

education otherwise™



No. 190 - October 2009

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS: 1st November 2009

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Editor for the next Children's Pages: Kitty McEwan Deadline: 20th October 2009

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Welcome...

To the October 2009 Newsletter.

I hope you've all enjoyed the summer weeks - they seem to fly by so fast and then suddenly autumn is upon us.

As schools have re-opened around the country there has been a flurry of Not Back To School picnics to celebrate, and raise awareness of home education.

Much has been happening within the home ed community over the past few months and Education Otherwise continues to challenge the attempted encroachment upon the rights of home-educators. News about what Education Otherwise has been doing, plus ideas for how you can help, are included in this newsletter.

The adjourned AGM is coming up and there is information inside about how you can become a Signed Up Member (SUM) which will enable you to vote at Education Otherwise meetings, plus information on the process to become a Trustee if you would like to be further involved. Further information about proposed changes to Education Otherwise's Memorandum and Articles is also included.

Now is a good time to be further involved with Education Otherwise and help shape the future of the organisation.

Nikki Haxell
Newsletter Co-ordinator

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Any Safeguarding Children concerns should be reported to the NSPCC: 0808 800 5000

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

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Diary of a Home Educating Nobody

By Rass Mounthey

I always think that *home* education is the wrong term. It gives the wrong impression. It suggests that our children's education is so home orientated that they are introverted little beings who never get out of the house, and are shut away from all the wonders of the wide world. And it tends to perpetuate the myth that they will end up unable to successfully integrate into it.

When, in fact, the opposite is more usually the case. The home educated children are the ones out and about learning in the wider world, physically, intellectually, socially and emotionally and have a far better understanding of living a real life with real integration, and it can be the kids who are in imprisoned from it in school day after day that miss the richness and diversity of that wider education.

Take today for example. I admit: we were actually looking for an excuse to 'bunk off'. To get away not only from the confines of the house but the confines of the National Curriculum too! So we packed up picnic, camera,

binoculars, note/sketch/reading books and went out for some diversion to a near-by country park.

And the minute we stopped trying to 'do' education the learning began.

Firstly we checked the map. We did a bit of direction finding, looked more objectively at the wider view of England and the diversity of its landscape, populated areas etc and what our locality was like. Or in other words did some geography.

Secondly my daughter took her book to read on the journey. This is set in the sixties in the North East which set off topical discussions about the period involving dialect and language, currency, social and political climate and its influences. Or you could say we did some English, history, and sociology.

When we got to the site we walked round, neatly dodging the school party who were surprisingly quiet. But they did have several adults instructing them to be so, so the children didn't

get much opportunity to discuss what they saw nor have their minds stimulated by constant questioning which is what we were doing. We looked at different species of trees, plants, birds and insects; we took pictures and talked about what makes a good photo, and art and composition. Then, for a while, we sat and watched the stream which initiated a discussion about where this water comes from and the water cycle. And as we idly ate our picnic I brought up the subject of nutrition and food groups as I'd tried to slip a little bit of greenery into her sandwich but she'd spotted it!

So that hour was basically science and art based. Language is ever present.

We just enjoyed the sunshine and the peace for the afternoon, especially after the school party had gone, before making our way home and dropping in on one of our favourite sites; the remains of an old castle all green and overgrown. We love to roam over it, putting its history in context with Shakespeare's time which we'd been talking about last week. More history and literature.

And finally, when we got home, we looked up some of the species we couldn't identify, thus covering the important skill of classification and referencing and learning a little more about natural history.

It is trips like this that truly take the 'home' out of home education. Trips like this and many others that you will have taken, which may at first glance seem quite insignificant, but which really make use of one of the best advantages of home education: the opportunity for first hand experiences when the child is most stimulated and when the opportunity for incidental learning arises.

Sadly, incidental learning like this is so often undervalued. Usually because it's not planned, it wasn't for a specific target on a curriculum, it

wasn't in a workbook, it isn't measurable and you have nothing tangible to show for it. Except perhaps intelligent and motivated children!

For it is these out-and-about educational experiences that help build intelligence, that add up over the years to a deep and knowledgeable education which has foundations that really mean something to the individual. And that relevance promotes depth of knowledge and understanding, linked as it always is to skills that take place while it's happening even without us being aware of them, skills like observation, questioning, finding out, identification, analysis and thinking skills, all valuable in helping children to truly understand and grasp concepts. And it's that depth of understanding that can soon be applied to academic practice later on, formalised on paper, and lead towards good qualifications for example.

As I've seen the home educators around me over the years whose children have grown and developed so many valuable skills I see that it is not the *home* part that is the only thing that has made them the intelligent children they are, it is also this *out-and-about* education that has contributed. Home educated children have far more engagement with the real world and with real people (as opposed to school people) than school children actually do. And after all it's the real world outside the school and home that we are all educating for!

So I firmly believe that the myth that home educated children are shut away from the real world and therefore will not be able to integrate into it successfully is only that: a *myth*!

Ross Mountney
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Author of 'Learning Without School: Home Education', a guide and support for parents who are home educating.



Not Back to School Picnic

By Judi Wilson

Despite the terrible weather, about eighty home educators met up for a picnic in Paddington Street Gardens, Marylebone, on Tuesday 15th September. People braved the heavy rain and travelled from all across London and from as far away as Winchester, to mark International Freedom in Education Day and to protest against the Badman Review of Elective Home Education and its Recommendations.

The younger people had great fun with balloons, bunting, banners, bubble-blowing and face painting, as well as making use of the playground, but unfortunately, we had to postpone the street theatre to another date, for fear of ruining the props. Members of the Home Education Youth Council leafleted anyone passing through the park and, in the fifteen minutes when the rain actually stopped and umbrellas could be furled, there was a spontaneous protest

as the children marched around the park with banners, demanding freedom in education.

There was a small influx of school children after 3.30pm, which led to the classic overheard remark from parent to small uniformed offspring: "I know it's really boring and you hate it, but it's part of the Curriculum so you don't have any choice" (I promise that I am not making this up). The home educated children demonstrated their creativity with a wide variety of self-decorated T-shirts including:

Home educated children are seen and not herded

I can't go to school I'm autodidactic

I'm not hidden

The world is my classroom and life is my curriculum

I like what I learn and I learn what I like

The high turn-out in such bad weather demonstrated how strongly people feel about the Government's plans for increased monitoring, as proposed in the Badman report. Recent concerns over the new Vetting and Barring scheme have highlighted the Government's tendency to over-regulate and we must try to take advantage of the overwhelmingly critical public reaction, in the hope that the unjustified and disproportionate regulations that they are seeking to impose on us will also be reconsidered.

Our efforts to attract media interest were not all in vain as we did get coverage in the Times, on LBC radio and in the Evening Standard. BBC Radio London failed to show up even though we were conveniently on their doorstep and despite reminder phone calls - maybe they assumed we'd be rained off.

Another forty picnics were held across the UK the following day and enjoyed much more clement weather. The range of nationwide picnics drew quite a bit of press attention but most of it was at a local level. The next big action is the **mass lobby of Parliament on Tuesday 13th October** and it would be really good if this were on a large enough scale to make the national news. Hundreds of families have already signed up to attend on 13th October. This is the day after Parliament resumes and will coincide with the Select Committee Inquiry into the Conduct of the Badman Review of Elective Home Education.

The lobby of Parliament is an independently organised event for all home educating families and supporters. The person who is coordinating the event needs to know numbers because the police have to be informed in advance. If you're going or would like further information, please contact:

masslobby@live.co.uk

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A new, highly engaging website which contains hundreds of animated explanations and interactive quizzes for children aged 7+.

Each captivating short movie features the adventures of Tim and his robot best friend, Moby, as they explain curriculum concepts spanning life, the universe and everything.

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The BrainPOP UK team is dedicated to making BrainPOP UK as fantastic a resource for learning as possible, by drafting an advisory team of the best authors, advisors and teachers to help us get the content right.

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Discount Subscriptions for Members of EO

Join hundreds of Education Otherwise members who benefit from a substantial discount on educational resources from the Guardian newspaper. The price we've negotiated for EO members represents a huge saving. The new year commences on 20 October 2010, and the price will be detailed on our website and forums as soon as it's agreed with Learnpremium. To find out more or have details of the new price emailed to you then contact EO on: learnpremium@educationotherwise.org

More About Learnpremium

Learnpremium is the leading online curriculum resource aimed at primary and secondary-age. It is brought to EO members via learn.co.uk from the Guardian. With more than 75,000 pages of regularly updated dynamic content written by teachers, Learnpremium offers complete coverage of the core curriculum from reception through to AS level.

A subscription allows unlimited access in your home to hundreds of curriculum-linked whiteboard activities, interactive lessons, worksheets, lesson packs, animated articles from Education Guardian, SATs papers, and tests across English, maths, science, geography, history, French, German, Spanish, business studies, design and technology, ICT, citizenship, art and design, RE, drama, PE and music. All the resources come with comprehensive teachers' notes and teaching suggestions catering for a variety of learning styles. Whether you're looking for a clear visual representation of a scientific principle, a new source for your historical investigation or detailed revision lessons on all the key subjects, Learnpremium has it covered.

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How To Sign Up

Education Otherwise members can sign up for Learnpremium by using the additional items order form on the website. <http://www.education-otherwise.org/order.htm>

IMPORTANT - We are unable to offer a refund after sending out your login info.

A no obligation free trial is available so that you can look around the Learnpremium website; the trial enables you to access everything on the website apart from the Test Centre which is restricted to subscribers. It's a good way to check out the website and see if it will suit you and your family. We receive a lot of positive feedback from EO members who use Learnpremium.

For more information or help with your queries contact the Education Otherwise Administrator, Tel: 08445 867541 or email: learnpremium@educationotherwise.org

Attending the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace

By Julie Bunker

Last year I attended a number of 'Parents Panels' for the DCSF, answering questions on a number of subjects and policies concerning families.

The panel meetings were interesting and often I was putting an alternative perspective to most as a home educating parent whose three children have SEN.

We are also autonomous home educators who live a consensual lifestyle - and so have a lot more trust in our children's choices than most parents present.

All of this led me at the time to question the agenda of the direction some of the questions were taking and managed to get some people to look at some of the subjects from a different perspective.

It was with some considerable surprise therefore when I received notification that the DCSF had recommended me to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace because of that contribution!

To be honest I thought it was a joke at first!

There was a choice of three dates. I knew I couldn't attend on July 14th as we would be at HesFes then so I chose the 21st July, the third of the dates given.

On reflection I am very happy I didn't choose the 7th July as that day they experienced monsoon type rain at Buckingham Palace apparently!!

I was allowed to take one guest and we discussed it as a family. My husband has some difficulties in walking long distances, our son wasn't interested at all, our elder daughter said she would be happy to come as long as she could

wear an anarchist T Shirt! Our youngest daughter, who would have adored to have accompanied me, unfortunately wasn't over the age of eighteen and as you had to have photographic ID, that ruled her out too.

So in the end we decided the person who would enjoy the experience most was my mom.

We didn't tell my mom until her 75th Birthday Celebrations when we presented her with the news that we were paying for an overnight trip to London going to a Buckingham Palace Garden party on the second day.

Thank you to the home educators who tipped me off to special deals: overnight stays at Travelodge (£29.50 for us both at Marylebone), the train fares from Birmingham to London (£15 return each) and the lastminute.com website where we managed to get tickets to see 'Stomp' and have a Spanish Tapas meal (£20 each for a theatre/dinner meal deal).

My sister paid for our Theatre/Dinner deal as her birthday present to my mom and we had a wonderful time.

On the morning of the Garden Party, we left our luggage at Paddington Station and headed over to St James Park. We lunched at a local pub and then wandered in the park in the sunshine playing spot the garden party guest from their hats and outfits!

The information sent to us suggested that some people start queuing a couple of hours before the gates opened at 3pm.

We had been told that we could go in through the back gates and avoid the queues if we wanted to but we decided that we would only do

this once so we were going to go in through the main gate and make the most of everything!

However I didn't want to make mom stand and queue for too long so we didn't arrive until just before 2pm.

The queue at that point wasn't too long and we were impressed with the hundreds and hundreds of people who walked past us and joined the queue after we did.

We walked in past the policemen checking all the IDs and tickets and in through the main gates and entrance that you see the Queen and Royal family sweep into on the TV.



Behind the main gates there is a quadrangle and then we went up the red carpet and into the main reception rooms.

All very beautiful, grand and ornate.

<http://www.royal.gov.uk/RoyalEventsandCeremonies/GardenParties/WhathappensataGardenParty.aspx>

We walked out into the gardens and there were three grand striped marquees. Two on the right - the smaller one for the royal party, the medium sized one for the Diplomatic members and then there was a much bigger one on the left hand side for us mere mortals.

We went and sat outside this tent and waited for the buffet to open, chatting to the people around us and people watching - there were some wonderful hats and outfits and some very 'original' combinations too!

When the buffet opened I left Mom to save the seats and hold onto the umbrellas which were in use on and off all afternoon)

The spread was magnificent! Well it was for non-vegans!

There were beautifully made up sandwiches (very small and with all crusts removed as I expected), bread rolls and quiches etc. I got mom a selection that I knew she would enjoy and a piece of sponge, a strawberry tart and a tiny individual chocolate mousse with a gold crown decoration.

Then I asked for my vegan option that I had asked for.

The waitress looked flustered and asked a colleague who said the vegan and gluten free options would be out the back, and she set off to fetch it for me. I waited an age and finally she reappeared with a sandwich of dry bread and cucumber cut into four and with the crusts still on!

That was it, my vegan option. I asked what on earth they were going to give the gluten free

people? Cucumber only? The waitress did look rather sheepish.

There was no vegan sweet option.

So I went to Buck House and ate cucumber and dry bread!

After the meal the crowds began to gather. The Yeoman of the Guard line the path that the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh (separately) will walk through the gardens meeting people as they go along. Gentlemen at Arms and Gentlemen Ushers are on duty to introduce selected people to the queen.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied by other members of the Royal Family, enter the garden at 4.00 pm, when the National Anthem is played by one of the two military bands playing selections of music during the afternoon.

We were stood along the pathway that the Queen trod and she stopped very close indeed to us to talk to one couple. By this time it was raining quite heavily and all the brollies were up and water trickled down my neck as we waited.

When the Queen had passed us by, we quickly moved across and joined the throng where Prince Philip was talking. He too passed very close by. Then we moved again to join the crowds briefly waiting for the Royal family to cross to their tea tent.

While they were having their refreshments mom and I set off to explore the gardens.

I had learnt by then that cream canvas platform wedge shoes - no matter how lovely they were, get very tight in the wet.

Many people may know me by my online name of 'JulieNoShoes'. I lived up to it again when I took my shoes off and walked barefoot through the gardens. I don't think my mom was very impressed!

