

education otherwise®

***How We Home Educate***

***Home Education Around  
the World - South Africa***

***Home Education  
and Social Skills***

**£3**

***Newsletter - Autumn 2011***

## **SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE**

**The deadline for inclusion in the Winter 2011 issue is 1st November  
(news items, 15th November, children's/penpals 20th October)**

Please mark your material 'for publication', and include your name, address, phone number and email address, as we may need to contact you to discuss your contribution. Details may be withheld from publication on request. Email contributions will be acknowledged within a few days. If you require a postal acknowledgment, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. If no acknowledgement is received, or in case of queries, please contact the NL Co-ordinator (see below). Please also ensure that your EO membership is up to date before submission

Newsletter Co-ordinator – *Anne Rix* (Acting) **[arix@educationotherwise.org](mailto:arix@educationotherwise.org)**

Post: EO NL Co-ord, PO Box 3761, Swindon, SN2 9GT

### **Section Editors**

Letters & Articles – *Vacant* (submit via NL Co-ord)

Reviews – *Tammy Dolling*: **[bookreviews@educationotherwise.org](mailto:bookreviews@educationotherwise.org)**; EO book reviews, PO box 3761

Children's section – *Caroline Spence-Thomas*: EO ThT, PO Box 3761, Swindon, SN2 9GT  
(email submission via NL Co-ord for time being)

Penpals – *Jacqueline Burbidge*: EO Penpals, PO Box 3761, Swindon, SN2 9GT

**PLEASE NOTE – DEADLINE FOR CHILDREN'S SECTION & PENPALS – 20th OCTOBER**

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### **Disclaimer**

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**If you change your address, telephone number, email or other contact details, or if your newsletter does not arrive, please notify us by email: [database@educationotherwise.org](mailto:database@educationotherwise.org), or by post: Database Administrator, Education Otherwise, PO Box 3761, Swindon, SN2 9GT**

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## **Welcome**

Well, you've really come up with some great contributions on the theme of How We Home Educate ... hope you enjoy reading what others have written.

Please keep your contributions coming for the next issue, which should be out on 1st December. Any subject that interests you will probably also interest other home educators, but I wonder if your experiences with your Local Authority would make a good theme? They vary so much in how they interpret the law. I know many HERS have also been writing to their MPs with information about home education – what responses did you get?

As you'll see, we have found volunteers for some of the NL jobs – there's a new style 'children's pages' with a new name (thank you, Joanne and Caroline); Penpals has started up again (thank you Jacqueline); Rob's work on the technical production side has been brilliant - but Co-ordinator is still with me and I really would like to be able to pass that on. Plenty of support available...

We've got on a lot further with Local HE Groups, and the list within now covers most areas – where there are gaps, please send in information so that new members can find local support quickly. Group organisers can put their own information up via the website: **[www.education-otherwise.net](http://www.education-otherwise.net)** where more information on all groups is available.

It would be good to have some of your pictures or photographs for the cover and general illustrations in this NL – please send them to Rob: **[design@7thwave.co.uk](mailto:design@7thwave.co.uk)**

**Anne Rix 1st September 2011**  
**(Acting NL Co-ordinator)**

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# How We Home Educate

A general question arose on the EO Yahoo group in June, about different ways of home educating (unschooling /autonomous and other methods ) from a family with 3 children each having different needs, who were interested to learn more about how others HE and to see if there was anything they could learn about that might suit their children. This is a subject that's perpetually of interest to HERS, and there were a number of replies. I have permission from two respondents to print their contributions below. It would be good to hear from others also ... **Anne Rix, Acting NL Co-ord.**

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## Autonomous - with Backup

We are generally autonomous in that we just learn about things as opportunities arise, e.g. we are in the supermarket and Tesco's corn-flakes are 60p cheaper than Kellogg's - that's a bit of Maths right there (especially if one is a 500g packet and the other is 750g); a cat left a dead shrew at our patio doors so we looked at it and talked about the food chain, life spans of small creatures, why it died (puncture marks in its chest ... heart is in there etc.) we then moved on to habitat, what does it eat; we googled and wiki-researched it, etc.

I also do 'strewing' after I read a really lovely blog by a lady who does just that: you just leave things for kids to find, and answer questions as they come up - you can get them interested in all sorts of things that way.

In addition to this we do workbooks (Maths, English and Science). A lot of Home edders don't do this and it isn't necessary at all, it's just that

- 1) I like to see some physical proof of work/ understanding;
- 2) I panic about proving to the LA that they are learning; even though I shouldn't because I know I don't have to show examples of work;
- 3) It's a good way to keep them quiet when it's raining and their brother is having a nap!!!

The workbooks thing is just my way of stopping myself worrying unduly about things, but it really isn't necessary and a lot of people will tell you that kids will learn in their own time at their own pace. Some educational models don't introduce reading and writing until much later than I have (my kids are 4 and 6) but mine have already been to school and so have been started on that road anyway.

Another thing I do is keep loads of educational websites and games on the desk top on the computer and let them 'play' on there. We are members of [www.postcrossing.com](http://www.postcrossing.com) which encourages literacy and geography skills and we just go on as many outings as we can afford/have time to do and are members at Skipton Castle and Martin Mere etc.

The main thing (in my opinion) is to do what suits you and yours and have a look at some blogs and google 'education theory and methods' where Steiner/Waldorf, Montessori, Charlotte Mason, Classical etc. are all discussed at length and you can try them and reject them until you have managed to create for yourself your own personal model; but it will change as you and your kids change and evolve.

Just my thoughts and opinion!  
**Mel, Lancashire**

## ***Structured - with Choice***

We are structured because it works for the children. They have work trays into which I put what I consider a fair amount of work, which is Maths, English, Latin and French and either Geography, History or Science, and they do it in the order that suits them, asking me for help if they need it. Official start time is after a walk or outing to deal with surplus energy, and I expect around 3 hours work during the day, but it's quite normal for them to get up early and clear their trays into the marking tray before breakfast and have the day to themselves, particularly if they're into studying something intensively, which one or other of them always seems to be, or if they're looking forward to seeing friends. The one rule is that I am NOT to be woken up at six a.m. with questions! I then mark the work and sit with them as we go through anything that was wrong or that they want to discuss.

