset North W.A.V.E.S group meeting fortnightly for crafts & activities in **Weston-Super-Mare**. Friendly group. Viv 07957 580935

STAFFORDSHIRE / S. CHESHIRE / N. SALOP

Stafford HESEO, meeting 2nd + 4th Wed each month 11-3pm, bring lunch, karen 01543 422577, karen@karisto.co.uk

Staffs North & South Cheshire newsletter, Carrie 01782 786 720, home.ed@ntlworld.com

SUFFOLK

Woodbridge, Foxburrow Farm, activities organised by Suffolk Wildlife Trust, to book call Jenny on 01394 380113

Wetherden meetings 3rd Fri 10.30-2pm, Heather 01953 688128

Wild Meadows, Ringsfield, regular meetings, Mell, 0845 337 0282

SURREY

P.A.C.T. Surrey's home education group. Monthly newsletter containing information about activities, outings, events etc. 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, Fri, Rachel 01483 565703 (No Sunday calls please.)

Cobham area, Learning Group for parents + children 0-7, Rachael: 01932 706191

rachael.underwood@classicfm.net

Guildford area: Theatre bookings: Tisha 01483 898575.

Guildford: Under 10s: Nicky 01483 232080

Dorking/Reigate area, Helen Burnett 01737 243606

Farnham/Aldershot area, friendly group for under 10s, fortnightly meetings & occasional outings, Paula, 01252 316497, paula.oakley@talk21.com or Emma, 01483 426277, emmajeavons@supanet.com

North Surrey/Croydon meetings, contact Jenny 0208 654 3972, jen9@blueyonder.co.uk

SUSSEX

Wealden Home Ed website:

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

Sussex east: regional contact, Winnie Durdant-Hollamby: 01342 826087

Sussex Newsletter for Home Education

Monthly newsletter gives full details of news, groups, events & activities throughout the County, for details, Roslyn: 01323 848973, rossi@screamteamuk.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, meetings, Elaine 01273 581852 or
elaine.haslip@btinternet.com

Eastbourne 'SHINIES' home ed. group:

Loretta: 01323 509283,

madboys@tiscali.co.uk

Forest Row Area: Winnie: 01342 826087

Sussex west

Worthing/Shoreham Beach: Avis: 0127

542589 or 07703 647954

Central West Sussex, 20 mins Crawley,

Brighton, Chichester, 10 mins Worthing.

EtudEO-home-ed group, various clubs and

groups meeting daily in term time. Jo: 01903

742989, jodavis@hotmail.co.uk

Chichester, meeting most weekdays. Julie

01243 552472, activeo@btinternet.com,

www.activeo.org.uk

TYNE & WEAR & NORTHUMBERLAND

Regular, frequent & varied activities. Age range from

1 to 17yrs. New members welcome. Website:

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

Music - Rosemary: 0191 2853707 or

paul@thenews.icom43net

National Trust & English Heritage Visits +

Woodland visits, Deborah: 01434 674713

WARWICKSHIRE

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

Bedworth, meetings 1st Tues 10.30-1.30pm, Alison:

07769 740925

Coventry, meetings 4th Tues 1-4pm, Sarah: 024 7627

9633

Wolston, meetings 2nd Thurs 10.30-3pm, Sue 024

7654 3801

Rugby, Daventry, meeting monthly, Ley 01327

360909 or 07772542966

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 & covers HE related articles & events throughout the West Midlands & surrounding areas. All entries for Helm should now be

sent to: 01562 720046 or

helmeditor2112@blueyonder.co.uk

Birmingham HE Group, regular meetings, Linda 0121 742 7368,

linda@tustin2532.freeseerve.co.uk

Coseley, West Midlands, Meeting monthly, 10am, Fri,

Debbie 01902 570787 or Glenda 0121 556 0189 or

highwaygirl@supalife.com

Coventry, Daventry, meeting monthly, Ley 01327

360909 or 07772542966

WILTSHIRE

Beccy 01985 840174

Biddestone, Chippenham, Out & About Learning

Centre: Tues, term time, 10am-2.30pm, age range

currently 0 to 11yrs, Rachel: 01249 890525 or

Amanda: 01380 739845 or

info@outandaboutlearning.org.uk

Warminster meeting each Mon from 2.30, Beccy,

01985 840174

Salisbury meeting Tues afternoons, Vicky, 01722

324863

North Wiltshire

To link up with almost 100 HEers in North Wilts,

NWilts_HE-subscribe@yahoo.com.

Swindon (term time) Mon swimming at Oasis, from

1:30: 2nd & 4th Weds ice-skating at Link Centre,

1:30-3:30

Swindon Weds, Shena: 01793 686433 or Mandy:

01793 644472

FLL Robotics team, phone Shena: 01793 686433

Calne book club, contact Janet: 01249 818672

Devizes Thurs, 11.30 - 2.30, contact Janet: 01249

818672 or email Janet for this + book club:

janet@eldekivist.com

WORCESTERSHIRE

LC Sue, meetings, events, trips out etc happening all

through the month throughout the county, 01905

458423.