There are over thirty acres of gardens at Buckingham Palace, which I found rather surprising, including a lake and an island. They were lovely and would be quite tranquil - if they didn't have 8,000 people wandering round.

Later on ice cream and cups of tea were served, by this time there was quite a scrum in the commoners' tent and there was still no vegan option!

At around 6pm, the National Anthem was played again and the Royal Family left the party. The rain was coming down quite heavily by then and we moved up to stand under the awnings around the garden room and did some more people watching.

When the rain stopped we made our way back through the Palace, taking more time on the way out to look at the decor and furniture.

We were not supposed to have a photograph taken inside the Palace, but one Policeman did us a favour when we were in the quadrangle on the way out and took a picture I quite liked (with shoes back on especially for the photo!)

Outside we walked back through St James park (me barefoot again by then) and back to Paddington Station, where we changed into more comfortable shoes.

We caught the train home at around 8.30 pm (but not before I had stopped at M&S food to buy me some vegan food supplies - I was starving!)

2009 Primary Maths Challenge

Remarkably it is already time to resurrect this group for the 2009 Primary Maths Challenge - welcome back everyone!

First thing to do is generate a bit of interest, so please can you advertise on your local groups, perhaps adding a personal note if you took part last year? I'm going to post something like this:

"The Primary Mathematics Challenge is a national competition consisting of a test with interesting, mathematical problems (mostly multiple choice) aimed at the top 60% of 9-11 year olds, although anyone aged 11 or under on 31 August 2010 can enter. I'd say it is suitable for children who enjoy maths and problem-solving and get bored being tested on whether they can "do" the basics. There is more information and past papers on the Mathematical Association's website: www.m-a.org.uk. Every child taking part will get a certificate, and Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates will be awarded to those who do particularly well.

Home-educators cannot enter children directly through the Mathematical Association so if you would like to enter a home educated child, please join www.groups.yahoo.com/groups/PMC-Home-Ed where there is information about how to enter.

Last year, the competition was opened to home-educated children for the first time and 32 home-educated children aged 7-11 took part. It would be great to see even more entries this year! Entries should be received by 12th October.

I've submitted an article to HEAS (also under "Files") and will also write to Home Service - if anyone is a member of EO or other Home Ed group, please can you consider asking them to advertise the challenge? If you are in a position to submit an article to a home education

publication, you have my permission to plagiarise mine as much as you like!

I am reliably informed that the cost of the papers will go up this year (though the MA website still has last year's price on it) so am charging £1.20 per entry this year. Otherwise, the format of the competition will be much the same as last year. The entry form is under 'Files'.

Finally, please get your entries in by 12th October so I can order papers in time for November.

If you want to enter:

www.groups.yahoo.com/groups/PMC-Home-Ed

Thanks,
PW

Congratulations to an HE Graduate

By Heather McCombie

'Fifteen years ago, we embarked on the adventure of home education, and withdrew our 8-year old daughter from her primary school, along with her younger sister. We thought we would give it a trial period, to see how it worked out. We never looked back: our daughter passed 8 GCSEs while studying at home, and returned to school only for Sixth Form, to do 'A' levels. After a gap year, she was offered a place at St John's College, Oxford, to read Classical Archaeology and Ancient History, and found that home education had been a good preparation for studying an arts subject at Oxford, as the emphasis is very much on individual reading and study without much timetabled support. She has just graduated with a high 2.1.'

Best wishes, Heather McCombie,
heather@mccombies.co.uk





NCB National Children and Youth Board

By Hettie Bunker

After reading that the NCB was looking for Children and Young people to be a part of a panel to talk to Ministers and civil servants from the DCSF, about policies that affect young people, I applied to join.

The main interviews took place during HesFes week, so I had to do mine over the phone and it was okay - they mainly asked what experience I had in working within a team and about how I would deal with a discussion where I didn't agree with the other person's point of view.

I heard that I had been accepted when we got home from HesFes.

http://www.ncb.org.uk/campaigning/media_news/2009_jan_to_jun/dcsf_cyb.aspx

I am now one of a panel of 25 young people from all over the country, who will be meeting up at six residential weekends over two years - there will also be other single day events sporadically taking place over that period of time.

"The two year Board will take on the role of advising Ministers and policy officials on the development of policy and practice that affects children and young people in England."

We went to the first of the residential weekends in London during August. As I am under 18 I was allowed to have an adult family member with me.

The NCB arranged and sent us the train tickets and we all met up for the first time at a conference centre in London, where the parents left us for the day.

We played some games, which I enjoyed, to break the ice and then got down to the business of the weekend.

Over the course of the two days we were asked questions about a number of topics and asked to discuss what we liked about them, what we didn't like and what could be done to improve things.

Topics included school, the NHS and transport.

I did seem to be the only person who was talking about it from the perspective of SEN. (I was diagnosed as being severely dyslexic with ADHD before I left school aged nearly nine years old) and of course I was the only person who had been home educated. I would like to think I was able to make people look at the difficulties a little differently.

I really did enjoy the event and getting to know the other members of the panel.

At the end of the day our parents returned and we all went to book into the hotel for the night. We all went together for dinner and then a taxi came and picked us all up and took us to the 'London Eye'.

The young people all went together in one 'pod' and the accompanying parents in another. That was a lot of fun!

After breakfast next day, we returned to the conference centre and continued with work and focused on what they wanted us to feed back and ask of children and young people locally when we got home.

The event ended at 3pm and we returned home by train.

My 'homework' is to contact other young people and ask them questions about relationships with families, friends and other people - and what makes a good relationship.

I mostly intend to do this via the email support lists and by talking to my friends (home educated and from college).

I will need to keep on asking questions and passing on information over the course of my membership of the CYB, so if you see a message asking for children and young people to answer a short questionnaire for me - please do consider asking the young people in your family to answer- wherever they are educated. I need your help on

this now and over the next two years (contact details below).

The next event will be a one day meeting of the 'DCSF Board of Directors'. That should be interesting.

I'm told, if it is needed, we can get a letter from the DCSF/NCB requesting permission for me to get the day off from college-that can't happen very often!

Then in November we'll go to a second residential weekend - this time in Liverpool. I'm looking forward to it.

If the children and young people in your family are interested in helping me, by answering questions for the Children and Youth Board, please contact me on hettiecyb@hotmail.co.uk

I think that this could be a very good way of getting the views of home educated young people, on a range of subjects, over to the DCSF.



Book Groups

By Tammy Dolling

When most people think of book groups they usually think of a group of women getting together to gossip and discuss books. What they don't necessarily think of is a group of children getting together to talk about their favorite books and authors. This is just what is happening however, up and down the country among the growing number of home ed book groups. These book groups are as individual as

the families involved in them but one thing they have in common is a love of literature and a desire to share it with others.

In most cases the groups meet on a monthly basis, often at the local library, to discuss a chosen book. Often times the discussion is facilitated by one of the grown-ups but in some groups the children lead the debate. Sometimes quizzes and activities are planned to go along with the featured book. For example, Huddersfield Home Educators Book Group recently read The Borrowers and as part of the discussion they built miniature Borrower rooms in shoe boxes. At one book group in southern England, the members love quizzes so Emma who organises the group compiles a 15-20 question quiz for each book the group reads. Rating the books they read seems to be a priority for most groups and whether they use a 1-10 or star rating system everyone likes to know how their current book compares to ones they have read in the past. Sharing their views on books is also something that a lot of books like to do; ideas for doing this include setting up a website, sending reviews to the EO newsletter or other local home ed or mainstream publications.

In some instances groups cater to a specific age range while in others they are open to members of all ages. There are advantages to both approaches; if the members are all a similar age they are likely to be of similar reading and comprehension levels making it easier to choose books that suit everyone. On the other hand a group with no specific age range can be very inclusive and may encourage the books to be read aloud within a family. Both approaches work well and the main thing is for the children and adults to enjoy themselves. The Huddersfield Home Educators Book Group has members that range in age from 4-11 and Mandy who organises the group has found that books tend to be read together within each family.

As buying books can get expensive book groups often look to the local library service to obtain books. In many local libraries if you register as a book group you will be allowed to take multiple

copies of the same book out on a special book group card. This makes it easier to keep track of books and to make sure everyone who wants a copy is able to get one. The library is also a great place to seek inspiration. Most librarians are a fountain of knowledge when it comes to children's books and will probably be able to make recommendations to suit your group. Book groups also look to book retailers like Waterstones and Amazon for inspiration as well as personal recommendations. In most cases group members are given the chance to vote on the books they read; this gives them a feeling of ownership of the group.

Whatever form home ed book groups take they all share the common goal of instilling a love of literature in parents and children. As Groucho Marx once said, "Outside of a dog a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it is too dark to read."

Happy Reading!

Web-based HE Discussion Groups

A very diverse number of home-ed discussion groups can be found on the Internet. These groups offer a range of helpful/specialised/local support. Here are some ideas to get you started:

EO Members Forum with message boards for parents, children and teenagers. See P/ of this newsletter for information on joining or email: forums@educationotherwise.org

EO Single Parent List -
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/EO-SingleParent/>

EO List - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/eo/>

HE Special UK (SEN list)
<http://www.he-special.org.uk/>

UK Waldorf
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/UKWaldorf/>

If you have any further suggestions, please get in touch.

The Adventure begins again

The winners of the Volvo Adventure, the world wide search undertaken with UNEP to find the most innovative, imaginative and practical projects devised by young people to solve environmental problems, has been announced.

This year the first prize has gone to the HUNAB team from the Yucatan coast of Mexico for their imaginative solution to local water problems. Using only 900 litres of water, each young person has taken responsibility for a small aquaculture pond, providing a sustainable harvest and a nursery for repopulating the local waterways once they have been cleaned. This ingenious project has allowed the children to earn extra money to support their ongoing schooling and helped to spread the aquaculture ponds to other young people and improve their environment. Second place went to the visionary 'tricycle' project from the Queen Elizabeth II High School on the Isle of Man, combining initiatives such as planting a tree nursery at school, building a bike shed from disused plastic bottles and encouraging 'Cycle Buses', to combat the environmentally unfriendly 'school run.' In third place, was the Govt. High School Tilak Nagar Gudhiyari in Raipur, India, the capital of the newly formed State of Chattisgarh. Their 'Water Drop, a Precious Pearl' project successfully reduced the wastage and created a more efficient use of the town's precious public water supply.

This year's final was fantastic, with all the finalists showing the impact that projects can have when they have sufficient time to develop - this is illustrated by the fact that the top two projects had been entering for a couple of years before winning. So we have decided to give projects more time to develop based upon this feedback from groups building to a bigger and

better Volvo Adventure in 2011, the 10th birthday party for the Volvo Adventure. The benefits:

- Groups have more time to plan and develop their project and gather evidence of its impact.
- A set of free education materials and activities to help groups develop their project ideas.

If you are working with young people between 13 and 16 years old who are actively involved in devising and managing the project, then you can enter. All you have to do is register and enter your project by visiting www.volvoadventure.org. By registering, you have the opportunity to win an all-expenses-paid trip to the final in Sweden and the chance of a financial reward that could make it possible to run, improve or enhance your project. For young people it could be an adventure that offers a chance to make new friends all over the world and attract international recognition for their project.

Start on the website

All you need to do to get started is to go to the Volvo Adventure website: www.volvoadventure.org. There you will find everything you need to register your project. You will receive a start-up package with instructions on how to proceed. We look forward to seeing your network's projects! Good luck and remember - it could be your project in the 10th birthday final!

Hampshire Fire & Rescue Services

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS), would like to invite the children and their families, who are taught at home, to a special educational event which will be held at Cosham Fire Station.

Over the years HFRS have been helping to educate children from all key stage groups in schools on the dangers and hazards in the home and fire safety. This includes information on how to reduce the chance of fires in the home and how to escape or make yourself safe in the event of an incident.

This approach has had numerous successes in being proven to help save the life of family members or helping to ensure a quicker response to the Fire and Rescue Service is made by accurate information being reported.

The training programme we provide links directly to the National Curriculum. Teaching aids for follow-up work are provided, with advice on reinforcing knowledge and understanding of this very important part of a child's education.

We are proud to record that we have reached our target audience in all of Hampshire Schools on 97% of occasions.

The reason for offering you this package is to reach those members of the community who are home taught, as they could have missed out on this advice and learning opportunities. We have recognised this as a potential problem and would therefore like to welcome you to this event. We are holding this event at Cosham Fire Station to provide all members of our community with the same opportunity.

If you are interested or would like more information on this matter please email chris.norgate@hantsfire.gov.uk or telephone 01234 5678900. Alternatively call in to Cosham Fire Station.

Thank you for your attention which is appreciated.

Yours faithfully,
D Smith, Stations Manager

Little Arthur Independent School

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Scilly, Cornwall TR25 0QL**

When we first took our (then 11 year old) son out of school I worried how I would approach teaching Maths. Our son was more than capable in the subject but I did not feel at all confident.

We tried various school text books and used an online programme, recommended by a friend which covered Primary Maths. He soon completed that and I was left

wondering how we could tackle secondary maths. After reading about Conquer Maths on various forums we decided to give it a trial before committing.

There are two levels to the tutorials and all the maths syllabus is covered from age 11 through to what you would need to know for GCSE at age 16 (or whenever you were ready to sit it.)

The syllabus is clearly broken down into various topics with a topic test at the end of each section. Each lesson is explained by the tutor (a lovely Australian guy) and as he speaks the lesson is typed onto the screen. After the demo the questions appear which the student completes, submits and has marked online. You can print out the lesson and answers so that you have a worksheet copy of what you have learnt.

At any point you can 'rewind the teacher' to hear the lesson again and after you have completed a section you can revisit it for revision purposes. You are also able to track the student's progress and there is a chart showing how long has been spent on each subject area, when the student last logged in and how many attempts each lesson took to pass successfully.

I would not hesitate to recommend this resource. It is excellent value for money and a great confidence booster to both child and

parent. You can work at foundation or higher level - whichever suits your child. I only wish that it had been around when I was at school - as my maths has improved tremendously whilst teaching my son. Best wishes, Jess

The ConquerMaths website can be found at <http://conquermaths.com/>

Discounts are available for members of Education Otherwise, please see the flyer inserted in this newsletter.

Looking for Volunteers for the Helpline

We are looking to recruit new volunteers for the Helpline. If you have ever thought about giving a few hours of your time to help others who are thinking about home educating then please do get in touch. As the option of home education becomes more widely known, more and more parents are turning to EO for information and support. Many get information from the website; but personal support is still in great demand.