I also assign a book which I think they will enjoy and they read it for half an hour a day and I read aloud to them for a further half hour. After that, they tend to work on whatever their current passion is, but that is their choice, not imposed. We keep a 'might be interesting' list so I record massive amounts of documentaries and keep them all filed in a big binder under headings. Educational TV only and no computer games until 3-30, but I will record anything they want to see for later

They are 8 and a half and just eleven and both autistic, which may explain the love of routine and timetables. (One wall of kitchen cabinets is covered with progress charts and timetables and they get a real buzz out of completing a block of work). We work all year round and I split the year into 6 two-month blocks and plan work for 6 weeks per block, so there's plenty of scope for days off if something comes up. When they have completed all the work I expected of them for that year, they qualify for a treat of their choice. Could be a new Nintendo game, could be a special outing.

They both earned this year's by the end of April and are now somewhere around October next year, but doing less assigned work and more 'fun stuff' for summer.)

As for groups and socialising, what I expect of them is much what I expect of anyone attending a social gathering. Play nicely, no hitting, and go home when you've had enough. We are incredibly lucky to have a local group that heads off to a park after its meeting and we join them there because my son has a fear of enclosed spaces and finds any large group of children indoors extremely intimidating because of the noise. Otherwise, we meet up with people they like and avoid people they don't, which is, after all, what adults do.

I find the whole 'socialisation' debate a bit on the daft side because the amount of social contact that people need is incredibly variable. Even as adults we have days when we want people around and days when we don't, so my feeling is that as long as they can cope in public situations and with the mechanics of everyday life (shopping, banks etc.) and act appropriately when they have to and have friends they enjoy seeing then they'll do quite nicely in adult life. Not everyone is a 'party animal', and it seems very unfair that children are expected to be.

So while we may look like the most structured home schoolers ever, this is how THEY choose to operate and are happiest, and the flexibility is there for them. Someday, I may get lucky and they'll actually want it ...

Hope this helps.

***Anne, Dorset***

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*Some HE blogs can be found at*  
***<http://www.notsheep.net/ringmaker.php>***

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# How we did it

*And this from an 'EOldie' whose son is moving on to higher things ...*

Introduction: This document was written in January 2009 as part of an application for school when my son, Mark, was 16. He was sitting some GCSE exams for which he was studying together with other home ed kids in small tutor groups. The tutors (for Maths, English, English Lit, Biology and Physics) were able to fill out the teacher recommendation forms (we needed 3), and Mark himself had a 'student questionnaire' to complete about his current studies. But I had no school reports to include, as he had never been to school. So I negotiated compiling a portfolio of information on what his home education had involved, including timetables for the preceding four years, notes on the timetables, as well as lists of outings, travels and our home ed group's workshops and speakers – and every certificate of participation and achievement (swimming, the local library's summer reading programme, etc) I could locate. The "Brief History" formed the introduction and summary, so to speak. (I should just explain that we are a multicultural household. My husband is English and I am American/German.)

## A Brief History of Mark's Education

We never intended to home educate our children. But Mark was deeply unhappy about his experiences at nursery, which he attended for one year until the week he turned 4. Then he explained, "I am never going back there. There are too many children (18), it is too loud, they make you do things you don't want to do, they don't let you finish the things you do want to do and besides, the squash and biscuits are horrible." These seemed pretty reasoned arguments for a just 4 year old, and as I was at home about to have a baby, we did not send him back to nursery. He was offered a place at a local school, but for various reasons we did not take this up. Primarily, we did not want to force him into a situation he was deeply unhappy with. So we found ourselves home educating.

In retrospect, I am very glad we took this decision as I have since met children who were not 'groupies', but were sent to school; by the age of 10/11 they were severely disturbed. Mark on the other hand has had the opportunity to adapt to groups in his own time and now flourishes in them.

Indeed, in addition to the academic challenge, this is one reason for his interest in school. During an extended stay with relatives, a 10-week stint in a school in Germany last year gave him an excellent insight into school life. Mark participated in classes, completed assignments and sat tests like all the other students.

We have never followed a formal curriculum. My husband taught him the rudiments of reading in English. Mark perfected his reading skills by studying Asterix and Tintin, almost exclusively, in both English and German, for about 18 months. I taught him how to write in German. He attended German Saturday School from the time he was 3 until he sat his AS a week ago. He never enjoyed the experience of holding a writing implement, so when he was 8, I signed him up for art classes (which culminated in a GCSE) in a bid to overcome this by doing something fun. He started Kumon Math around that time, too. When he stopped Kumon, he used the last books of the Singapore Math series (Primary Mathematics, Ministry of Education, Times Media Private Ltd, 2004, Singapore) as revision, before joining the home ed math group last year. He started to learn how to use a calculator when he attended school in Germany.

While visiting relatives in the US a few years ago, I discovered "The Core Knowledge Series" ('What your 1st [etc.] Grader Needs to Know', Resource books for Kindergarten through Grade Six. 7 volumes. Ed: E.D. Hirsch, Jr. Bantam Dell Publishing, New York, 1991–2001) and bought the whole series. Mark greatly enjoyed these. Two years ago a cousin introduced me to Susan Wise Bauer's 'The Well-Trained Mind. A guide to Classical Education at Home' (W.W. Norton & Co, New York, 2004) and although her programme appealed, it was unrealistic for our situation. But we did use her reading lists and her world history series, 'Story of the World: History for the Classical Child' (4 volumes. Peace Hill Press, Charles City, Virginia, 2002–2005) and have recently acquired the first in her planned series for teens/adults, 'The History of the Ancient World' (W.W. Norton, New York, 2007), which Mark has started. He has read the German historian and editor Manfred Mai's text and reading books on German history. I think he has also read all the 'Horrible History' books and a good chunk of his father's bookcases devoted to history.

## **Home Education and social skills**

(from EONL no. 148, October 2002)

Mark has attended various science groups over the years, as well as reading Bill Bryson's 'A Short History of Nearly Everything' (Doubleday, London, 2004). He has had two short stints in Kumon English, but we found this of limited use. His grandmother, an English teacher, has guided his English studies at various times, usually by distance learning. Last summer, in preparation for his GCSE course, Mark also worked through a few volumes of the 'Writing Strands' series (A complete writing programme for homeschoolers, National Writing Institute, Denton, Texas, 1988-2004).

Mark is a voracious reader and seems to retain much of what he devours. I have never really directed or monitored his reading. I found that if I occasionally left an article or even a book on the kitchen table, it would be read by default, whereas if I recommended something, it would be regarded with great suspicion.

Our educational theory, such as it is, has been to offer Mark a good grasp of the '3Rs' and as much real life experience as possible. Outings, travel and the speakers/workshops at our home ed group have formed our 'core curriculum'. By the time he was 11/12 we expected him to be an independent learner, coming to us only with questions and problems or for guidance.