Worcester Home Education Group meeting Tues,

Jayne 01905 424451

North Worcs/Kidderminster meetings, Gail 01562

822034, gail@tqmi.co.uk

YORKSHIRE EAST

Regular meetings & visits, Alison 01405 769902

Bridlington, for meetings, Jacqui 01262 679769 or

Alison 01377 240324

YORKSHIRE NORTH

Regular meetings & outings. Karen 01904 400317,

kkarensandy@aol.com

near York, new group meets Weds for various

educational activities, crafts & social contact:

contact@yorkeo.co.uk

North/West Yorkshire Group, Steeton Church Hall.
Fortnightly meetings on Fri, Sarah Thomas 01535
655405

Skipton Home Ed Group Meeting monthly on Fri,
Judith 01756 791356

near Malton, meeting weekly on Mon, Tess, 01947
825772 or tess@chrisgeall.com

Scarborough, weekly meetings, outings and
activities, 11.30-3pm on Fridays. All welcome. Lisa,
01723 378252, Lisa_riley@tiscali.co.uk or Tess,
01947 825772, tess@chrisgeall.com

Harrogate, Hookstone Chase community centre.
Tues 1-3pm, Liz 01423 320341,
Blessingway1@aol.com, or Kate 01423 865777,
ksbtscott@aol.com

YORKSHIRE SOUTH

Regular meetings for arts/crafts, visits, swims,
hanging out & more, Jo 01709 820866 or Denise
01226 733478 or Gary 0114 2585702.

Sheffield, Highfield, Tues, Annette 0114 2583502
or Fiona 0114 275 1142

YORKSHIRE WEST

Bradford Weekly meetings & activities. For a
monthly schedule of activities, Sarah,
01484 361206, sl.marshall@ntlworld.com

Halifax: Mon in term time, Gill, 01422 311876, Gill
Kilner@aol.com

Huddersfield: Swimming, Wed, Tracy 01484 317176.

Huddersfield monthly meeting, Wed, Helen 01484
841041 or Jane 01484 645034.

Huddersfield, "Lunch & Chat", monthly, Thurs, Tracy
01484 317176.

Huddersfield Art Gallery, Art Workshop, Thurs,
contact Jane 01484 645034.

SCOTLAND

ARGYLL, Home-Ed Group, regular meetings, Joanne
0845 345 2291 or Debra 01631 730469,
debra@celtic-soul-music.com

FIFE, Fri fortnightly meetings, Nicola 01334
478530, nicola.stubbs@btinternet.com

HIGHLANDS/MORAY, Toni, 01463 831574,
tee.kay@hotmail.co.uk or Rebecca 01343 542245

IRVINE, Rhona 01294 273644, Shirley 01563
540063, Vivien 01563 537428

LOTHIAN, CENTRAL & S.E. SCOTLAND
fortnightly, meetings + outings, Jane 01835 862118

WALES

SOUTH WALES

South Wales Home Educators Network, weekly
meetings in **Llantrisant & Swansea**. For information &
support: SWHEN@aol.com or

bev1.french@btinternet.com or 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 Fri, Lisa 01443 772278

PEMBROKESHIRE & Cardigan area, for local
information contact Yvette 0845 458 9251

CEREDIGION & CARMARTHENSHIRE & PEMBROKESHIRE

Childwise Education Newsletter A local bimonthly
newsletter for home educators with 'what's on'
listings and contact list. Regular trips to museums,
NT properties, country parks etc. Up to date local
group info for **Aberystwyth, Lampeter,**
Camarthenshire, Rhonda, Swansea. email:
childwise.newsletter@talktalk.net or phone Laura
01545 580528

GWYNEDD

Bangor & area home ed network, Heather 01248
352336

Tregarth meeting every Wed, free weekly
newsletter of events, Julie 01286 678181
jdchapmanmaurice@aol.com or Nick 01407 811049.

POWYS

Local Contacts Dave & Dee 01938 590098:
d.yeoman@tesco.net, e-mail list for home ed info:
david@visionetics.com, home ed camps, activities &
outings

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

Newtown area: Fortnightly in Newtown, Sue 01686
688748: smw5@tutor.open.ac.uk

N.E. WALES / BORDERS

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

Froncysyllte fortnightly meetings, Sam 01978 861011

Please remember to check your listing and let Jo
know of any amendments to the listing.