We are intending to be more flexible about the hours per helpline shift, so if you only have one or two half-days a week, don't let this prevent you from volunteering. If you're interested and would like to find out more or have any questions then please contact:

Jo Berry, Tel: 08445 868821,
jberry@educationotherwise.org

Or Pauline Butterworth, Tel: 08445 868826
pbutterworth@educationotherwise.org

Hi! This month's book review is jam packed with some fantastic books as well as an article on home ed books groups. A big thank you to the reviewers and the book groups for all their assistance. Our next issue will be out just before Christmas making it the perfect opportunity to review books that would make great Christmas gifts and favorite books about Christmas. Please send your reviews of either, or both, to: bookreviews@educationotherwise.org by November 1st. I am often sent books by publishers for review, and am always looking for people to review these books. If you would like to join the panel of reviewers please email your details to the address above. Please include your children's ages so that I can forward books that are relevant to you and your family.

Nate the Great and the Musical Note

By: Marjorie Weinman Sharmat and Craig Sharmat

ISBN: 978-0-440-40466-8

Price: £3.03

Nate the Great is a boy detective who likes to solve cases and really likes to eat pancakes. His dog named Sludge helps him solve the cases. In this mystery Nate solves the mystery of Pip's lost musical note, which was really a riddle their friend Rosamond wrote.

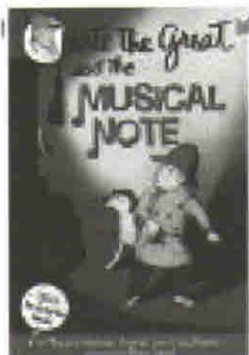
I like these books because I like detective stories and Nate is really silly and so are his friends.

Kieran Fell, age 6

Parental note: these are great first chapter books, lots of silliness and no violence. There is a 'Fun Activities' section at the back of each book which will keep them busy for a while.

Website:

<http://www.randomhouse.com/kids/natethegreat/>



Pollyanna

By: Eleanor H. Porter

ISBN: 978-1-85326-145-9

Price: £1.99

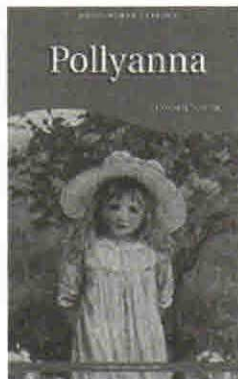
Pollyanna is a bright and cheerful child and always made everyone around her feel happy.

She had to go and live with her aunt, Miss Polly, after her father died. Miss Polly was very strict, but Nancy, the hired girl, was very lovely to Pollyanna.

Many people in the town were sad. Pollyanna taught everyone how to play a game called the 'Glad game'. Then one day poor Pollyanna had a bad accident and all of the people in the town came to cheer Miss Polly and Pollyanna up.

I liked this book because Pollyanna is a sweet cheerful child and is always making people happy. Which, as I guess you all know, is a good thing.

Reviewed by Hazel Fell aged 7



Hello Pud-Swan

By: B.D.Beggs

ISBN: 978-0-9556631-3-0

Price: £20 (for the 3 book set)

Website: www.pud-swan.org

Pud-swan is a large, white magical rabbit who only Melanie and her friend Angela can see. He takes them away on magical adventures to new places. To start their journeys and to get back home they need to say their times tables. They visit far off places and see many interesting things.

Kieran: I thought it was funny that the grown-ups didn't know they were on the adventures too. Melanie's mom was always too busy to notice Pud-swan had taken her as well! I didn't like that I couldn't draw the pictures in the book. (Note: the book has blank pages for the children to draw their own illustrations, we were using a borrowed copy.)

Hazel: I liked it because it was exciting to see where Pud-swan and Melanie would go. I wish I could go on a magical adventure too. Pud-swan always told the girls lots of interesting things about the places he took them to.

Review by Hazel & Kieran Fell (7 & 6)

Editor's Note: Proceeds from the sale of this book are going to Naomi House Children's Hospice



Varjak Paw

By: S.F.Said

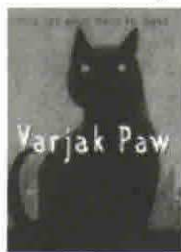
ISBN:0552548189

Price: £5.99

Varjak Paw is a Mesopotamian Blue cat, who has to venture into the unknown world of the Outside in order to save his family from the evil Gentleman and his weird and freaky black cats. On the way he is faced with many adventures and challenges, and has to learn the skills that he needs to survive, and to save himself, his family and the entire cat-race.

We ALL really liked this book, from the 4 year olds up to the adults.

We thought it was an exciting, scary, creepy, many-layered page-turner of a book that everyone should read. One of the best books we've read in a long time, we gave it an average of 9.5/10.



Reviewed by Huddersfield Home Educators Book Group (ages 4-12)

The Fun Guide: Games for Learning English

By John Mayston

ISBN: 1903-499-48-8

Price: £29.95

Games for Learning English is divided into a series of 35 lesson plans, most of which have a worksheet to accompany them. Each lesson is laid out in the same easy to use format, with the key points covered in 4 sections:

- Level: Who the lesson is aimed at, this could range from beginner to advanced
- Target language: What elements of English will be covered in the lesson
- Resources: What you will need to complete the lesson - including the worksheets and downloadable flash cards that can be found on the book's website.
- Time: How long the lesson should take to teach

The lessons are designed to be taught to a child or group of children rather than having the child work through the book independently. They are very easy to use and follow as are the worksheets. If you are using the book with more than one child additional copies of the worksheets can be downloaded from the website. The book begins by teaching the alphabet and progresses through to parts of speech, tenses, numbers, colors, prepositions, weather, calendar dates and so on. There are also worksheets to practise writing letters and numbers.

While Games for Learning English is aimed primarily at teaching English to non native speaking children, the lessons and techniques in this book could easily be adapted for used with native English speakers. A lot of thought and hard work has gone into compiling this book and the result is a book that would be ideal for helping children under 10 to improve their literacy as it gives a good grounding in the basics of English. The author has used his experience in teaching English abroad to write the book and makes good use of the Total Physical Response method of teaching (www.tpr-world.com.) This was developed by Dr. James. J. Asher for use in teaching a secondary language to students.



Editor's Note: Thank to the generosity of the publisher and the author we have one copy of Games for Learning English to give away. If you would like to be entered into the prize draw to win this book please email your name and address to bookreviews@educationotherwise.org by November 1st.

Toxic Schooling: How Schools Became Worse

By: Clive Harber

ISBN: 978 1-900219-37-2

Price: £16.00

Toxic Schooling is the latest offering from Dr. Clive Harber. Dr. Harber is Professor of International Education at the University of Birmingham and the author of the critically acclaimed Schooling as Violence. In Toxic Schooling Dr. Harber brings together the work of some of the most well known educationalists from the 1960s to the 1980s and looks at their views on formal schooling and ways in which it could be improved. The experts he calls upon are Edward Blishen, Paulo Freire, Paul Goodman, James Hemming, John Holt, Ivan Illich, Philip Jackson, George Leonard, Soren Hansen and Jasper Jensen, Julius Nyerere, Neil Postman and Charles Weingartner, Everett Reimer and Carl Rogers.

His purpose in bringing these experts together is to look at whether their critiques had an impact on education and therefore improved today's school system. His finding would seem to indicate that for the most part their insights were largely ignored or dismissed and as a result schooling is now worse than ever. He concludes the book with suggestions of how to rectify this and how to reverse the effects of toxic schooling.

This was a very thought provoking read and relevant to everyone who has an interest in education.

Editor's Note: The publishers of Toxic Schooling are offering EO members the opportunity to purchase the book for the discounted price of £10. To take advantage of this offer please contact Educational Heretics Press on 0115 925 7261 or visit their website: www.edheretics.gn.apc.org.



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**Catherine Mooney's new
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for home-educators**

"My 14yr old son loves the way it is set out, he actually enjoys doing it!!" S.H.

"It's nice to meet an examiner with a good mind and a kind heart..."

AQA Report on Catherine Mooney, June 2008

I'm a home-educating mum, a writer, OU tutor and AQA examiner. I wanted a friendly, colourful, approachable course that's fun to use as well as preparing you for the exam. I've got a great bunch of kids doing the courses and they each get:

- Unlimited phone and email support *from myself*.
- Audio CD & paper versions of courses as standard, plus full texts and DVDs with the English Literature course
- 10 tutor-marked assignments, with very detailed feedback.

The courses are suitable for 12+ and don't assume prior knowledge. Check my web-site at www.catherinemooneytutoring.co.uk for course samples and an application form. You can phone me on (01952) 605865

Since the deadline for the last newsletter the Government announced that the Select Committee would be looking into the Badman Review. After the Badman report was published and immediately accepted in full by Secretary of State Ed Balls, there was an outcry among many home educators criticising many aspects of the way the Review was conducted.

When the Select Committee inquiry was announced EO issued a press release which said:

"There are a number of questions around the rushed nature of the review and the sweeping recommendations, which are disproportionate to any evidence for change put forward by Mr Badman."

We were told that the Committee invited written submissions on:

- * the conduct of the review and related consultations (e.g. the constitution of the review team; the scope of the terms of reference for the review; and the nature of the consultation documents).
- * the recommendations made by the review on elective home education.

A representative from Education Otherwise Government Policy Group has been invited to give oral evidence to the Select Committee. In addition, by the time the October newsletter is published, EO will have submitted a written memorandum of evidence to the Committee which we expect to be published by the Committee in due course. The rules of the Committee prevent EO from sharing our response before it is published by the Committee.

Will home educators get more support because of the Badman Review?

Home educators were quick to spot that there was no extra funding announced for "support" and no mention of targets or criteria against which a Children's Trust could be inspected and deemed to have failed in providing support to home educating families. As one parent has said "they want all the oppressive intrusive inspection recommendations to be legally enforceable but all the warm fuzzy support recommendations are just going to be voluntary."

*** Recommendation 28**

That the DCSF and the Local Government Association determine within three months how to provide to local authorities sufficient resources to secure the recommendations in this report.

Baroness Morgan said in the House of Lords at the end of June that there would be no new money for the Badman recommendations.

"An impact assessment is not required for the consultation at this stage as the proposals are still at an early stage of development. We do not expect them to place any significant additional burdens on local authorities as most already monitor home education, and our proposals will provide additional powers that will assist local authorities in dealing more efficiently with the small number of cases where home education does not come up to scratch. If we decide to proceed with legislation we will publish an impact assessment and will place a copy in the Library of the House."

Mixed Messages from Government

The Government is sending out mixed messages about the Review recommendations. In principle it has accepted all the recommendations and has also announced its intention to add an enabling clause to the Safeguarding Bill which is expected to be announced in the Queen's Speech in November.

However the Secretary of State has also

published a substantial reservation by saying that the implementation of the Badman recommendations will be "subject to identifying funding and workable delivery arrangements". The Government is currently running an online consultation asking interested parties for views on the rightness/desirability/feasibility of the proposals concerning registration and monitoring.

The outcome of this consultation will not be announced until the New Year.

The Badman Report proposes disproportionate intervention for a problem which has not even been proved to exist

It is being proposed that failure to register as a home educator should be a criminal offence and it is further proposed that home educators should have to apply for registration on an annual basis, with part of the registration process being an interview alone with the child in the family home. These recommendations will require new laws.

Graham Badman and the DCSF are confusing education, welfare and child protection

These three areas require specialist knowledge and experience. If the recommendations went through, this would have a devastating impact on families as unqualified staff struggled to implement contradictory recommendations. Child protection is a highly specialised field. Interrogative interview techniques where the child is seen alone would be unacceptably invasive and counter-productive outside this narrow area.

Graham Badman proposes to give individual local authority officers (usually qualified teachers) right of access to the home and the right/obligation to speak to each home educated child alone without a parent present.

"In so doing, officers will be able to satisfy themselves that the child is safe and well."

The present powers and duties are entirely sufficient and are as follows:

The parent has a duty to cause the child to receive education via section 7 of the Education Act 1996. This can be done through school or outside the school system.

Since February 2007 the local authority has a duty via s.436A of the Education Act 1996 to make arrangements to identify children missing education. As the Government's 2009 statutory guidance states:

"ContactPoint, to be implemented across England by mid 2009, will help local authorities discharge the duty by recording the place where a child is being educated, where that is known. Where it is known that a child is being educated at home, that would also be recorded."

The authority has further duties via the Children Act 1989 sections 17 and 47 in relation to establishing whether a child is in need of services and a duty to step in if the child is at risk of significant harm.

Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 obliges the local authority to co-operate with statutory partners to improve wellbeing of children in the area.

Section 437 of the Education Act 1996 requires the local authority to seek information from parents if it appears that a child is not receiving education. Ultimately if the local authority is not satisfied, it has a duty to serve a School Attendance Order.

Background to the Badman Report

The Badman Report was published on June 11th 2009 together with a public consultation which will run till October 19th 2009.

On January 19th 2009 Graham Badman was tasked with reporting to Ministers and the Secretary of State by May. Online questionnaires were hastily sent to local authorities asking whether personnel had "concerns" about home educating families. The

deadline for completion was February 6th which gave Children's Services 14 working days to turn round the questionnaire.

The returns on the 14 day questionnaire formed the evidence base for the review. The questionnaire was also a way for Graham Badman and his assistant to identify local authorities who would be available for a meeting in March.

A second questionnaire - with a slightly longer completion time of 24 working days - was also made available to the general public.

Graham Badman and his assistant were able to allocate several days during the course of the Review to meet with home educators, local authority personnel and other interested parties. The final report was submitted to the Secretary of State at the end of May.

New laws would transfer responsibility to local government and criminalise parents

Several proposals in the Badman Review will require a fundamental change to the law concerning parental responsibility for a child's education. The Badman Review recommends that this responsibility be transferred to local government. The law will also need to be changed to give local authority officials entry to a private home on demand. There will have to be additional changes to primary legislation and related statutory guidance in order to permit children to be questioned without a parent being present. It is further proposed that failure to register a child as home educated or failing to supply adequate information will be a criminal offence.

What does the Badman Review say about interviewing children alone?

Under the new proposals, home educated children may be inspected individually and required to exhibit what they have learned. The Badman Review also proposes to give powers for local authority officers to enter the family home, which is called "the premises." The Badman Review also appears to be recommending that local authority officers should wherever

possible speak to the child without a parent present.

That designated local authority officers should:

- *have the right of access to the home;*
- *have the right to speak with each child alone if deemed appropriate or, if a child is particularly vulnerable or has particular communication needs, in the company of a trusted person who is not the home educator or the parent/carer.*

In so doing, officers will be able to satisfy themselves that the child is safe and well.

Commenting on these proposals, the civil rights organisation Liberty has said "Any power of access to the home must be tightly regulated and a full explanation as to the power's necessity should be given."

Why is compulsory registration such an issue? Surely the government needs to know the whereabouts of all children so it can keep them safe?