When he embarked on GCSEs last September, it was to gain some experience of sitting exams and, perhaps, to facilitate entry to a tree surgery course. We never really discussed what grades he might achieve, we just expected him to do his best. At last year's Woodfair we interviewed many tree surgeons, all of whom emphasised the importance of being as well qualified as possible – university degrees included – before climbing the trees with a chain saw. So he now intends to be a well-educated tree surgeon.

**Gina, London**

Mindful of the commonly-held view that home educated children do not have the opportunity to develop 'social skills', I thought readers might be interested to hear of my 16-year-old daughter's experience of her first job interview.

Two Saturday posts were advertised in our local branch of Boots. These jobs would involve handling the main till on the busiest day of the week, and later being trained to serve on the pharmacy counter. No special qualifications were needed, though clearly the ability to deal with other people was a major requirement. My daughter, who has been home educated from the age of eight, applied along with eleven others, including one other home educated teenager. Both posts were offered to the home educated applicants. The manager of Boots, who had conducted the interviews, gave us some interesting feedback. She said that the home educated candidates had stood out way above all the other applicants; in particular they had been far more outgoing and confident.

This has certainly reinforced our view that the practice of putting children in groups of 30 or more, of exactly the same age, is not the ideal way for them to develop socially.

*(name and address supplied)*

*Do you have a favourite article from past newsletters, or one that you feel would be useful to new home educators today? If so, please let me know issue/date and title, and I'll see if we can include it in a future issue.*

Anne (Acting NL Co-ord.)

**[arix@educationotherwise.org](mailto:arix@educationotherwise.org)**



## **Home Education Around the World - South Africa -**

It is legal to home educate your child in South Africa, although not actively encouraged by the national government. Moreover, individual provinces have the authority to set their own standards, and restrictions. Until 10 years ago, the option to home educate was relatively unknown, but the movement is now growing rapidly in popularity (the HSLDA mentions a number of 150,000). However, from a historic point of view, home education has been present since the 19th century, when Afrikaners (the Dutch inhabitants of SA) resisted the British influence by teaching their children at home or at church. As SA has such a complicated history of racial and migratory problems, education has always been interwoven with politics and cannot be easily explained in a few sentences.

All HE children have to be registered with the Provincial Education Department. It is, however, not certain that all parents really do register their children and it would also be very difficult for the authorities to track people down. In the past, many families were put under pressure to comply with the national curriculum as a precondition for their registration. But now a very recent court decision from the 25th of March 2011 has confirmed that the national curriculum is not binding for homeschooling parents (and independent schools), which should put an end

to intimidations and finally grant children the right to receive an education that differs from that offered by the state. The entire court case took four years, since education officials have been trying hard to prevent a verdict against the national curriculum.

South Africa's system is very unlike the European or American one, with many African children in rural communities being miles away from schools and also having to pay school fees, which is making it unaffordable to many poor families to send their children, even if they wanted to. So in a way homeschooling becomes a necessity for those kids excluded one way or another from the school system.

**Corinna, Bucks**

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Here are few websites for more detailed information (thanks, Karin, for providing these):

- <http://www.ananzi.co.za/index.html>  
(search engine for SA websites).
- <http://homeschoolinfo.co.za/index.html>  
(website by Kathy le Cordeur, who home educated her 4 kids and has now 10 years of homeschooling experience)
- <http://homeschool.grobler.co.za/index.htm>  
(associations, curricula, events and service providers connected with home ed).

Here is another collection of links (thanks, Natasha, for pointing all of these out to us):

- <http://homeschooling-africa.blogspot.com/>  
(news and comments, plus the history of home schooling in Africa)
- <http://www.capehomeed.org.za/> (very informative!)
- <http://www.safrika.info/services/education/edufacts.htm#26> (legal details)
- <http://www.brainline.com/cms/>  
(a SA & international school curriculum, grades 0–12, culminating in a National Senior Certificate in SA or an international grade 12 issued by Cambridge University)
- <http://www.politicsweb.co.za/politicsweb/view/politicsweb/en/page71656?oid=223694&sn=Detail&pid=71616>  
(speech by Minister Trevor Manuel, Feb. 2011 – Three reasons we are failing – given at the National Teaching Awards ceremony)

And the usual HSLDA-site, not quite up to date concerning recent events:

- <http://www.hsllda.org/hs/international/SouthAfrica/default.asp>

# SEND News

The only thing that stays the same is the rate of change, and disability benefits certainly are changing! We are soon to have Disability Living Allowance (DLA) replaced by Personal Independence Plans (PIP) and Incapacity Benefit has already been replaced with Employment Support Allowance (ESA).

Filling out those forms and keeping on top of the changes can be hard, but Education Otherwise are professional members of Benefits and Work which means that we can distribute their famous guidelines for filling out these forms directly to our own members.

From their website:

<http://www.benefitsandwork.co.uk/>

"Benefits and Work, was launched in 2002 (and became a limited company in October 2006) by advice worker turned barrister Holiday Whitehead and benefits writer and trainer Steve Donnison, to provide just such information. It is unique amongst benefits information providers in that it asks for no funding or support from the government, local authorities, grant making trusts or large companies. Every penny of Benefits and Work's revenue comes from its subscribing members.

"This complete independence means that Benefits and Work is free to publish information that makes it deeply unpopular with the Department for Work and Pensions, multinationals with an interest in benefits - such as Atos Healthcare, Unum Provident and Capita - and even other advice providers whose dependence on state and corporate funding may have made them reluctant to tell the whole truth."

By becoming professional members EO now has a licence to reproduce and distribute copies of all their guides to our members on paper, or by email attachment. It also gives us access to a number of resources for professionals including: Guidance for claiming DLA on dual diagnosis grounds, an introduction to employment and Support allowance, and a range of sample letters relating to DLA and incapacity reconsiderations and appeals.

PIP will be replacing DLA for people of working age (16-65) starting in 2013. The government is hoping to build on the experience of developing an assessment and applying it to new and existing claimants to inform their decisions about the arrangements for children. Therefore they will not be extending PIP to new claims from children or for children already receiving DLA until they have made sure that PIP is working for adults.

But there are also extensive changes being looked at across board for SEN and disabled (SEND) children though the introduction of the Green Paper "Support and Aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability". The main thrust of the paper is the single assessment to process a child's social care, health and special educational needs. The DfE are starting to look at the pathfinders to explore whether the single assessments process might also be used to support claims for DLA and PIP.

No doubt there will be winners and losers as they change not only how things are done, but also the goal posts. If you are affected by these changes and think that any of the guides produced by Benefits and Work would be useful, please contact Jennifer with your EO membership number and she will endeavour to pass on the correct guide. We would appreciate it if you could receive these guides by email attachment as they are very long and expensive to send out by post.