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 ebirkenshaw@education-otherwise.org tel 0113 2172795

Small Groups:

Strategic Planning Group:

Phil Hicks, **Laurie McAulay**, Sarah Cook, Gail Borrows, Lynda Hitchman, **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, Edwina Theunissen

Publications: **June Wilson-Billing**, Gail Borrows, Lynda Hitchman, **Joss Nowell**, **Jo Berry**, Ross Mountney

Core Govt. Policy: Fiona Nicholson, Annette Taberner, Carole Rutherford, Ann Newstead, Karen Bowlzer, **Jo Berry**, Ann Samuel Till, Kira Patefield-Smith, Natasha Arthur, **Janet Wilkinson**

Disability Group: Karen Bowlzer, Fiona Nicholson, Jennifer Skillen, **Emma Birkenshaw**, Carole Rutherford, Sheryl Booth, Christine Waterman, **Celia McDonagh**

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 pbutterworth@education-otherwise.org
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 arix@education-otherwise.org

Jo Berry c/o 38 Garwood Close, Westbrook, Warrington. WA5 8TF 07986 461719 jberry@education-otherwise.org

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 mediaco-ordinator@education-otherwise.org

Scotland: (VACANT) *Volunteers please!!*

Northern Ireland: Marion Kenny 02825 654343 ni@education-otherwise.org

North West: Stewart Eyres 07792 777750 northwest@education-otherwise.org

North East: Eva O'Rourke, Wildsen 01535 274520 northeast@education-otherwise.org

Midlands: (VACANT) *Volunteers please!!*

Wales (S): Celia McDonagh, Cardiff, 07763 729055 wales1@education-otherwise.org

Wales (N): Edwina Theunissen, Wrexham 01978 661 882 wales2@education-otherwise.org

East Anglia: Vacant

South West: (Acting) Kay & Simon Smith, 01726 842057 southwest@education-otherwise.org

South East: Ann Newstead, Kent 01689 826504 southeast@education-otherwise.org

London: Winnie Durdant-Hollamby, 01342 826087 london2@education-otherwise.org

Isle of Wight: Shara Ouston, Ryde 01983 562313 iow@education-otherwise.org

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 are available in the Members Area of the EO Website. See (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
lbarson@education-otherwise.org
Jo Berry (Cheshire) 07986 461719 jberry@education-otherwise.org
Emma Birkenshaw (W Yorks) 0113 217 2795
ebirkenshaw@education-otherwise.org
Gail Borrows (Bucks) Tel: 01628 483895
gborrows@education-otherwise.org (Membership Secretary)
Pauline Butterworth (Cleveland) 01642 672370
pbutterworth@education-otherwise.org
Carla MacGregor (Bristol) 0117 935 4389
cmacgregor@education-otherwise.org
Joss Nowell (Staffs) Tel: tba
jnowell@education-otherwise.org (Publications Sec.)
Anne Rix (Devon) 01237 451535
arix@education-otherwise.org (Enquiries Sec.)
Janet Wilkinson (Peterborough) 01733 554436
jwilkinson@education-otherwise.org (Company Sec.)
Rowenna Williams (Gwynedd) 01678 521348
rwilliams@education-otherwise.org
June Wilson-Billing (Dorset) 01258 471949
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Judi Wilson (London) Tel: 020 8969 7963 jwilson@education-otherwise.org
Phil Hicks (London) Tel: 020 7229 4385 phicks@education-otherwise.org

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 08445 867541
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 7EW 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. hecards@education-otherwise.org

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
publications@education-otherwise.org (please ring to check availability of items before ordering)

Website & Email Lists *Vacant*

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)

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

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

Campaign Team Contact: Fiona Nicholson
campaignteam@education-otherwise.org 0114 275 1142 205 Leverton Gdns, Sheffield, S11 8FD

College Contact: (Acting) Roger Scaife, Glen House, Cragg Vale, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire
HX7 5SQ 01422 884682

collegecontact@education-otherwise.org

Company Secretary: Janet Wilkinson (See CM List)

Coordinator for Enquiries Secretary: Iris Harrison (Warcs.) 01584 781341 esco-ordinator@education-otherwise.org

Enquiries Secretary: Anne Rix (See CM List)

EO LA/EA Bridgebuilder: Kathleen Thompson 01942 795975
la-ea-bridgebuilder@education-otherwise.org

EO Stalls: *Vacant*

GCSE Contacts: Geraldine Adams 0207 263 4922

Sarah Cook: 01768 896019

gcsecontact@education-otherwise.org

General Secretary: *Vacant*

LearnPremium: Lynda Hitchman (01553 617551)

learnpremium@education-otherwise.org

Local Contacts Co-ordinator: Carla MacGregor (See CM list)

lcco-ordinator@education-otherwise.org

Membership Secretary: Gail Borrows (See CM List)

Newsletter Coordinator: Martine Frampton (01608 812411 and Nicola Haxell (01302 863195) nlco-ordinator@education-otherwise.org

Publications Secretary: Joss Nowell (See CM List)

Research Contact: Sue White, 2 Pretoria Villas, Eye Rd.,

Brome, Eye, Suffolk IP23 8AL 01379 870036

research@education-otherwise.org

School Induced Anxiety Support: Kathleen Thompson 01942 795975

anxiety-support@education-otherwise.org

Single Parent Family Contact: (Acting) Cal Bailes 0191 241 4870 (for address: see contact list for Tyne & Wear)

Small Jobs Coordinator: Emma Birkenshaw

smalljobs@education-otherwise.org 0113 2172795

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

Treasurer: Pauline Butterworth (See CM List)

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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