The law already stipulates that schools must notify the local authority when a child is removed from the school in order to be home educated. The national database, ContactPoint, also has a field on the form for details of the educational setting, which includes home education. Many home educators have pointed out that when the state knows where children are, and when professionals become involved with a family, this does not suffice to keep children safe.

The particular form of registration proposed by the Badman Review is not simply a method of notifying the authority, it is more akin to applying for a licence to be a home educator for the year. Since education is the parents' responsibility in law, perhaps we should logically apply to be parents of our own children for the year, as though we were going through the process of adoption?

What's the problem with home educators being required to have a plan?

The Badman Report has said that the child's education will be assessed annually and measured against the parents' plan. The Report has also said that parents need to come up with a plan within a very short time of beginning home education, implying that if this is not forthcoming or not judged adequate, that the home education would not be registered.

"At the time of registration parents/carers/guardians must provide a clear statement of their educational approach, intent and desired/planned outcomes for the child over the following twelve months."

At the same time the Badman Report says that the school must pass on the child's school record which will include an estimate of future achievements and measurement of the child against developmental milestones. The parents' plan may conflict with the school's judgements. The family may also wish to change direction if a particular approach or field of study is not productive and it is feared that this would result in the home education being judged as defective by the yardstick of the plan.

Review of what constitutes "suitable" education

The Badman Review recommends that a suitable and efficient education should be redefined in light of the Rose Review of the Primary Curriculum. If this recommendation were implemented then home educators' freedom would be greatly restricted since their planned outcomes would in fact be prescribed by the state.

Why is it a problem for a child's name to be kept on the school roll for 20 days?

The Badman Review proposes that children should be kept on a school roll for 20 days after their parents have written to the school asking for the name to be removed from the roll. This will be controversial in schools as it is detrimental to the school's persistent absence targets which form part of their Ofsted report.

It is likely that the family could come under pressure to make the child continue to attend school while the family is being investigated before the child is allowed to cease being a pupil at the school. This would be a fundamental change to the law in England.

Will the Badman Review Recommendations help children with Special Educational Needs?

Graham Badman has heard from a number of home educating families where the child has special needs. He has also taken evidence from several autism support charities. The Badman Review recommends:

That the Ofsted review of SEN provision give due consideration to home educated children with special educational needs and make specific reference to the support of those children.

Yet it is children with special needs who may be among those most threatened and distressed by the temporary conditional nature of the proposed registration regime, coupled with the requirement to exhibit and perform, entry to the family home and other measures proposed in the Review.

What can home educators do?

Visit your MP and share your personal story. Explain the impact of the Badman Review recommendations on your family. Some of the recommendations proposed in the Badman Report will require new laws and the earliest these new laws could be introduced would be via the new Safeguarding Bill which may be announced in the Queen's Speech in November.

Early Autumn is a perfect time to go and see your MP so that we can ensure none of these proposals goes through on the nod without proper scrutiny from well-informed MPs.

The General Election will be held on or before June 3rd 2010. From the point when the General Election is announced no more action is taken on legislation which remains outstanding. It is possible that these proposals will run out of parliamentary time and indeed this is being said by some constituency MPs but we simply cannot

afford to be complacent as the Government may choose to push things through if there is not sufficient opposition from backbench MPs.

Over a third of MPS have already been contacted by home educators. See here for a list:

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

Some home educators talk to MPs from their perspective as individual parents while others have organised several families for a visit to the MP's surgery. Lord Lucas explains in this short video why it is so important for home educators to talk to MPs.

<http://tinyurl.com/EOTalktoMPs>

Read this page for more information on how to get in touch with your MP:

<http://www.freedomforchildrentogrow.org/rep.htm> and ask them to consider signing Early Day Motion here <http://tinyurl.com/lu8yzx>

EDM 1785

Home Education and the Badman Review

01.07.2009

Field, Mark

That this House acknowledges and celebrates the hard work of the many home educators in Britain who teach their children to an exceptionally high standard; recognises the excellent value they represent to the Government; notes with concern the conflation of welfare concerns with education issues in Government statements on home education; further notes with concern the recommendations of the Badman Review which suggest closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; and calls on the Government to focus on its own ability to fulfil the Every Child Matters objectives rather than undermine the independence and integrity of home educators by enforcing the Badman recommendations.

Online Surveys

Ann Newstead, Education Otherwise Media Spokesperson, is currently running two surveys related to the Badman Review. The first asks children how they feel about the recommendations of the Badman Review. The second survey is seeking information on how many adults see home educated children in the course of a typical week.

<http://tinyurl.com/eochildsurvey>

<http://tinyurl.com/ChildSurvey>

Promotional Items

A home educator has produced postcards and another has designed t-shirts using the idea of "we're not hidden, we're home educating" to help publicise home education and the issues at hand.

<http://bhhe.files.wordpress.com/2009/07/nothiddencards1.pdf>

<http://ukhomeed.spreadshirt.net/en/GB/Shop>

Visit your MP on October 13th and meet hundreds of other home educators

Home educating families from all over the country will be visiting their MPs at Westminster on October 13th.

NB This event is not organised by Education Otherwise. Please contact Claire via masslobby@live.co.uk

Sign the petition against the Badman Review

Deadline October 18th

<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/EHReview/>

We the undersigned petition the Prime Minister to Reject the Report to the Secretary of State on the Review of Elective Home Education in England by Graham Badman.

This report is a totally disproportionate response to a 'perceived' problem full of unsubstantiated allegations that home educated children are more at risk than those at school. This is simply not true and enacting the recommendations in this report would establish the state as parent of first resort. To allow LA

staff access to private homes to interview children without their parents when there is no reason to suspect abuse is outrageous.

Deadline for DCSF consultation on Registration and Monitoring is October 19th

<http://tinyurl.com/l82dxm>

"Following the review of home education, the Government is proposing to introduce arrangements for the registration and monitoring of home educated children. The consultation document sets out our proposals for a registration scheme and arrangements for the monitoring of provision to ensure that children are receiving the education they are entitled to. There is also a proposal that where there are serious concerns about the ability of the parent to provide their child with a suitable education in a safe environment then they should not be permitted to educate their child at home. The consultation seeks the views of home educating families, groups representing home educating families, local authorities, other agencies involved in the provision of services for children, and the public, on our proposals."

If you know someone who requires a paper copy of the consultation response form, the number to ring is 0870 000 2288 which is the main switchboard at DCSF. DCSF recommends that you ask for "a paper copy of the consultation response form to the Elective Home Education Monitoring and Registration" and you will be put through to the Consultation Unit.

EO at the Labour Party Conference

A representative from Education Otherwise Government Policy Group has obtained a bursary to attend the Labour Party Conference in Brighton at the end of September in order to raise awareness of home education issues. A full report will be given on the EO campaign site and in the December EO newsletter.

Education Otherwise Continues to Raise Awareness of Home Education and to Promote the Interests of Home Educating Families

EO is in regular contact with barrister Ian Dowty and with Lord Lucas. The Government Policy Group met DCSF shortly after the Badman Report was published. GPG and the Disability Group have now met with Diana Johnson the Minister responsible for taking forward the Safeguarding Bill.

You can read the notes from the first meeting here <http://tinyurl.com/eodcsf300609> or contact EO for a paper copy if you do not have access to the internet.

Notes from the subsequent meeting in August will be posted on the EO campaign site once agreed with DCSF. More information will also be given in the December newsletter.

EO You Tube Channel

Since the deadline for the last newsletter, EO has launched its own You Tube Channel with four specially commissioned films shot at the home educators' festival, HesFes, and also at the House of Lords. You can read more about the EO films elsewhere in the newsletter.

Safeguarding Children: A Statement from Education Otherwise

Over the past few years certain individuals have made public accusations about a number of people working for Education Otherwise, saying that they pose a danger to children. Former members of Education Otherwise have repeated these allegations to local authorities, national Government, the NSPCC and the Charities Commission, all of whom have confirmed time and time again that there is not a problem and that the allegations are baseless. The allegations have been thoroughly investigated by police and social services and found to have no substance.

If anyone reading this has any concerns about the safety or welfare of home educated children they should report the matter to the police or social services or the NSPCC. It is wholly inappropriate to raise concerns about the safety of children via home education internet support lists.

Over the past two years, Education Otherwise has taken training and advice on best practice in safeguarding children from an NSPCC consultant.

Since 2008 a professionally trained social worker with years of experience in safeguarding has been in post as Education Otherwise Designated Safeguarding Children Person.

His name is Jim Clossick and his number is 08445 869091.

If you are unsure about whether something is a safeguarding matter or you don't know what to do, you can phone Jim in confidence.

If any member of Education Otherwise posts safeguarding allegations on the internet or publicly to others instead of contacting the police, Social Services, the NSPCC or EO's

Designated Safeguarding Children Person, then their membership of the charity will be terminated.

Education Otherwise Safeguarding Children Policy can be viewed here:

<http://tinyurl.com/EOSafeguarding> or can be posted to you on receipt of a stamped SAE sent to the PO Box address.

This policy explains appropriate ways to raise any safeguarding concerns you may have. It is very clear and gives good advice about how to act on concerns, recommending that you should report them to the NSPCC, the police or Social Services.

The NSPCC runs a helpline where you can report concerns anonymously. Tel: 0808 800 5000

A note about the Trustees of Education Otherwise:

Trustees have a duty of care towards members of the association and also to uphold the reputation of the charity and prevent it being brought into disrepute. All Trustees in Education Otherwise have had CRB checks. Trustees have ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of the charity, and ensuring that it is solvent, well-run, and delivering the charitable outcomes for the benefit of the public for which it has been set up. Trustees also have a responsibility to seek advice from appropriately qualified people.

The Role of the Designated Safeguarding Children Person

By Jim Clossick

Having been the DSCP for more than a year I thought it might be helpful to remind members of my role and availability.

According to the job description provided to me by EO the DSCP offers "an external and entirely confidential service to Education Otherwise members who have safeguarding children worries and to act as a source of support, advice and expertise and refer any safeguarding children concerns to the relevant investigating authorities". Confidential in this context means that if information provided is to be shared with anyone it will only be with the responsible authorities and to the extent that is needed to enable action to be taken by the relevant authority or the police to investigate any concerns that have been raised by one of your members.

I am not a home educator, nor am I a member of EO. That is deliberate. How EO runs is not a matter for me. I am an expert on safeguarding children, not home education.

My role is quite straightforward. I can and will advise any EO member who contacts me with specific safeguarding concerns about a child. Of course, it's not my responsibility, nor is it yours, to investigate safeguarding children (child protection) issues. But, if you call me, between us we can take some time to clarify exactly what it is you are worried about and decide what, if anything, to do about it.

Helping to safeguard children is of course every adult's responsibility. If you have genuine concerns that a child may be being neglected or abused in any way you should take some form of action. This can include speaking to the child's parents or carers about your concerns, if you feel able to do that. They may well be able to allay your fears. If you do not feel able to do that, or if you do not feel reassured by their response you can refer your concerns to the appropriate agency (your local police or local authority Children's Services Department) directly and anonymously if you prefer. Or, you can call the NSPCC (0808 800 5000) or Childline (0800 1111) for advice. These numbers can also be found in the EO newsletter.

If you are not sure whether your concerns are

serious enough to warrant referral to one of the statutory agencies you can call me to discuss and for advice and support. I will not necessarily be able to speak to you immediately, as I am not on 24 hour call, but I will always call you back as soon as possible. If you fear that delaying to speak to me could be dangerous for the child concerned then you should immediately contact the local authority, the police or the NSPCC for advice and/or action.

When you call me I will ask you for your name and postcode, simply so that I can check with EO at a later stage that you are a member and therefore entitled to use the service I provide. This information will obviously identify you. You may share information with me that in my opinion indicates that a child may have been neglected or abused or may be at risk. In those circumstances I will urge you to refer the matter to the authorities.

If, for any reason, you do not wish to do that, even anonymously, and I cannot persuade you to do so, I reserve the right to make a referral myself. It is therefore possible that you could then be contacted by one of the statutory agencies for further information and to help identify the child or family concerned. The local authority or police will aim to protect your identity. I would urge you not to hesitate to make the call to me or to one of the statutory agencies if you think it is necessary, even if you think there's a risk that it could lead to you being identified to the family concerned.

If the child's parents or carers have done nothing inappropriate they may be upset about what then happens but they should in time understand that your concerns were genuine, and not malicious. Children are more vulnerable than adults. We must always put them first.

My number is 08445 869091. Don't hesitate to call.

Jim Clossick
DSCP

Charity Accounts: Independent Examination or Audit?

Charity accounts are about much more than the figures. Accounting firms who specialise in charity accounts now have to be prepared to take Trustees through a detailed set of questions in order for the firm to be able to sign off the accounts.

The legal requirements for charity accounts have changed considerably since 2005.

Information about the changes can be found here:

<http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/investigations/sorp/sorp05change.asp> and also here:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/uksi_20080629_en_1 in The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 Statutory Instrument 629.

The legal requirements have also been affected by substantial revisions of companies and charities legislation contained in the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2006.

There are now two types of accounting option for charitable companies with a turnover above £25,000, namely an independent examination or an audit.

Charity law and company law now say that charitable companies with a turnover of less than £500,000 a year will opt for an independent examination instead of an audit, in part due to the increased rigour of the independent examination through the Statement of Recommended Practice or SORP procedures. This figure is known as the "audit threshold." The turnover of Education Otherwise Association Limited is around £90,000 a year.

More information can be found on the Charities Commission website here: <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/supportingcharities/ogs/g015g001.asp>

An independent examination costs around a

thousand pounds and an audit costs three or four times this amount because of the additional paperwork for the auditor which is now demanded by the International Standards on Auditing imposed on all countries since 2005.

Independent Examination

An independent examination involves a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also involves a review of the accounts and the consideration of any unusual items or disclosures identified. EO's independent examiner is also a registered auditor as well as a specialist in charity accounts.

You can read more about Independent Examinations here:

<http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/publication/s/cc31.asp>

Statement of Recommended Practice for charitable accounts

Charitable accounts also have to be prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice which has been greatly expanded in the past four years. More information about the SORP can be found here:

<http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/investigations/sorp/sorpfaq.asp>

The SORP provides a comprehensive framework of recommended practice for charity accounting and reporting. It provides a mechanism enabling charities to meet the legal requirement for their accounts to give a true and fair view and provides consistency in the sector's interpretation of accounting standards. The SORP also provides recommendations for annual reporting that are relevant to sector and stakeholders' needs and are in line with wider developments in reporting.

The Charities Commission makes it clear that accountants and auditors who prepare accounts for charities need to be fully aware of the updated SORP requirements.