**Jennifer Skillen** (EO SEN/Disability Contact)  
[jskillen@educationotherwise.org](mailto:jskillen@educationotherwise.org)



## NOTICES - NEWS - EVENTS

### **PLUMPTON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE**

in Sussex offers free taster courses for secondary pupils aged 13-16.

These generally take place during the school holidays and allow students an introduction to a wide range of land-based vocational courses, all within a friendly College environment. Next session October half term. They also offer free tuition to EU citizens under 19 years, and can arrange group visits.

Visit the website for more information:

[www.plumpton.ac.uk](http://www.plumpton.ac.uk)

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### **THE HOME EDUCATION FAIR**

will be on this year again

17th September 2011, 1-5pm,

Entrance: Free.

Information, discussions, secondhand books stall and games and cafe run by home educated young people.

Westbourne Grove Church, Westbourne Grove (Corner of Ledbury Road) London W11 2RW

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### **PAN-EUROPEAN HOME EDUCATION CONFERENCE**

is taking place in Spain from 31st August to 4th September, with a view to combining experience and ideas and in the hope of establishing a European HE organisation to champion the rights of home educators throughout Europe. EO Chair Shena Deuchars is attending the Conference to represent EO.

Agenda at:

<http://aleenred.blogspot.com/2011/08/agenda-international-conference-2011.html>

### **EDUCATION OTHERWISE AMAZON SHOP**

The Education Otherwise Amazon shop has had a makeover! We now have a new category search, which hopefully means you will be able to find items of interest more easily. For those new to home education we have a category for books on general home education, as well as a new section for SEN information.

New categories (which include books, dvds and software) are displayed by educational type, age range and study level. There are newly added subject sections for GCSE and A-Level. We also provide inspirational items from other educational areas such as languages, crafts, science, music and games.

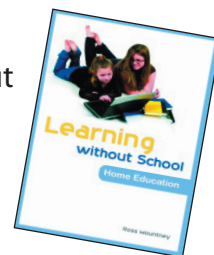
Whether looking for something in particular, or browsing for some educational ideas, EO Amazon shop has something for everyone. Plus the added bonus of each time you buy an item through EO Amazon shop a percentage goes to help us provide information and support to fellow home educating families.

For those starting out in home education, or who are looking for extra support and information, there are a wealth of books available. Some highly rated books on the subject which are available in the EO Amazon store are:



Learning without School

**Ross Mounney**

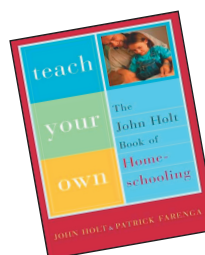


Teach Yourself Home Education

**Deborah Durbin**

One-to-One: A Practical guide to learning at home age 0-11

**Gareth Lewis**



Teach Your Own: The John Holt book of Homeschooling

**John Holt**

**Lyndsey Toon**

[cl2005art@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cl2005art@yahoo.co.uk)

**AGM** – it hasn't been possible to organise the AGM for October as we had hoped, so we will arrange this for February. We are still hoping to find a fairly central venue at a reasonable cost, and to include the AGM in a long weekend's gathering with social activities, workshops, etc. for EO members. The main business of the AGM is to receive the accounts for the financial year ended 30th June 2011, which need to be submitted to Companies House by 31st March. Election of trustees will also occur, and there are likely to be a number of vacancies. Any EO member may attend the AGM and gathering, and join in discussion, but only 'Signed Up Members' (Guarantors) may vote or stand for election as trustees. Standard family members may convert to SUM status by completing the SUM form included with this NL.

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**BECOMING A TRUSTEE** – normally trustees have held other EO voluntary posts prior to election, so are well versed in EO operations. Prospective trustees need to be nominated by another SUM (form attached) and to accept the nomination in writing. We also ask that a brief resume of EO and other relevant experience be written for publication in the newsletter and on the website prior to the AGM, so that SUMs voting by proxy can make an informed decision. Deadline for the Winter NL (the last prior to AGM) is 1st November.

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**NEW TRUSTEE** - We welcome Andrew Kennell as a co-opted trustee, to assist in the ongoing work of getting EO's core functions operating smoothly. Andrew has been Local Contact for Teignbridge in Devon for some time, acts as a focal point for South West area generally, and has written for the Newsletter. In common with other co-opted trustees, he will be required to stand for election at the forthcoming AGM if he is to continue as a trustee thereafter.

### **RELAUNCH OF CHILDREN'S SECTION & PENPALS**

– We are pleased to announce that volunteers have come forward to co-ordinate the new children's newsletter pages (to be called The In Thing – ThT for short) and Pen Pals. The first issue has been prepared in a hurry, but will accompany this newsletter – please let us know what you think of it. Thanks to Caroline and her daughter for ThT, and Jacqueline and sons for PP.

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**ADVERTISING** – For the time being we are not including display advertisements in the newsletter, though EO Members may still send in one-off small ads, lineage only, e.g. for sale of second-hand books; but not for business purposes. There are links to educational service/resource providers etc. from the website. Some of these also offer concessions to EO members.

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### **EO MEMBERSHIP EXPIRY DATES**

Existing members registering their membership with the website have received an automated message telling them that their membership has expired. Don't worry - it hasn't: you've just been moved out of the temporary membership package that you were placed in when you submitted the existing member registration form, and into your permanent, family membership package. Unfortunately, the termination of the temporary membership package triggered the system to send an expiry email.

I'm so sorry that we gave you a fright! You will now be able to log into the website's members-only area with the username and password that you chose during registration. If you have any problems accessing the restricted area of the website, please do let me know. I hope you will feel that it's been worth the wait.

**Sarah Willans, Webmaster**

**To: EO Trustees, PO Box 3761, Swindon, SN2 9GT**  
Education Otherwise Association Limited - Annual General Meeting (AGM)

## **Form of Proposal for Trustee & Acceptance of Nomination:**

Name of Proposing Member: .....

Memb No (if known): .....

Address .....

.....

I, being a Signed Up member of Education Otherwise Association Limited, hereby propose

(Name) ..... ( who is also a Signed up Member of EO Assoc. Ltd).

Address .....

.....

for election as a Trustee of Education Otherwise Association Ltd.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

I hereby confirm that I accept the above nomination and am willing to stand as a Trustee.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

**EDUCATION OTHERWISE ASSOCIATION LIMITED**

**SIGNED-UP MEMBERS (SUM) FORM**

(Guarantor Declaration)

N.B. Please Complete Form in BLOCK CAPITALS

I (FULL NAME) .....

of Home Address (print in full): .....

.....

wish to become a guarantor (Signed-up Member) of Education Otherwise Association Limited ('the Association'). I confirm that I am over the age of 18 and a paid-up family member of the Association. 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 Association'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. The Association may then disclose the details on this form.

I further understand that in the event of my ceasing to be a paid-up family member of Education Otherwise, or if at any time I resign as a SUM by written notification to EO's correspondence address, I will cease to be a guarantor and Signed-Up Member of the Association one year later.

Signed: ..... Date .....

***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: .....

Signed: ..... Date .....

***Make Sure You Have a Vote at EO General Meetings***

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.

Education Otherwise will continue to send any correspondence related to your Signed-up Membership to the email or postal address given on this SUM form until the Association is advised in writing by the SUM of resignation or that the address on the Register of Members should be changed. Such changes should be notified to:

Education Otherwise SUMs, PO Box 3761, Swindon, SN2 9GT

Please return this form to: Education Otherwise SUMs, PO Box 3761, Swindon, SN2 9GT

## ----- Volunteer Vacancies -----

**Good News!** We now have volunteers to look after the Amazon shop, for relaunching the children's section of the Newsletter and to co-ordinate PenPals – see Notices for details.

**But we still need ...**

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**Newsletter co-ordinator:** To collate contributions and liaise with various section editors, Publications Secretary, production manager (yes, we have someone to do the technical stuff!), printer (for paper copies) and EO webmaster (for online version). Other NL posts are also vacant – contact Acting NL Co-ordinator Anne [arix@educationotherwise.org](mailto:arix@educationotherwise.org) 01237 451535 for full list and further details.

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**SEN contact** required to answer telephone calls. Surely there's someone out there who would be prepared to give this a go? Email queries are dealt with separately, but we really need someone who can answer the occasional telephone call from someone without email access. The right person will have experience and knowledge of SEN and disabilities beyond that of their own children, knowledge of the SEN Code of Practice, knowledge of how local authorities, including social care, and preferably experience or training in telephone counselling.

Please contact [jskillen@educationotherwise.org](mailto:jskillen@educationotherwise.org)

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**Updating information leaflets:** It's like the Forth Bridge, this one – no sooner has our information been revised, than something changes and it needs doing again. So I need a volunteer to keep an eye on each of the downloadable leaflets, check out that links and other contact details still work, keep up with new developments/defunct areas, etc. Have a look at [www.education.net](http://www.education.net) and choose your interest – or if you notice a topic that isn't there but would be useful to other home educators, compile the information and send it in. Please contact EO Publications Secretary Anne Rix [arix@educationotherwise.org](mailto:arix@educationotherwise.org) Tel: 01237 451535

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### **Helpline Telephone Volunteers**

There is still some room on the Helpline for anyone who's happy to tell prospective home educators of the scope and variety of home education, give information on law and LA procedures, and support with concerns. Volunteers do a week at a time as frequently or infrequently as they wish. Knowledge of the basic legal aspects of home education is necessary but backup is always available. Please contact Edwina (Enquiries Co-ordinator) [e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org](mailto:e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org) Tel: 01978 661882

**Local Contact Volunteers** are coming forward gradually, but we still need more. The primary role of the LC is to welcome new HE families to EO and to provide contact with their local HE community, information about local activities and who organises them, encouragement to be confident in their ability to home educate in whatever way seems right for them, and non-judgemental listening. It's also valuable if the LC can offer information about deregistration and the usual procedures and policies of their Local Authority, with support in the family's interactions with the LA. If there is no LC in your area, and you have some experience of home education, please consider volunteering to provide this valuable connection. For more information, please contact Lei Ashe: [lcco-ordinator@educationotherwise.org](mailto:lcco-ordinator@educationotherwise.org)

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### **Concessions Co-ordinator/Team**

**Co-ordinator:** one super-efficient person to impose some order – check existing Concessions and set up Microsoft Access database (or XL spreadsheet) of organisations offering concessions to EO members around the UK, and update Concessions listing on EO website.

**Team:** [once initial setup completed the job could be shared]

To seek additional Concessions for EO members; receive and action requests from organisations (or referrals from members) to join the list.

To update the Concessions listings on the EO website whenever necessary, via its online content management system (no HTML skills required).

To provide the complete Concessions List to the Publications Secretary annually and quarterly updates to the Newsletter Co-ordinator, both in a format suitable for printing. Good IT skills are essential, but instructions on updating website can be provided, and backup is available.

Contact: [s.willans@educationotherwise.org](mailto:s.willans@educationotherwise.org)

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### **Local Groups Co-ordinator**

To maintain and expand a list of home education groups around the UK, using a database or spreadsheet. To receive and action email and postal requests to join the list. To update the local groups listings on the EO website whenever necessary, via its online content management system (no HTML skills required).

To provide the list to the Publications Secretary annually and Newsletter Co-ordinator quarterly in a format suitable for printing. Good IT skills are essential, but instructions on updating website can be provided, and backup is available.

Contact: [s.willans@educationotherwise.org](mailto:s.willans@educationotherwise.org) or NL Co-ord.

## CONCESSIONS FOR EO MEMBERS - Autumn update

**Please note:** this section is in course of being updated, and additional entries will be added to the concessions list on the new website,

### ***www.education-otherwise.net***

where links to further details are also available. The entries below relate only to additions or changes since the last NL. For more information and instructions on how to access the EO discounts (where applicable) please see members area of website.

In addition, there are many local facilities that offer discounts to EO members, and it's always worth asking ... please let us know of any new concessions you negotiate.

For information and suggestions about concessions, please email the EO Concessions Contact, ***concessions@educationotherwise.org***

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### ***Booked Up – The Book Trust***

Registration closed for this year – but look out for this again next June.

### ***Potato Council free 'grow your own' kit***

N.B. Closed for this year, but register NOW for next year.

Primary age children learn how potatoes grow and how they fit in to a healthy balanced diet. All you have to do is register to receive a FREE potato growing kit, use the supporting lesson plans and worksheets and enter the competition once you have harvested.

***<http://www.potatoesforschools.org.uk/>***

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### ***Help with Maths & Sciences***

Over 400 maths and science films to help you get the grades you need, taught in a friendly way by well-qualified and experienced teachers.