One of the main impacts of the SORP since 2005 is a change to the Trustees' Annual Report. This now focuses on the need to report the charity's activities and performance against its stated objectives, including giving some insight into future plans. The report is considered to be part of the main body of the accounts.

In describing the reasons for the new implementation, the SORP states:

"The accounts of a charity cannot alone easily portray what the charity has done (its outputs), or achieved (its outcomes), or what difference it has made (its impact). This is mainly because many of these areas cannot be measured in monetary terms: indeed some areas are difficult to measure with any numbers at all."

EO Accounts

The EO accounts to the year end June 2008 have been reviewed by qualified accountants and registered auditors at Whiting and Partners, Ely. A registered auditor is one registered with a recognised supervisory body in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

http://www.whitingandpartners.co.uk/ely/ian_piper.htm

<http://www.whitingandpartners.co.uk/Services/Charities.htm>

The firm of Whiting and Partner has followed SORP procedures in examining EO's accounts.

Elsewhere in the newsletter we have indicated that the accounts to the year end June 2008 will be considered at the adjourned AGM on Monday 26 October 2009 at the Holiday Inn in Birmingham.

The accounts are also available to view here <http://tinyurl.com/lnl6om> on the Charities Commission website. NB The accounts are shown as late on the Charities Commission site, but permission was received in advance from Companies House and the Charities Commission for the accounts to be submitted after the due date for filing.

Audit - An audit is now required only for charities with a turnover of more than £500,000 a year. Due to the extra paperwork for the accounting firm involved in an audit as a consequence of the greatly expanded requirements from the International Standards on Auditing, an audit is considerably more expensive for a company than an independent examination. More information on the ISA : <http://www.frc.org.uk/apb/publications/isa.cfm>

Charities Commission recommends that Education Otherwise amend its rules to remove reference to audit

The terminology of EO's governing document lacks clarity and could be interpreted as saying that EO must have an audit rather than an independent examination, which would now cost the charity over three thousand pounds extra a year.

When it came to light that EO might be required to have an audit, Trustees sought comparative quotes from a range of registered auditors in order to minimise the financial burden on the charity. The following is an example of a typical reply:

"An audit is significantly more expensive than an Independent Examiners Report (IER), the type of report attached to the June 2008 accounts. This is the recommended type of report for a charity with income between £25,000 and £500,000. I note that your current accountants charged £1,000 for the IER. This seems quite reasonable. The accounts are very detailed eighteen pages I seem to remember."

The Charities Commission has recommended that EO change its governing document to remove the unnecessary and potentially costly reference to an auditor. Elsewhere in the newsletter we have set out how Trustees are working with charity and company lawyers to take forward the recommendations of the Charities Commission. There will be a chance to put questions to EO's lawyers at the next General Meeting and an opportunity to put questions to the accountant before the next AGM.

Revision of Education Otherwise's Governing Document

Education Otherwise is working with specialist lawyers to revise our Governing Document.

The current Memorandum & Articles of Association are based on the Companies Act of 1948 which have been greatly superseded by repealed and revised legislation in the area of company law and charity law.

<http://forum.education-otherwise.org/viewforum.php?f=59>

EO Policies and Paperwork

<http://forum.education-otherwise.org/viewtopic.php?f=59&t=737>

EO Memorandum and Articles of Association

Charities Act 2006 and Companies Act 2006

The most significant Acts are the Charities Act and the Companies Act of 2006. This puts EO in constant disagreement and tension over whether we should follow the law or whether we should follow our Governing Document. Members may be aware that the company regularly has to consult lawyers over differing interpretations of our Articles.

Charities Commission Recommendations

In addition the Charities Commission has long been recommending that EO revise and amend its Governing Document to permit the Company to be run more effectively and efficiently. The Charities Commission also advises that charities wishing to change their Governing Document should involve members in the process wherever possible and explain the thinking behind any proposed changes.

Everyman Legal

To this end Trustees would like to take the opportunity to introduce Alun Jones and James Hunt of Everyman Legal. You can watch short introductory videos about Everyman Legal from their new website here:

<http://www.everymanlegal.com/Home/tabid/37/Default.aspx>

Everyman Legal have had preliminary discussions with Trustees about the groundwork which will need to be done to revise our Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Meet EO's Legal Advisors

Both James and Alun have offered to attend a meeting with members and Trustees towards the end of October in order to answer questions about charity and company law and to explain the rationale behind the legal advice which is now being given to Trustees. More details of the meeting are announced elsewhere in the newsletter.

In order to keep costs to a minimum, the adjourned AGM will take place in the morning and the informal discussion session with lawyers will take place in the afternoon of the same day. Members wishing to meet James and Alun for the afternoon session should arrive promptly by 1pm. The meeting will close no later than 4pm.

Send your questions to EO by October 10th

If you have a specific question which you would like the lawyers to answer at the meeting, please send advance notification of your question c/o Education Otherwise either to our PO box address on the back cover or by email to: everymanquestions@educationotherwise.org by October 10th.

James and Alun feel it would also be beneficial for these questions and answers to be published in the December newsletter and on the Members' Forum.

Questions received after the 10th will not be taken formally at the meeting and will be held until after the end of the month when James and Alun will respond in writing. Questions may of course be taken informally during the discussion session but there is no guarantee that the topic will be covered in detail if the lawyers have not had sufficient time to research the issue.

How to Become a Voting Member in Education Otherwise

You can use your vote to choose Trustees for Education Otherwise and in this way you can have a say in the direction of EO. It is valuable to have a range of Trustees from different backgrounds with a diversity of views about EO's role in supporting home educators and defending the freedom of home educating families. Voting members are also eligible to stand for election as Trustees.

The next opportunity to vote in new Trustees will be at the Annual General Meeting in February/March 2010.

Ordinary members do not automatically have a vote in Education Otherwise unless they fill in the special Signed Up Member Form.

You don't have to attend meetings in order to have a vote

Please note that once you have become a Voting Member, you don't have to attend a Meeting in person in order to vote; EO supplies printed proxy forms for all voting meetings where you can nominate someone else to vote on your behalf. This could be another Voting Member known to you personally, or the Chair of the Meeting. If you do not know any other Signed Up Members, you can ask a Trustee to propose you for election. Trustees can be emailed via the contact form on the website or by using the contact details on the inside back page of the Newsletter.

If you want a vote you need to fill in a Signed Up Members Form and send ID and proof of address to PO Box 325, St Germans, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3XW. There is an administrative fee of £10 which can be paid by cheque or online at

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

A Signed Up Member Form is available in the

newsletter. Additional copies can also be found at the Members Forum:
<http://forum.education-otherwise.org/viewtopic.php?f=60&t=215>

Once you are a Voting Member you can also stand for election as a Trustee yourself.

Have You Ever Thought About Being a Trustee of Education Otherwise?

EO has a minimum of 14 Trustees. Every year a third of Trustees will stand down by rotation.

The next election will take place at the Annual General Meeting in February/March next year. If you want to become a Trustee of Education Otherwise you need to comply with the election rules which state that a voting member must propose you a month before the election and not less than four days before the election. Precise dates will be given in the next newsletter published at the beginning of December and also in the February newsletter.

As a rough guide your proposer should write to EO at the beginning of February.

You also need to confirm in writing yourself that you are willing to stand.

Letters should be sent to Trustees c/o PO Box 325, St Germans, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 3XW.

These election rules apply to EO for historic reasons and the current Trustees are working to update the rules and make the process more accessible and transparent.

Before the deadline for written proposals, EO will also publish brief introductions of prospective Trustees in the December and February newsletter. If you are thinking of standing as a Trustee, please write a couple of paragraphs about yourself and send it to the newsletter editor either by post or by email. A photograph would be most welcome but is not essential.

The Charities Commission recommends some degree of continuity in order for charities to remain stable but at the same time it is important that there should be new Trustees bringing a range of skills and experience and a fresh approach.

Charity trustees are the people who serve on the governing body of a charity. They may be known as trustees, directors, board members, governors or committee members. Charity trustees are responsible for the general control and management of the administration of a charity.

Advice from the Charities Commission for people considering becoming Trustees

Before you become a trustee, you should learn as much as you can about the charity, and what being a trustee will mean for you. For instance you should read the Annual Reports, important policies and the annual accounts which can be found here on the Charities Commission website <http://tinyurl.com/lnl6om>

You should also read the charity's Governing Document, though it must be noted that the Charities Commission and EO's legal advisors have recommended a number of changes to the current Governing Document and that this revision work is ongoing.

<http://forum.education-otherwise.org/viewforum.php?f=59>
EO Policies and Paperwork

<http://forum.education-otherwise.org/viewtopic.php?f=59&t=737>
EO Memorandum and Articles of Association

Education Otherwise is an incorporated charity

Education Otherwise is an incorporated charity which is a charitable company registered with Companies House as well as the Charity Commission. The company is a legal entity in its own right, and the trustees are the directors of the company. You can get more information

about the role and responsibilities of company directors here:

<http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/layer?topicId=1073870537>

EO Trustees

EO Trustees are required to meet a number of times a year and to be available for discussion via telephone and email between face to face meetings. There is a Trustee Induction Pack available and guidance from the Charities Commission on the duties and responsibilities of Charity Trustees.

<http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/publications/cc3.asp>

A message from the Chair and the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission to new charity trustees

Charities exist to create a better society. The range and scope of their work and the variety of people they help is amazing. Whether working locally, nationally or internationally they have a remarkable history of driving social change which is reflected all around us in the world we live in today.

Charities could do none of this without their trustees. You're probably reading this because you have just become a trustee yourself. If so, we welcome you to this role and thank you for taking it on. The commitment and energy you display will make a direct difference to your charity and everyone it helps. You don't have to be a hero or famous to change lives for the better - trusteeship allows you to do just that.

Being a trustee can be hard work and, for most, it's unpaid. The trustees have the ultimate responsibility for running a charity, for its property, finances and the employment of any staff or volunteers.

But being a trustee is also immensely rewarding, providing both expected and unexpected opportunities for personal development. And while you bring your skills and energy to running your charity, you will also find you are gaining new experience and knowledge.

For instance, you will help plan the strategic future of the charity and its work, be involved in developing and managing staff and volunteers and make policy decisions for your charity. You will also ensure it's accountable to its beneficiaries, to the Charity Commission and the public in general.

But you won't be on your own. You'll be joining a team of trustees and becoming part of the 900,000 charity trustees in England and Wales. Effective trustee boards need a range of people with a good mix of skills. The best boards are also diverse, with people who have a real understanding of the needs to be met and others with good financial, business and management experience. The rewards of working with, and learning from, people from different backgrounds and skills will be great.

We hope you will enjoy making a difference to society. And remember that, as well as regulating charities and protecting their reputation, the Charity Commission is here to help you and your fellow trustees.

As you read this guidance, you'll learn much more about your responsibilities and about the many sources of help and support.

Dame Suzi Leather
Chair

Andrew Hind
Chief Executive

Follow Education Otherwise Online

Twitter - Education Otherwise posts updates to the EO twitter account daily. Find us here: <http://twitter.com/EdOtherwise>

At the time of writing in September, we have 564 followers. To receive emails alerting you as soon as there is a new tweet, fill in the simple joining form on the Twitter page.

Facebook - EO has a facebook page here with 505 fans: <http://tinyurl.com/oo2fth>

We also have an open Facebook group which has 377 group members. <http://tinyurl.com/qrzn7a>

Education Otherwise YouTube

EO's first video School is not compulsory was uploaded to the new EO YouTube Channel on August 10th and had 1,000 views in the first 24 hours. At the time of writing it has been seen by almost 5,000 people.

You can watch the first five EO videos here: <http://www.youtube.com/user/EducationOtherwise>
Filming took place in July, primarily at the home educators' annual festival, Hefses and also at the House of Lords, courtesy of Lord Lucas who has been assisting EO in meetings with DCSF and Graham Badman.

Dr Alan Thomas's explanation of autonomous/personalised learning has been viewed over 2,400 times and the complementary film with interviews with parents has received more than 600 views. The EO video about the Badman Report has been seen over 1200 times. Both the interview with Lord Lucas and the short film "What about qualifications" have been watched 1,000+ times.

With over 100 subscribers the EO YouTube Channel is the 43rd most-subscribed not-for-profit channel in the world. Subscribers include not only many home educators in England but also Sandra Dodd, one of the most well-known advocates and supporters of autonomous education or unschooling. The main EO video School is not Compulsory is the 6th most viewed charity video in the country this month.

Education Otherwise website and EO Campaign Website

The new EO website which you can find here <http://www.education-otherwise.org/> has had around 590,000 visitors since its launch in October 2008.

The EO campaign site has been visited by 5,700 people in the past two weeks. <http://www.freedomforchildrentogrow.org/index.htm>

To sign up for email notification of news items simply type your email address in the confidential form at this website url: <http://www.freedomforchildrentogrow.org/subscribers.php> Over 400 people are already signed up for emails.

EO's Prospectus for Improving Support to Home Educating Families published at the beginning of May 2009 has had well over 6,000 views. <http://www.prospectus.education-otherwise.co.uk/>

Education Otherwise Trustees would like to give special thanks to Ann Newstead who maintains all these sites and lists in addition to being EO's Media Spokesperson and Local Contact for North West Kent.

Ann also edited and co-produced the EO YouTube films. In her spare time, Ann also home educates four boys.

Thanks Ann!

Adjourned Annual General Meeting to Consider EO's Accounts

Adjourned Annual General Meeting (AGM)

And an opportunity to meet EO Lawyers

Adjourned AGM 12noon -1pm

Lunch 1pm -2pm

Meet EO's lawyers for informal discussion 2pm - 4pm

The adjourned AGM will take place on Monday 26 October at: Holiday Inn, Birmingham Airport, Coventry Road, Birmingham B26 3QW

<http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/hi/1/en/hotel/bhxap>

BY CAR: From M1/M6/M40 join the M42. Leave at Junction 6 and take the A45 towards Birmingham for 2 miles. The hotel is on the right hand side.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Birmingham International Train Station is 2 miles from the hotel. The 5 minute taxi journey will cost around £5.

If you would like to attend this event, please contact Education Otherwise AGM at PO Box

325, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 3XW as soon as possible, giving names of those planning to attend either the AGM and/or the Meeting with EO's lawyers in the afternoon. Alternatively you can email this information to: agm@educationotherwise.org

The AGM from 12 noon to 1pm will consider the accounts to June 30th 2008. The accounts may be viewed free of charge here on the Charities Commission website - <http://tinyurl.com/kwe6lz>

Full notice with associated paperwork has been sent by post to EO's Voting Members.

Afternoon Session: A chance to meet EO's lawyers

From 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm there will also be an opportunity for EO members to meet the lawyers who are assisting EO in updating the Memorandum and Articles of Association which represent the Governing Document for Education Otherwise Association Ltd.