Education Otherwise members can take advantage of a special offer to receive Package F (normally £119.99) for £85

***<http://www.mathsandsciences.co.uk/>***



***Education is not the filling of a pail,  
but the lighting of a fire. – William Butler Yeats***

# Book Reviews

This autumn sees the publication of some great books; picture books, craft books and chapter books. We have two give-aways as well - the first is for the set of picture books and the second is for the two craft books. To enter the prize draw email your name and details with the subject line of either 'picture books' or 'craft books' to:

**[bookreviews@educationotherise.org](mailto:bookreviews@educationotherise.org)**.

Please submit your entry by **October 1st**.

## Amazing Esme

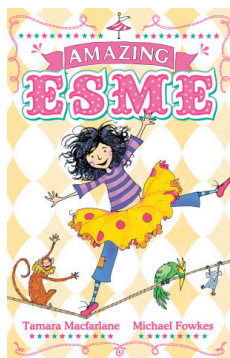
By: **Tamara MacFarlane**

ISBN: **978-0-340-999905**

Price: **£9.99**

Website:

**[www.amazingesme.com](http://www.amazingesme.com)**



Not since Pippi Longstocking has there been such a free spirited heroine with such madcap adventures. Esme is a young girl (she is home educated!) whose parents run a circus and have a highwire act. Esme and Donk (her half donkey/half horse best friend and pet) are sent to spend the summer with her three cousins at the wonderfully eccentric Malinky Castle. The castle is full of weird and wonderful animals rescued by Esme's uncle and sent back to live at the castle. There are rare Amazonian penguins in the bedroom, unicorn pigs in the dining room and a whole host of other animals to amuse and delight readers. Esme and her three cousins, Cosmo, Gus and Magnus, spend the summer getting up to all sorts of good natured escapades including making a helter-skelter slide for the penguins and holding a circus of their very own.

With its engaging illustrations and activity section at the book this book will delight readers between the ages of 5-8 as well as their parents! The book is illustrated by Michael Fowkes and his drawings really bring the book to life. Amazing Esme is so enchanting that we hope the author has more of Esme's adventures to share soon!

The Scottish publishers Floris Books are known for their fantastic picture and craft books and their latest releases are no exception.

## Magic Wool Fairies

By: **Christine Schafer**

ISBN: **978-086315-826-1**

Price: **£12.99**

Publication Date: **Sept 22nd**



This book is a must have for anyone who enjoys working with wool and who loves fairies. With detailed and easy to follow instructions, the author will help you to create your own winged masterpieces. The creations all use what the author calls Magic Wool. Magic Wool is usually plant dyed, hairy coarse fleece and can be found in craft shops and retailers specialising in Steiner Waldorf materials. There are instructions to make a variety of beautiful fairies and each pattern is illustrated with step by step instructions and photos. The patterns are also rated for difficulty from one to three stars. An essential book for any crafter!

## The Tomtes' Christmas Porridge

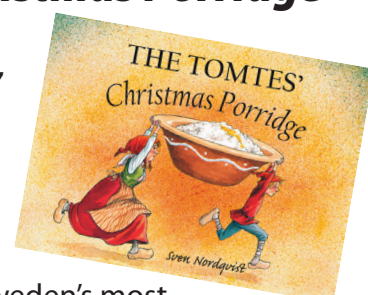
By: **Sven Nordqvist**

ISBN: **978-086315-824-7**

Price: **£10.99**

Publication Date:

**Sept 22nd**



This book from one of Sweden's most popular writers and illustrators is based on Swedish folklore. Tomtes were like elves or brownies and they lived on all farms. They came out at night to care for the animals and take of the farm. Humans never saw them but they would traditionally leave a bowl of porridge out for them on Christmas Eve as payment for all their hard work. Legend has it that a farmer who forgot to leave a bowl of porridge would awake on Christmas morning to find that the Tomtes had made mischief all over the farm! This wonderfully illustrated book tells the story of Mama Tomte and the lengths she goes to to make sure Papa Tomte has his Christmas porridge. This would be the perfect addition to every family's holiday reading shelf. Not only is it a delightful story but also shows how Christmas is celebrated in another culture.

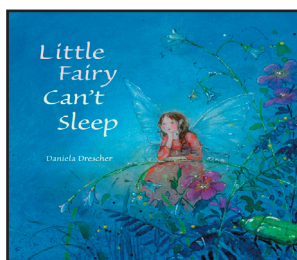
## Little Fairy Can't Sleep

By: **Daniela Drescher**

ISBN: **978-086315-825-4**

Price: **£9.99**

Publication Date: **Sept 22nd**



This beautiful book tells the story of Faith, a little fairy who can't get to sleep. She flies off to see who else is awake and makes lots of new friends and even goes to a Midsummer Night's party with a handsome moth-fairy prince. The book is richly illustrated and the magical pictures help the story come to life. Sure to be a firm favourite with children of all ages, especially at bedtime!

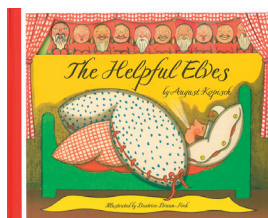
## The Helpful Elves

By: **August Kopisch**

ISBN: **978-086315-815-5**

Price: **£10.99**

Publication Date: **Sept 22nd**



This is the tale of the people of Cologne who are lucky enough to have friendly elves who come out and do all their work at night. The people are very curious about the elves but it isn't until a tailor's wife tries to catch sight of them that things start to go wrong! The simple and colourful illustrations help to make the story come to life and will captivate young readers. This is a lovely book that would be a welcome addition to any bookshelf.

## The Christmas Craft Book

By: **Thomas Berger**

ISBN: **978-086315-827-8**

Price: **£9.99**

Publication Date: **Sept 22nd**



It is never too early to start planning for Christmas and this book is full of craft ideas to inspire parents and children alike. All the projects are well illustrated with easy to follow instructions and a clear list of materials needed. Most projects are easy enough for children to do on their own, though younger ones may need some assistance. This book is a must have for anyone who likes creating beautiful and unusual Christmas crafts.

## Yoshiko and the Gift of Charms

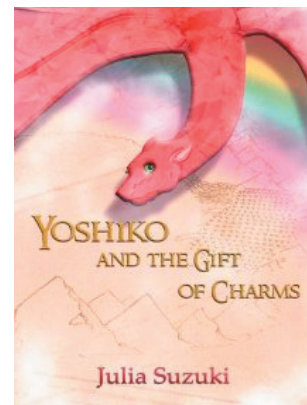
By: **Julia Suzuki**

ISBN: **978-0-9564145-8-8**

Price: **£12.99**

Website:

**[www.landofdragor.com](http://www.landofdragor.com)**



Yoshiko and the Gift of Charms is an enchanting new book set in the fantasy world of Dragor. Dragor is a secret valley inhabited by 7 clans of dragons hidden by a misty smoke that shields it from prying human eyes. The clans took refuge there following a war against the humans who had enslaved them. Life in the valley is not as harmonious as it should be: since shutting themselves off from the world the clans have grown wary and uneasy with each other. Something is needed to bring peace and harmony to the land.