An article about James Hunt and Alun Jones of Everyman may be found in the current newsletter.

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<input type="checkbox"/> 400 Coins Assorted play learn	£16.45	£9.95

Special offers above show discounted prices for EO Members only

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Delivery **FREE**
Total _____

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EDUCATION OTHERWISE ASSOCIATION LIMITED SIGNED-UP MEMBERS FORM (SUM)

(Guarantor Declaration)

N.B. Please Complete Form in BLOCK CAPITALS

I (BLOCK CAPITALS)

wish to become a member of Education Otherwise Association Limited and confirm that I am over the age of 18. In the event of the Association being wound up I agree to contribute up to £10 in payment of any debts and liabilities it may have incurred.

I understand that the details I give on this form will be entered on to the Company's Register of Members and that under the Companies Act 2006, it is possible for someone to request sight of or a copy of this Register for a "proper purpose". Education Otherwise may then have to disclose my personal data. I have enclosed proof of my name and address along with a stamped SAE, and additionally if I require Education Otherwise to return these documents to me by first class recorded delivery - loose stamps to the value of £1.50.

Home Address (print in full):

Communications by email - I consent to Education Otherwise sending or supplying any document or information (including any notice) to me using electronic means. My email address for this purpose is:

Email address:

Signature of Member:

Date:

Make Sure You Have a Vote at EO General Meetings

At present only Signed Up Members are entitled to vote at EO General Meetings. These include Annual General Meetings (AGMs) where Trustees are elected and Extraordinary General Meetings (EGMs) which may take place between AGMs.

- Even if you are unable to attend a meeting yourself, you can still have a vote by appointing a proxy to vote on your behalf.
- Unless you have supplied your email address for correspondence and notices, Education Otherwise will continue to post any correspondence related to Signed up Members to the address which is given on this SUM form until the Company is advised in writing by the SUM that their address on the Register of Members should be changed. Such changes of address together with associated documents giving proof of residence should be sent to Education Otherwise, SUMs, PO Box 325, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 3XW.
- Please see Appendix for documents required re proof of name and address.

Appendix

We need to see at least one document which must confirm your name and current address. This document/s will be returned to you in the SAE you enclose with your completed form. You may send any of the following:

birth or marriage certificate; bank/building society statement *; mail order catalogue statement *; benefit statement - e.g. Child Allowance, Pension *; Utility Bill - electricity, gas, water, telephone-including mobile phone contract or bill *; council tax statement *; NHS card; or a document from Central/Local Government/Government Agency/Local Authority giving entitlement *; e.g. from Department for Work and Pensions, Employment Service, Customs & Revenue, Job Centre or Social Security.

* documentation should be less than six months old

Costs and Method of Payment

The administration fee payable runs for a year from receipt of your payment; a reminder notice will be sent by email if you have elected to receive communications this way or by post 3-4 weeks before your renewal date.

You may pay by cheque, by postal order, by using the "Additional Items" form on the Education Otherwise charity website and selecting the SUM Fee box at <http://www.education-otherwise.org/> or by phoning 08445 867541 and paying with your credit or debit card.

We are unable to confirm your membership of the company as a Signed Up Member until we have received your payment, your completed forms and identification documents.

Cheques or Postal Orders to be made payable to: "Education Otherwise Association Limited"

Payment Method (please circle): Cheque / Postal Order / Credit Card / Website Payment / Phone Payment

Annual Company Administration fee for Signed Up Members: £10

Amount of Payment Enclosed:

Administration Fee Enclosed £ _____

Credit/Debit Card Payment Authorisation (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Card No: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Issue Number _____

Valid From/Issue Date _____ Expiry Date _____ Last 3 digits on reverse of your card _____

Name (as it appears on the card) _____ Tel. No _____

Address on Statement (if different from above) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please return this form with your payment, a self addressed envelope and identity documents to: Education Otherwise SUMs, PO Box 325, St Germans, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 3XW.



EDUCATION OTHERWISE ASSOCIATION LIMITED SIGNED-UP MEMBERS FORM (SUM)

(Guarantor Declaration)

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Communications by email - I consent to Education Otherwise sending or supplying any document or information (including any notice) to me using electronic means. My email address for this purpose is:

Email address:

Signature of Member:

Date:

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birth or marriage certificate; bank/building society statement *; mail order catalogue statement *; benefit statement - e.g. Child Allowance, Pension *; Utility Bill - electricity, gas, water, telephone-including mobile phone contract or bill *; council tax statement *; NHS card; or a document from Central/Local Government/Government Agency/Local Authority giving entitlement *: e.g. from Department for Work and Pensions, Employment Service, Customs & Revenue, Job Centre or Social Security.

* documentation should be less than six months old

Costs and Method of Payment

The administration fee payable runs for a year from receipt of your payment; a reminder notice will be sent by email if you have elected to receive communications this way or by post 3-4 weeks before your renewal date.

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We are unable to confirm your membership of the company as a Signed Up Member until we have received your payment, your completed forms and identification documents.

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Payment Method (please circle): Cheque / Postal Order / Credit Card / Website Payment / Phone Payment

Annual Company Administration fee for Signed Up Members: £10

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Credit/Debit Card Payment Authorisation (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Card No: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Issue Number _____

Valid From/Issue Date _____ Expiry Date _____ Last 3 digits on reverse of your card _____

Name (as it appears on the card) _____ Tel. No _____

Address on Statement (if different from above) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please return this form with your payment, a self addressed envelope and identity documents to: Education Otherwise SUMs, PO Box 325, St Germans, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 3XW.

To Group Organisers: please remember when giving details of events that the EO newsletter can be read by people who are not EO members. If you would like your group to have a listing or if you have any changes to make to your existing entry you will need to complete and return a permission form. You can obtain a permission form by sending an sae to Education Otherwise Regional Diary, PO Box 325, St Germans, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3XW, by emailing regionaldiary@educationotherwise.org or by downloading one from the Official EO Forms board of the members forum on the new EO website.

Each adult whose contact details are listed for your group needs to complete a permission form before we can add their details to your entry, so if someone new wants to be added to your groups listing as contact, they will need to ask us for one of these forms before we can add their name and number or email address to the Regional Diary? Can group organisers please let the RD organiser know of any changes to venues, days and times or contact details for the group. Please call the group before attending to make sure it is happening, and if not please let me know. Not all groups listed are EO groups.

England

AVON

Bath Home Education Group, Meets fortnightly in term times. Free play. Activities and lunch. 1030-1pm. Plus theatre trips and days out. Maria, Email: yoga.maria@yahoo.co.uk

01761 420771

BEDFORDSHIRE

EOLC: Pauline, 08445 868894: beds-lc@educationotherwise.org

Bedfordshire Christian Home Ed :

scottandrachel@ntlworld.com

Busy B-HEs. Weekly drop in session offering chats and support and weekly activities, including art & play, cooking, indoor games plus other outdoor events and activities. Tel: Pauline 07791 850545 or Pauline@kc2001.fsnet.co.uk

BERKSHIRE

EOLC: Lynn, 08445 868842 : berkshire-lc@educationotherwise.org

Berkshire Home Educators, email list for home educators in Berkshire and surrounding areas:

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

Heroes Education Centre, group for home-ed young, 4 days/wk, workshops, lessons, activities. Dawn, 01628 783107: www.homeeducators.co.uk

BRISTOL

EOLC: Ian, Tel: 08445 003756 : bristol-lc@educationotherwise.org

Bristol Home Education Learn Place (HELP),

meeting Monday & Friday, Carla: 0117 9354389 : carla-maria@blueyonder.co.uk

Contacts & Events SW. An information network for families thinking of home educating, or moving into the area. Local groups/contacts/HEs are invited to

send any new details which they would like to be passed on. Contact: andrew.denise@hotmail.co.uk

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

EOLC: Georgeanna, 08445 003763 : bucks-lc@educationotherwise.org

MKHEN, Milton Keynes Home Educators Network

extends a warm welcome to all. Activities, social events and support. Also has an excellent relationship with LA.

www.mkhen.org.uk : Georgeanne : sienna-swift7@powernet.co.uk : www.mkhen.org.uk

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE - SOUTH

EOLC: Georgeanna - as above

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

EOLC: Sarah, 08445 003769 : cambs-lc@educationotherwise.org

Peterborough Home Educators, friendly group meeting twice weekly for activities including art, crafts, science, ice skating, bowling, cooking and lots more, Sarah : sarah.lambert7@ntlworld.com : 07784 169260

CHESHIRE

Cheshire-South EOLC: Sue, 08445 003781 : cheshire-lc1@educationotherwise.org

Cheshire-Macclesfield EOLC: Debbie, 08445

003832 : macclesfield-lc@educationotherwise.org

Mid Cheshire Home Educators, bi-monthly meetings and regular outings, Ange :

che@talktalk.net : <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mche>

SCANS-HEAG. Regular activities, meetings and trips for all ages. Separate teen activities. Carrie, 01782 786720 : scans.heag@yahoo.co.uk

CLEVELAND EOLC: Pauline, 08445 868897 : cleveland-lc@educationotherwise.org

CORNWALL

EOLC: Natasha, 08445 868849 : cornwall-
lc@educationotherwise.org

Contacts & Events SW. See Bristol for more info.
Contact andrew.denise@hotmail.co.uk

Cornwall Home Educators meet every Thursday. For
a copy of local newsletter contact Michelle.

Newsletter also covers other home ed events in
Cornwall: dickson.michelle@sky.com: 01326 250298

Menheniot nr Liskeard, Small School, Mondays term-
times. Activities aimed at 5-11 years, 10.30am-1.30pm
followed by time for playing, Tania, 01822 835902

Penzance, PZ Home Ed, Monday pm for workshop
during term-time, Ruth, 01736 350887

Pentiddy Woods, family group get-together in the
woods with games and woodland skills activities. Ele,
01579 363775 : ele@pentiddy.co.uk or Ruth, 0845
4560247

CUMBRIA EOLC: Jayne, 08445 003793 : cumbria-
lc@educationotherwise.org

South Cumbria Home Educators Yahoo Group, we
have a yahoo group to keep in touch and meet up in
various places in the area, to find out more please
email Jayne : jaynewoodbank@yahoo.co.uk

DERBYSHIRE - DERBY CITY EOLC: Karen, 08445
003796 : derby-lc@educationotherwise.org

Derby Group, AHEAD :

ahead.derbygroup@yahoo.com

I have permission from DHEG (Derby Home
Education Group) to ask you to add some details about
a couple of activities. Every Monday - Gym club, fun
physical movement and team games at a sports centre
with an instructor. Over 8s 10am, under 8s 11am.

Every fortnight (Thurs) informal meet up at JJBs
soft play area. There is also a yahoo list where
families can find out more details:

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

DEVON

All Devon details available from :
southdevongroup@googlemail.com

East Devon & Exeter EOLC: Kate 08445 003798 :
eastdevon-lc@educationotherwise.org

Contacts & Events SW. See Bristol entry for
details. Contact: andrew.denise@hotmail.co.uk

Exeter Home Education Community, Pottery sessions
weekly in well equipped studio. Neil, 01363 82314
east

Exeter Free Range Learning, meets Wednesdays,
social group for all ages, Annie, 01392 434167

Exeter Free Range Learning Youth, Youth and Social
group every Tuesday, Erinn, 01392 434167

Exeter Home Education Community, every
Wednesday, social group for all ages, get to talk to

other families about home education, have a chat etc.
plus Science, Spanish, Yoga, plus singing with Jackie
Oates and various other activities put on by other
families (come along and share something that
worked in your family). Lisa 01392 421614

Exeter Home Education Community, GCSE Group,
there will be teenagers doing 5 or 6 different
GCSE's in September, contact Neil 01363 82314
Exeter Home Education Community, Green
Woodwork and Permaculture, contact Neil 01363
82314

DEVON-NORTH EOLC: Jo, 08445 868843 :
northdevon-lc@educationotherwise.org

North Devon, Home Grown Kids, Twice weekly
meetings and events. **Swimbridge**, Weds 1.30-4.30pm

Barnstaple, Fridays, Funderzone Term time only,
Jo, EO Local Contact North Devon : 08445
868843

DEVON-SOUTH EOLC: Bridget, 08445 003804 :
devons-lc@educationotherwise.org

Buckfastleigh, Wildspace. Nature study and
gardening group based at Buckfastleigh Town Hall.
Also Devon Home Education Newsletter.

A free monthly email newsletter listing events
throughout Devon. Also available by post for a small
subscription. Tel: Lucinda 01364 644556 or email:
l.guy@dartington.ac.uk

South Devon Home Education Group meets: Monday
+ Friday for swimming; Wednesday, Social and
Educational meeting; Thursday for workshops. For all
these meetings, Bridget, 08445 003804 : devons-
lc@educationotherwise.org or Lucinda Tel: 01364
644556 Email: l.guy@dartington.ac.uk

South Devon Home Education Group, meet at
Harberton Parish Hall, near Totnes. Lucinda :
southdevongroup@googlemail.com Tel: 01364 644556
Dartmoor Home Education Group, New Group to
support growing home-ed network on Dartmoor!! We
welcome home-ed families, flexi-schoolers, and part-
timers. Social and educational meetings on Thursdays
in North Bovey/Chagford area. Emma Tel: 1647
440443 Email: emmabradypicone@gmail.com

Dart Valley Home Ed Network, Out and about visits:
Natural History, History and Photography and more.
Members only internet group. Hannah & Gordon,
01803 762788 : lindnich@tesco.net

DEVON/DORSET/SOMERSET BORDERS

Home Education Centre, 2 days/week. Workshops,
sports, activities and support.

www.homeeducationcentre.org.uk : Karen, 01460
30461 : karen@homeeducationcentre.org.uk : or
Louise, 01460 61325

DORSET

Dorset-North EOLC: Sharon, 08445 003807 :

ndorset-1c@educationotherwise.org

Dorset-East (Bournemouth) EOLC: Vicki, 08445

003726 : Bournemouth-1c@educationotherwise.org

Dorset-East (Poole) EOLC: Carol, 08445 003848 :

poole-1c@educationotherwise.org

Contacts & Events SW. See Cornwall entry for more

info. Contact andrew.denise@hotmail.co.uk

North Dorset, HEOND (Home Educators of North

Dorset), Friendly group, meeting weekly in

Sturminster Newton, June, 01258 471949 :

bugchick@mac.com

Bournemouth, HEED, weekly Monday meetings, Carol,

01202 677066 : carolstonehe@yahoo.co.uk : www.he-

ed.org.uk

DURHAM

Roots Day 2nd Thursday of the month. Co-operative

games, crafts, nature studies. All held outside on

smallholding near Durham City Tel: 0771 9530 472

French, Mondays 1230. Durham City. Tel: 0771 9530

472

ESSEX

EOLC: Corinne, 08445 003808 : essex-

1c@educationotherwise.org

Chelmsford, monthly meetings, 3rd Thursday, 2 -

4pm. Sarah, tower@tesco.net: Lena, choccyfudge-

go@yahoo.co.uk

Leigh on Sea, Thames Kids Club, meetings held

Fridays from 11am to 3pm in Leigh on Sea. £3 per

family. thameskidsclub@googlemail.com : Roxy, 01702

334521: Raquel, 07958 045885 : Thea, 01702

309869

Essex Home Educators, meetings monthly in

Chelmsford, Colchester and Tiptree, and weekly in

Southend. There are also regular meetings for

swimming, bowling and ice skating, etc., and at least

two trips out around the county each month. Details

of all these in Essex Epicycle Newsletter available by

email, Corinne : epicycle@wavy.org

Clacton Home Education: social group meets

regularly in and around Clacton-on-Sea. Also a teen

gathering bi-monthly in Little Clacton.