When an egg with a rainbow coloured shell is laid by a dragon from the Nephani clan everyone is worried that this is an unlucky omen for the tribe. Unbeknownst to everyone the young dragon that hatches from the shell, Yoshiko, is destined to unite the clans and create peace and harmony in the valley.

This magical book is aimed at readers between 8-12 though the story is so delightful that it will appeal to the whole family. Younger readers will enjoy following Yoshiko through his adventures while the messages of believing in yourself, working hard to achieve your dreams and that it is okay to be different, will resonate with older readers. This is a very uplifting book which leaves the reader knowing the importance of being yourself and the happiness that this can bring.

This book is the first in a series planned by the author and there is also a website to accompany the series. Readers can explore the world of Dragor and the 7 dragon clans in more detail. The book so captivated my son that he is eagerly awaiting the next instalment of the story and so am I! This is sure to become a classic that everyone will want to read.

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We are always keen to hear what you and your families have been reading, both fiction and non fiction. If you have a book you would love to share with the rest of the home education community please send your review to **[bookreviews@educationotherwise.org](mailto:bookreviews@educationotherwise.org)**.

# LOCAL HOME EDUCATION GROUPS

**HErs – Please contact the group organiser** for full details and to check that activities are ongoing. Note also that groups are not always run by EO members. Further information on the groups below is available via the Local Groups area of the EO website, and others will be added as and when their contact details have been verified.

**If you know of a group** that's not listed, please ask the organiser to enter it at [www.education-otherwise.net](http://www.education-otherwise.net)

**Group organisers – please remember** when giving details of events that this list (both in Newsletter and on main area of website) may be seen by people who are not members of Education Otherwise, and adjust your information accordingly. Please also notify us promptly of changes via the webmaster at [www.education-otherwise.net](http://www.education-otherwise.net)

## **East of England**

### **East Anglian Home Ed Network**

(Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire). <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/East-Anglian-Home-Ed-Network/>

### **South East**

#### **FLAGS Active group**

(Kent/Surrey/Sussex) meeting weekly during term time <http://www.flags-education.org/>  
Karen: 01732 864524, [karenlow@uwclub.net](mailto:karenlow@uwclub.net)

#### **South East Home Educators**

(Kent/Sussex) Meet regularly for trip setc. To join Yahoo! group, email: [southeasthomeeducators-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:southeasthomeeducators-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) Melanie: 07505 145 902 Theresa 07773 822 258 Bo 07853 945206 <http://www.southeast-home-educators.co.uk>

#### **Home-EASE**

(Home Education for all South East) Group of HE families in South-East England. 0753 1677 083, [homeeducatingmum@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:homeeducatingmum@yahoo.co.uk)

#### **Wealden Home Educators' Network**

Active network of HE families in the SE of England. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wealdenhomeeducatorsnetwork/>

### **South West**

#### **Contacts and Events SW**

A home education network for the SW, specifically set up to support new HErs, or those new to the area. New input welcomed. Andrew - [andrew.denise@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:andrew.denise@hotmail.co.uk)

#### **Home Education Centre**

(Devon/Dorset/Somerset) Meets two days a week. Workshops, sports, activities and support. <http://www.homeeducationcentre.org.uk/>

## **ENGLAND – By County**

### **Bedfordshire**

#### **Bedfordshire Christian Home Ed**

Scott and Rachel: [scottandrachel@ntlworld.com](mailto:scottandrachel@ntlworld.com)

#### **BedHed**

An informal group of home educating families in and around Bedford. <http://bedhed.org.uk>

#### **Busy B-Hes**

Weekly drop-in session offering chats and support; activities. Pauline: 07791 850545 [pauline@kc2001.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:pauline@kc2001.fsnet.co.uk)

### **Berkshire**

#### **Berkshire Home Educators**

Meetings for families living in Berkshire and adjoining counties. <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/groups/berkshirehomeeducators/>

### **Bristol**

#### **Bristol Home Education**

A local support group, Bristol area. <http://www.bristolhomeeducation.org.uk/>

### **Buckinghamshire**

#### **High Wycombe Home Educators**

A group for all home educators in and around the High Wycombe area. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/highwycombhomeeducators/>

#### **Home Education Milton Keynes**

An informal, non-hierarchical group for home educators in Milton Keynes & surrounding areas. <http://www.he-mk.org.uk/> - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MadCows-MK/join>

#### **MK-CHEF**

HE support group for Milton Keynes. Affiliated to Home Service, but you do not need to be a Christian to join. <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/mk-chef>

#### **Milton Keynes Home Educators Network (MKHEN)**

Educational and social activities and events, online support groups, mentoring, and an active relationship with the Local Authority. <http://www.mkhen.org.uk> Georgeanne Scot t01908 662256, [sienna-swift7@powernet.co.uk](mailto:sienna-swift7@powernet.co.uk) [mk\\_hen@hotmail.com](mailto:mk_hen@hotmail.com)

#### **South Bucks Home Educators (& surrounding areas).**

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

### **Cambridgeshire**

#### **Cambridge HE Community Activity List**

summary of sessions and regular groups in Cambridge [www.cambridgeshire.net/organisation/cambridge-home-educating-community/29595.aspx](http://www.cambridgeshire.net/organisation/cambridge-home-educating-community/29595.aspx)

#### **Cambridge Home Educating Families (CHEF)**

A group of parents/carers who HE or are considering HE. <http://www.cambridgehomeeducators.org.uk/> Morag Nevay 01223 464918, [morag2000@hotmail.com](mailto:morag2000@hotmail.com)

### **Cheshire**

#### **Mid Cheshire Home Educators**

Bi-monthly meetings and regular outings. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mche>

#### **South Cheshire Home Educators**

meets 2nd & 4th Mondays of month at Haslington <http://www.southcheshirehe.btck.co.uk/> [Jacquisouthcheshirehe@gmail.com](mailto:Jacquisouthcheshirehe@gmail.com)

## LOCAL HOME EDUCATION GROUPS

### **Cornwall**

#### **Cornwall Home Educators**

A group of dedicated and enthusiastic home educators from across Cornwall.