Tel: Shirley 01255 862182

Email: indigoshirl@gmail.com

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Cirencester and Cotswold Meetings. Will answer

queries about home education in general and offer

information about local groups and activities. Pam:

pjp@ragingbull.com : 01285 721008

Stroud, email group keeps families in touch, anyone

can arrange an activity or get together. Nick, 01453

840036 : nick.weir@localfood.org.uk

Forest of Dean, meet monthly on a Thursday, 12.15 -

16.00, for bridge and dam building, river clearance,

fire building, woodland walks, indoor and outdoor

games, raft building. Roxy : cdsnhf@googlemail.com

Glos-based Otherwise Club. Yearly camp at Biblins,

Symonds Yat. Information about local events,

meetings, outings. Fiona Brookes - Email:

brookesfam@tiscali.co.uk

Gloucestershire, Beverley, 01242 524091

HAMPSHIRE

Southampton and area, SEEDS, for children age 3+,

home educators in Southampton and area, Lyn:

www.groups.yahoo.com/group/seeds1

Havant area, ActiveO, meetings most weekdays :

www.activeo.org.uk : Julie, 01243 552472

North Hampshire, NHEO. Open to all home

educators in North Hants & surrounding areas.

Regular meetings in Basingstoke, ice skating & other

activities. http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/NHEO/:

Jaki, 07731 805323 : jakiparsons@yahoo.co.uk

Hampshire, FRHEBEEs, Friendly informative group

covering the New Forest, West Hampshire, South

Wiltshire area, Karen, 01425 656856 :

karence@btinternet.com

Hampshire West, Fordingbridge and Ringwood

Home Educators, FRHEBees-

owner@yahooogroups.com

Hampshire & Surrey Farnham Home Ed Group,

friendly social group, meeting fortnightly on

Thursdays. Serving Farnham, Aldershot and

surrounding areas. Paul, 01252 316497 :

paula.oakley@talk21.com

HEREFORDSHIRE (+ Monmouthshire)

Monmouth Home Educators, meetings on Tuesdays at

Rockfield Community Centre for fun and friendship,

arts, crafts, games and sports - football, hockey,

rounders, cricket. All ages welcome. Check for dates

and times. Roxy, 01989 768128 :

cdsnhf@googlemail.com

HERTFORDSHIRE

EOLC: Maya, 08445 003816 : herts-

1c@educationotherwise.org

Herts Home Educators Yahoo Group for events and

friendship. To join please email Karen:

karenbartlett@btinternet.com

ISLE OF MAN

EOLC: 08445 003949 : isleofman-

1c@educationotherwise.org

ISLE OF WIGHT

EOLC: Shara, 08445 003819 : iow-

1c@educationotherwise.org

KENT

North West, EOLC: Ann, 08445 868839 : kent-

1c@educationotherwise.org

UK Home Educators, fortnightly meetings in Chatham, regular park days and monthly activities. Ann: kent-ic@educationotherwise.org: 08445 868839 Dragonfly Group, fortnightly meetings for all ages. We are a fun social group who also meet up midweek for outings and events. Tel: Andrea 01304 619112 or 07737 806478

Hayes Group, meet alternate Fridays, 11am to 2pm, Debbie, 07730 955395

Kent, Sussex & Surrey (on the border of all 3 counties) F.L.A.G.S, active group meeting weekly during termtime for hall activities, sports and outings. Karen, 01732 864524: karenlow@uwclub.net : www.flags-education.org

Kent, Sussex, Surrey, www.southeast-home-educators.co.uk South East Home Educators & Wealden Home Education Network. Group who try to meet regularly for trips out. Bowling, swimming, workshops and museums. Meet fortnightly in Tonbridge Wells for adults and children to get together. Lizelle, 01732 883850: lizelle@lizellefdb.com or Bo, 07853 945206

LANCASHIRE

EOLC: Kath, 08445 868829: lancs-ic2@educationotherwise.org

LEICESTERSHIRE

Syston HE. A fun and lively group for the under 10s. We meet twice a month and each session has a theme - with art and science activities to help explore the topic.

Tammy, mathamsam@btinternet.com ;

Vikki, martinivikki@aol.com ;

Christine, christine_wells@yahoo.com

Leicestershire, HE-AL, <http://www.he-al.org.uk/index.html>

LINCOLNSHIRE

EOLC: Janet, 08445 868862: lincs-ic@educationotherwise.org

North Hykeham Home Education Group, meet every Thursday 10-1130ish primarily for toddlers.

Phone/text 07870 787328 Email: debi-crow@googlegmail.com

LINCOLNSHIRE SOUTH

EOLC: Susanna, 08445 003861: southlincs-ic@educationotherwise.org

LONDON

London, Brandram Roaders, Meet 11-1pm Thursdays during term time at Brandram Road Community Centre, SE13 5RT (off Lee High Road) Then to nearby park. Ages mostly 0-12 yrs. All welcome. Subs £2 per family. Joolz, 020 8289 5026 : teachyourown@hotmail.com

London, Fulham HE. Fridays from 11am, age 5+ (siblings welcome). Tennis, basketball lessons. Open

house, play in park and some field trips. Kellan, 020 7384 3332 or 07796 687029

East London, Forest Group, meets every Tuesday from 1:15 pm to 3:45 pm at Quaker Meeting House, Bush Road, Leytonstone, London E11: Helen, 020 8553 0015 : h_long@sky.com : Ola Gasson 020 8520 0648 : olaglasson@googlegmail.com

UK Home Educators, London/Kent, meetings in Bromley and Orpington. Outings and group events monthly. Ann: kent-ic@educationotherwise.org : 08445 868839

London-NW, The Otherwise Club. A community centre for families choosing to educate their children out of school, Leslie, 020 8969 0893

Dulwich, Woodland Club, age 8-teen. Science, Maths, various speakers, social afternoon. Idyllic venue. Gina, 020 8299 1135

Woodlands Study Group, 11yr old and over; English, Maths and Science classes every Monday, term time in Dulwich SE22 : deniseriddy@aol.com

East London, Magpie Home Educators. Meet every Friday, 1-3pm for social activities. All ages welcome. Corner Forest Lane and Magpie Close, Forest Gate. Annalise, 020 8500 1053 : annalise@tesco.net

Haringey Home Education Club. Group meets alternate Weds 12-4pm. See www.hhec.org.uk for details. Gaby, 020 8881 9463 : contact@hhec.org.uk

Hackney, Adventures with Education. Hackney group meets weekly in term time, Tuesdays 11am-3pm, Chris Swift 020 7254 4988

London Local
East EOLC: Stephen, 08445 003821 : londoneast-ic@educationotherwise.org

Enfield EOLC: Tina, 08445 868836 : enfield-ic@educationotherwise.org

North, EOLC: Tina, Tel: 08445 003823 Email: londonnorth-ic@educationotherwise.org

North West EOLC: Tina, 08445 003826 : londonnw-ic@educationotherwise.org

S.E. EOLC: Keith & Chrystia, 08445 003827 : londonsw-ic@educationotherwise.org

SW Joint EOLC: Rehena, 08445 003828 : londonsw-ic@educationotherwise.org

SW Joint EOLC: Lei, 08445 003829 : londonsw-ic@educationotherwise.org

Waltham Forest EOLC: Jo & Jerry, 08445 003867 : walthamforest-ic@educationotherwise.org

N.IRELAND

EOLC: Shevaun, 08445 003842 : nireland-ic@educationotherwise.org

NORFOLK

EOLC: Gita 08445 003836 : norfolk-ic@educationotherwise.org

Chedgrave, We meet every Friday at Chedgrave and details of our meetings and other info can be found on our yahoo group pages:

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

Thetford, swimming and indoor sports/play. Waterworld Leisure Centre, Thetford, Term-time Thurs 2.30-4.30pm, but weeks can vary so please ring first. Faye, 01953 681785

NORFOLK-WEST

West Norfolk Home Educators, email list for home educators in West Norfolk:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/WestNorfolkHomeEducators>

Kings Lynn H.E. Weekly Monday Get-together 1-3pm in Kings Lynn. Kirsten: 01485 540724 or murraybeers@yahoo.co.uk

NORFOLK-SOUTH

EOLC: Anne, 08445 868904 : norfolksouth-lc@educationotherwise.org

NORFOLK-BRECKLAND

EOLC: Hannah, Tel: 08445 003998 : norfolkbreckland-lc@educationotherwise.org

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

EOLC: 08445 003841 : northants-lc@educationotherwise.org

Northants HE. Informal Group meets regularly for various activities www.northantshe.org.uk : info@northantshe.org.uk

iFLOW (It's fun learning our way). Co-operative group meeting weekly Thursdays in Brixworth. Fun and engaging activities according to children's interest. www.iflow.org.uk or email: secretary@iflow.org.uk or Tel: Juno 01604 505977

NORTHUMBERLAND-North

EOLC: 08445 003843 : northumberlandnorth-lc@educationotherwise.org

NOTTINGHAM CITY

EOLC: 08445 003846 : nottinghamcity-lc@educationotherwise.org

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

EOLC: Jenifer, 08445 003961 : notts-lc@educationotherwise.org

OXFORDSHIRE

EOLC: Louisa, 08445 868873 : oxfordshire-lc@educationotherwise.org

RUTLAND

EOLC: Iain & Jacqueline, 08445 003853 : rutland-lc@educationotherwise.org

SHROPSHIRE

Newport, Nr Telford, Newport Home Education Group, meetings 1st and 3rd Friday every month.

Outings on other Fridays, from 12.30pm, for all ages. Juliang, 01952 401571, weshalllook@aol.com

SOMERSET

EOLC: Vivian, 08445 003858 : somerset-lc@educationotherwise.org

Contacts & Events SW. See Bristol entry for more info. Contact andrew.denise@hotmail.co.uk

Wells Swimming Group, meets weekly for swimming at Wells Leisure Centre - term time only. Lesley, 01749 689241 : mumfordturner@hotmail.com

Wiveliscombe/Taunton area group, monthly meetings on 1st Tuesday of month at Oake Village Hall, & regular outings. Maggie, 01984 624651

Somerset/Dorset/Devon borders, Home Education Centre, 2 days/week. Workshops, sports, activities and support. New group starting Yeovil area Fri Mornings. www.homeeducationcentre.org.uk : Karen, 01460 30461 : karen@homeeducationcentre.org.uk : or Louise, 01460 61325

Yeovil: lyn@homeeducationcentre.org.uk

North Somerset Home Education Group, weekly childrens gym, walks, outings etc, Vicky, 01275 848425 : victoria.preston@yahoo.co.uk

Shepton Mallet, FAB Home Education Group Social Meeting - Fortnightly on Tuesdays from 1.30-3.30pm at Shepton Mallet Scout Hut, Old Wells Road. £2.50 per family to cover refreshments and hire of hall. Mandy 01749 347799 : Jojo 01458 443674

Bath Home Education Group, a new group still in it's early stages consisting of children ages 3-7 years and a couple of 2 year olds. Maria, 01761 420771 : yoga.maria@yahoo.co.uk

STAFFORDSHIRE

EOLC Moorlands - Anne - 08445 008461

EOLC Mid - Astrid - 08445 003963

EOLC - Sue - 003781

SCANS-HEAG. Regular activities, meetings and trips for all ages. Separate teen activities. Carrie, 01782 786720 : scans.heag@yahoo.co.uk

Stafford HESEO (Home Educators Supporting Each Other) Meeting 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month, 12-3pm, bring lunch. Karen, 01543 422577 : karen@karisto.co.uk

SUFFOLK

EOLC: Sue, 08445 868913 : suffolk-lc@educationotherwise.org

Wetherden, meetings, 3rd Friday of the month 10.30am till 3pm, Wendy, 01449 614772 :

wenlyn@talktalk.net
Dennington, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 1030-130pm. Wide range of activities, all ages welcome. Janet: 01728 638795 or Meraylah 01986 785302.

SURREY

EOLC: Katie, Tel: 08445 003964 : surrey-lc@educationotherwise.org

Godalming Group, meets alternate Mondays. Serves South West Surrey and surrounding area. Ruth: www.swsurrey-home-ed.co.uk

Sutton/Epsom HE Group, all ages welcome, currently mainly under 10s. Liz: julysea@yahoo.co.uk or Paul: paulmsn@hotmail.com Tel: 07506 781796

SUSSEX & SURREY & KENT (on the border of all 3 counties)

F.L.A.G.S, active group meeting weekly during term time for hall activities, sports and outings. Karen, 01732 864524 : karenlow@uwclub.net : www.flags-education.org

SUSSEX-EAST

EOLC: Winnie, 08445 003863 : sussexeast-lc@educationotherwise.org

HEDGE based in **Hastings**, meet every Friday : www.hedge-education-org; Catherine, 01424 812213

Forest Row, regular social gatherings and tutorial groups. Winnie, 01342 826087 : artofchange@msn.com

SUSSEX-WEST

Chichester area, ActiveEO, meetings most weekdays : www.activeo.org.uk : Julie 01243 552472

Sussex - Home Educating in West Sussex Facebook Group. A group for home educators and the home educated in West Sussex. Events most weeks all organised on Facebook. Look up Katie Pybus on Facebook or roger.katie@virgin.net or Tel: 01798 875071

TYNE & WEAR(NEWCASTLE):

EOLC: Rosemary, 08445 003866 : tynewear-lc@educationotherwise.org

WARWICKSHIRE EOLC: June, 08445 003869 : wars-lc@educationotherwise.org

WARWICKSHIRE - COVENTRY

EOLC: Sarah, 08445 003792 : coventry-lc@educationotherwise.org

Coventry and Warwickshire Home Educators, monthly meetings held at various locations, plus monthly outings and activities. Full details in HELM (West Midlands)

Coventry meetings 4th Tuesday 1pm to 4pm : sarah@nellyb.co.uk **Wolston** meetings 2nd Thursday : lloyd@dash20.fsnet.co.uk

WARWICKSHIRE - RUGBY

EOLC: Fay, 08445 003852 : rugby-lc@educationotherwise.org

WEST MIDLANDS

Wolverhampton & Walsall EOLC: Debbie, 08445 003871 : wolverhampton-lc@educationotherwise.org

Sandwell EOLC: Andrea, 08445 003856 : sandwell-lc@educationotherwise.org

Birmingham EOLC: Stuart, 08445 003967 : Birmingham-lc@educationotherwise.org

HELM Newsletter, HE related articles and events throughout the West Midlands and surrounding areas. helmeditor2112@blueyonder.co.uk : Jane, 01562 720046 : Andrew, 07709 468140

WILTSHIRE

EOLC: 08445 868907 : wilts-lc@educationotherwise.org

Salisbury, social group meets Monday, fortnightly, 1-4pm. Large hall, skate park, play park, football pitch, basketball. Inside we have games, pool and table-tennis. We have a real mix of ages including teenagers. Very friendly and new faces welcome. Ally, 01722 710525

WORCESTERSHIRE

EOLC: Sue, 08445 868846 : worcs-lc@educationotherwise.org

North Worcestershire/Kidderminster meetings, please see Worcs newsletter or contact Gail, 01562 822034 : gail@1921.net

YORKSHIRE EAST

EOLC: Alison, 08445 003874 : yorkshireeast-lc@educationotherwise.org

Withernsea LC: Linda, 08445 003873 : withernsea-lc@educationotherwise.org

YORKSHIRE NORTH + EAST

near Malton, meets weekly, Mondays, 12-4pm, viv@flamangoes.co.uk : 01904 788374 (York and surrounding area) or tess@chrisgeall.com: 01947 825772 (East N Yorks)

YORKSHIRE NORTH

EOLC: Denise, 08445 868852 : yorkshirenorth-lc@educationotherwise.org

Harrogate Home Ed Group. Meetings held on 1st and 3rd Thursday each month. 13.30 to 15.30 Great Ouseburn Village Hall, between York and Harrogate. Kate: eldiva1@googlemail.com : 07724 065091

YORKSHIRE NORTH+WEST

N/W Home Ed Group, meets **Skipton** monthly and **Bradford Gym Club** - Meets weekly. Regular meetings and outings. Judith, 01756 791356

YORKSHIRE SOUTH

Barnsley EOLC: Amanda, 08445 868854 : barnsley-lc@educationotherwise.org

Doncaster EOLC: Nicola, 08445 003806 : doncaster-lc@educationotherwise.org

Rotherham EOLC: Jayne, 08445 003851 : rotherham-lc@educationotherwise.org

Sheffield EOLC: Fiona, 08445 003857 or Alison, 08445 008458 : sheffield-lc@educationotherwise.org

YORKSHIRE WEST

Bradford EOLC: Gillian, 08445 853891 : bradford-
lc@educationotherwise.org

Wakefield EOLC: Nicole, 08445 868874 : wakefield-
lc@educationotherwise.org

Huddersfield, Book Group, Monday, monthly, 2-3pm.
Marsden Library - age range 6-12 yrs. Jane, 01484
645034

Huddersfield Home Educators, Monthly themed
meetings with crafts, games etc. Weds Monthly
1030-3 Paddock Scout Hall. Tel: Helen 01484
841041

Huddersfield, Art Workshops, Thursday, monthly,
10-11am, ages up to 8yrs. £1.30-3.30pm, ages 8+.
Huddersfield Art Gallery. Mandy, 01484 460026:
Jane, 01484 645034

Huddersfield Group - Lunch and Chat, Thursday,
monthly, 11.30 to 1.30pm, Mandy, 01484 460026

Wales

ANGLESEY

EOLC: Nick, 08445 003713 anglesey-
lc@educationotherwise.org

CONWY

EOLC: Dawn, 08445 003791 : conwy-
lc@educationotherwise.org

DENBIGHSHIRE

Joint EOLC: 08445 003794 : denbighshire-
lc@educationotherwise.org

Joint EOLC: 08445 868916 : denbighshire-
lc1@educationotherwise.org

FLINTSHIRE

EOLC: 08445 868851 : flintshire-
lc@educationotherwise.org

Cardiff Home Ed Group, we meet every Wednesday
from 12noon to efa.rosina@yahoo.co.uk

GWENT EOLC: Bronwen, 08445 003812 : gwent-
lc@educationotherwise.org

GWYNEDD

Joint EOLC: Nick, 08445 003813 : Gwynedd-
lc@educationotherwise.org

Joint EOLC: Julie, 08445 008547 : Gwynedd-
lc2@educationotherwise.org

Tregarth, Creative Learning and Support, meet
every Wednesday 12 - 5pm. Free weekly newsletter
of events via email. Active website at:
www.creativelearningandsupport.co.uk Nick - 01407
811049 : Julie, 01286 678181:
jdchapmanmaurice@aol.com

North West Wales. CLAS - Creative Learning and Support. CLAS was born during 2005 and is the name of a group collective of like-minded parents and children living predominantly in North West Wales who believe in the ethos of home learning and education. www.creativelearningandsupport.co.uk

MONMOUTHSHIRE (+ HEREFORDSHIRE)

Monmouth Home Educators, meetings on Tuesdays at Rockfield Community Centre for fun and friendship, arts, crafts, games and sports - football, hockey, rounders, cricket. Check for dates and times. Roxy: cdsnhf@googlemail.com : 01989 768128

PEMBS EOLC: Yvette, 08445 003847 : pembrokeshire-
lc@educationotherwise.org

POWYS EOLC: 08445 003849 : powys-
lc@educationotherwise.org

Newtown, New Leaf Group. Fortnightly meetings for all ages, for activities, socialisation and play : siouxcatsy@yahoo.co.uk

Powys Yahoogroup, advertising home-ed activities in Powys for home educating families : siouxcatsy@yahoo.co.uk

NE WALES/BORDERS.

WREXHAM EOLC: 08445 003872 : wrexham-
lc@educationotherwise.org

Froncysyllte, HENWOS, fortnightly group meets 10-4pm. Social play and chat. Monthly newsletter for NE Wales area activities and events: kruger37@tiscali.co.uk

Scotland

Angus, Dundee, Perth & Kinross EOLC: Marley, 08445 868896: dundee-
lc@educationotherwise.org

Borders EOLC: Jane, 08445 003716 : borders-
lc@educationotherwise.org

Aberdeenshire EOLC: Fiona, 08445 003712 : aberdeenshire-
lc@educationotherwise.org

Highland & Isles EOLC: Lesley, 08445 003817 : highlandislands-
lc@educationotherwise.org

Clacks, Falkirk, N Lanarks & Stirling EOLC: Janice, 08445 003789 : stirling-
lc@educationotherwise.org

Other Areas:

scotlandenquiry@educationotherwise.org

Overseas

Australasia: Nicky, Email: australasia-
lc@educationotherwise.org

Americas: Sandy, 08445 853873 : americas-
lc@educationotherwise.org

New volunteers for any of the groups or other vacancies most welcome, with expertise or just an interest. For more information email the group, write to EO's PO Box address or contact one of the Trustees listed (in italics). If you would prefer to volunteer for infrequent or small tasks please contact Lynda: database@educationotherwise.org

Small Groups:

- **Finance Group** Tel: 08445 003986
(financegroup@educationotherwise.org)

Fiona Nicholson, Roarke Newstead,

Lynda Hitchman

- **Govt. Policy Group** Tel: 08445 003987
(governmentpolicy@educationotherwise.org): *Fiona Nicholson, Annette Taberner, Ann Newstead, Jo Berry, Kira Patefield-Smith, Julie Bunker* (Midlands regional member)

- **Disability Group**: Tel: 08445

003984

disabilityawareness@educationotherwise.org

Fiona Nicholson, Julie Bunker, Christine Waterman

- **Scotland Group**: Tel: 08445 003989

(scotlandenquiry@educationotherwise.org)

Fiona Chaff, Rebecca Kail, Jane Bathgate, Jan Atkinson

- **Website and Publications Editorial Committee (WPEC)**:

(wpec@educationotherwise.org) Tel: 08445 003991

Fiona Nicholson, Lynda Hitchman

Complaints:

Email: complaints@educationotherwise.org Write:
PO Box 325, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3XW

- *Jo Berry* ~ 08445 884596
- *Pauline Butterworth* ~ 08445 884597
- *Lynda Hitchman* ~ 08445 884598

EO Yahoogroups:

EO runs a general list and single parent list with Yahoogroups. They're open to all, members and non-members.

To join the general list go to:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/eo>

To join the single parent list, go to:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/EO-SingleParent/>

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 Spokesperson: *Ann Newstead*, 08445 867548
media-spokesperson@educationotherwise.org

Northern Ireland: *Marion Kenny*, 08445 884528
ni@educationotherwise.org

North East: *Eva O'Rourke, Wilsden* 08445 884529
northeast@educationotherwise.org

Wales (S): *Celia McDonagh, Cardiff*, 08445 884531
wales1@educationotherwise.org

Wales(N): 08445 884532
wales2@educationotherwise.org

South West (Acting): *Kay & Simon Smith*, 08445 884533
southwest@educationotherwise.org

South East: *Ann Newstead, Kent* 08445 003978
southeast@educationotherwise.org

London: *Winnie Durdant-Hollamby*, 08445 884534
london2@educationotherwise.org

Isle of Wight: *Shara Ouston, Ryde*, 08445 884569
iow@educationotherwise.org

EO E-mail Lists & Forums:

There is a Members Forum on the EO website, with discussion and support forums for members to chat and get information about home education etc., as well as EO business, and lots of other info (eg past NL articles, minutes of OTMs, etc). There are separate forums for EO Volunteers and Local Contacts and a new forum where EO children can chat together - a recent addition is a role-playing board. To join the member's forum, register using the form at this url on EO's site: <http://forum.education-otherwise.org/index.php>

To join the children's forum, both you and your child need to register from the above link and you need to complete the permission form that will be emailed to your child's email address and return it to us at: childrensforum@educationotherwise.org Do email if you have problems joining and we'll try and help.

Who Does What in EO

Trustees – Email: trustees@educationotherwise.org
Letters to: PO Box 325, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 3XW

Leslie Barson (London) ~ 08445 868817
lbarson@educationotherwise.org

Jo Berry, (Cheshire) ~ 08445 868821
jberry@educationotherwise.org (Enquiries Secretary)

Pauline Butterworth (Cleveland) ~ 08445 868826
pbutterworth@educationotherwise.org (Treasurer)

Nicola Haxell (S Yorks) ~ 08445 868824
nhaxell@educationotherwise.org (NL Coordinator)

Celia McDonagh (Glamorganshire) ~ 08445 883514 ~
cmcdonagh@educationotherwise.org

Ann Newstead (Kent) ~ 08445 853899 ~
anewstead@educationotherwise.org

Roarke Newstead (Kent) ~ 08445 868813
aroarke@educationotherwise.org

Fiona Nicholson (S Yorks) ~ 08445 868831
fnicholson@educationotherwise.org

Vicki Skinner (Dorset) ~ 08445 883513
vskinner@educationotherwise.org

Valerie Sauve (London) ~ 08445 853896
vsauve@educationotherwise.org

Annette Taberner (S Yorks) ~ 08445 003992
ataberner@educationotherwise.org

Henrietta Turnbull (Kent) ~ 08445 003897
hturnbull@educationotherwise.org

Judi Wilson (London) ~ 08445 853897
jwilson@educationotherwise.org

Colin Wilson (London) ~ 08445 008462
cwilson@educationotherwise.org

Memberships

Membership and newsletter subscription enquiries, address changes, membership cards, new member admin, other queries or missing newsletters contact: ~ Lynda Hitchman ~ Education Otherwise, PO Box 325, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 3XW ~ 08445 867541 membership@educationotherwise.org

Stationery

Leaflets, posters, compliment slips, membership forms, car stickers etc: free (donations toward postage welcome). ~ Gail Borrows ~ 08445 867549 ~ c/o PO Box 325, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3XW ~ stationery@educationotherwise.org

Data Protection/Confidentiality/Privacy

Data Protection Officer ~ Joss Nowell ~ 08445 003706
dataprotectionofficer@educationotherwise.org

Lynda Hitchman ~ 08445 867541
database@educationotherwise.org

Useful Contacts

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.

Anti Bullying Support ~ Juno Charlett ~ 08445 003692
anti-bullying@educationotherwise.org

Autonomous Education Support: Maya Lucas ~ 08445 003697
autonomoussupport@educationotherwise.org

Campaign Team Contact: Fiona Nicholson ~ 08445 884593
c/o PO Box 325, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 3XW
governmentpolicy@educationotherwise.org

College Contact: Roger Scaife ~ 08445 868918
~ collegetcontact@educationotherwise.org

Concessions: VOLUNTEER NEEDED - Lucinda Smart ~ 08445 003698
concessions@educationotherwise.org

Designated Person: Jim Clossick ~ 08445 869091 ~ For EO members to call if they have concerns about a home educated child and are unsure about phoning the NSPCC.

Enquiries Secretary: Jo Berry ~ 08445 883539
enquirysecretary@educationotherwise.org

GCSE Contacts: Contact names to follow shortly ~ 08445 003708
gcsecontact@educationotherwise.org

LA Liaison Volunteer: Julie Beviss ~ 08445 003709
laliaison@educationotherwise.org

LearnPremium & EO Members Forum Admin: Lynda Hitchman
08445 867541 learnpremium@educationotherwise.org or
forums@educationotherwise.org

Local Contacts Co-ordinator: Carla MacGregor ~ 08445 003876
lcco-ordinator@educationotherwise.org

Membership Secretary: 08445 003879
membershipsecretary@educationotherwise.org

Newsletter Coordinator: Nicola Haxell ~ 08445 883532
nlcco-ordinator@educationotherwise.org

Publications Secretary: 08445 003886
pubssecretary@educationotherwise.org

Research Contact: Please contact at present:
governmentpolicy@educationotherwise.org

School Anxiety Support: Jayne Owen ~ 08445 008469
anxiety-support@educationotherwise.org

Single Parent Family Contact: ~ 08445 884527

Special Needs: Christine Waterman ~ 08445 003887
specialneeds@educationotherwise.org

Structured Support: Jennifer Simmons ~ 08445 003996
structured-ed@educationotherwise.org

Treasurer: Pauline Butterworth ~ 08445 003889
treasurer@educationotherwise.org

education otherwise

Education Otherwise is a membership organisation that 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:

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

Helpline 0845 478 6345

Information can also be found on the Education Otherwise website:

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

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