<http://cornwallhomeed.wordpress.com/about/>

#### **HOME GROWN**

S E Cornwall HEGroup - Drama & Spanish nr. Liskeard. Kath Revell 01751 851091 [kafrevell@btinternet.com](mailto:kafrevell@btinternet.com) or Helen Brockbank 01503 250795.

#### **PZ Home Ed**

Meets Monday p.m. for workshop during term time.

Ruth 01736 350887 [ruthboulton@phonecoop.coop](mailto:ruthboulton@phonecoop.coop)

### **Cumbria**

#### **Cumbria Home Educators**

Meets fortnightly near Kendal and in Penrith. Trips and interesting activities around Cumbria and further afield. <http://www.communigate.co.uk/lakes/cumbriahomeed/>

### **Derbyshire**

#### **Derby Home Education Group (DHEG)**

Meets weekly. Gym club, fun physical movement and team games at a sports centre with an instructor. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/derbyhe/>

#### **Home Ed Buxton Area**

Local meetings and activities. We also welcome those who are thinking about educating elsewhere than at school.

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

#### **Matlock HE**

Local meetings and activities. We also welcome those who are thinking about educating elsewhere than at school <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/matlockhe>

### **Devon**

#### **Home Grown Kids**

Website, activities, forum and newsletters HE/flexischools or interested in home education. <http://homegrownkids.wetpaint.com/> Jo: 08445 868843 [northdevon-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:northdevon-lc@educationotherwise.org)

#### **Exeter Home Education Community**

Wednesday drop-in; GCSE; green woodwork, permaculture, pottery & more. <http://exeterhomeeducationcommunity.co.uk/> Neil: 01363 82314, [n.bedford@btinternet.com](mailto:n.bedford@btinternet.com)

#### **Dart Valley Home Ed Network**

Out and about visits: natural history, history, photography and more. Members-only internet group. Hannah and Gordon ; 01803 762788, [lindnich@tesco.net](mailto:lindnich@tesco.net)

#### **Teignbridge HE Group**

Informal social and educational meetings in Teignbridge and surrounding areas. Andrew and Denise: [andrew.denise@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:andrew.denise@hotmail.co.uk)

#### **Buckfastleigh Wildspace**

Nature study and gardening group based at Buckfastleigh Town hall. Welcomes HE families. <http://www.hogco-devonrcc.org.uk/index.asp?pageid=279900>

## LOCAL HOME EDUCATION GROUPS

### **Dorset**

#### **HEED**

Weekly meetings - Bournemouth. An open, friendly group - Everyone welcome! For further information contact:

[carolstonehe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:carolstonehe@yahoo.co.uk)

#### **Home Educators of East Dorset**

(covers all Dorset) Website with details of various groups meeting in Dorset. <http://www.he-ed.org.uk>

#### **HERA**

friendly group based in Creekmoor, Poole. Weekly workshops and activities + outings and events. <http://www.heradorset.shutterfly.com/> Sarah: 01202 600065, [sarahandthai@aol.co.uk](mailto:sarahandthai@aol.co.uk) Tracy 01202 650013

### **Durham**

#### **Yahoo group for County Durham**

Get-togethers are often arranged between members in various areas of County . <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/County-durham-homeed>

### **East Midlands**

#### **East Midlands Home Ed Yahoo! Group**

forum to help, inform and support HE families in the East Midlands. <http://groups.yahoo.com/oup/emhe>

### **Essex**

#### **Portsmouth Home Education Group**

HE or interested in HE, in & around Portsmouth

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

#### **SEEDS**

1 full day activity a week & frequent other activities, Southampton. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/seeds1/>

#### **Southend HE Group**

Meets weekly. Lots of outings and activities. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/southendhomeeducation/> [southendhomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:southendhomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Gloucestershire**

#### **GlosHE.org.uk**

HE links and local resources in and around Gloucestershire. <http://www.gloshe.org.uk/>

### **Hampshire**

#### **ActiveEO**

Monthly newsletter with weekly events for group members home educating in the Chichester, Bognor Regis, Havant, Portsmouth and Petersfield areas. Julie: 01243 552472 <http://www.activeo.co.uk/index.html>

#### **FAREGOS**

Home Education Group HE group/email list covering Fareham, Gosport and South Hants. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FareGosHE/>

#### **Hampshire FRHEBEEES**

Free Range & Home Educated Bees. West Hampshire area and borders to arrange meet ups and activities. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FRHEBees/>

## LOCAL HOME EDUCATION GROUPS

### *Hampshire - cont.*

#### **North Hampshire EO Group**

Regular activities and meetings organised suitable for all ages <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/groups/NHEO/>  
Jaki: 07731 805323 [jakiparsons@yahoo.com](mailto:jakiparsons@yahoo.com)

#### **South Hants Home Ed**

A support group for home educators  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/southhantshomeed/>

### **Hertfordshire**

#### **Herts Home Educators**

Yahoo! group for Hertfordshire home educators. Email to [join.newhomeeducators@gmail.com](mailto:join.newhomeeducators@gmail.com)

### **Isle of Man**

#### **Home Educating Network**

Isle of Man An informal group of parents home educating on the Isle of Man. <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/hen-iom/> Yvonne: [isleofmanlc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:isleofmanlc@educationotherwise.org)

### **Isle of Wight**

#### **The Isle of Wight Learning Zone**

A network of Home Educating Families, mostly based on the Isle of Wight. <http://www.iwlearningzone.co.uk/>

### **Kent**

#### **Kent ASD Home Ed**

For parents/carers of ASD/Aspergers children who are educating them 'otherwise'. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/asd-home-ed-medway-kent>

#### **HE Omega**

A group of home educating families in Medway and Kent. Tracey 07947 301327 [chaggasbug@gmail.com](mailto:chaggasbug@gmail.com)  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HE-omega/>

#### **Home Education Network for Autism in Kent**

Meets fortnightly for parents home-educating children on the autism spectrum. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Home\\_Education\\_Network\\_for\\_Autism\\_in\\_Kent/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Home_Education_Network_for_Autism_in_Kent/)

#### **Dragonfly Kidz HE Group**

(Canterbury & Thanet) Social group meeting at a Youth Centre with Dance studio, art room, pool tables etc. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dragonflykidzhomeeducationgroup/> Andrea 07737 806478 Leanne 01304 814498, [leanne@womad.plus.com](mailto:leanne@womad.plus.com)

### **Lancashire**

#### **Boneheds**

Help, support, advice and friendship to all families who are home educating (or considering HE) in Bolton, Lancashire and the surrounding districts.  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/boneheds/>

#### **Home Ed Leyland**

Friendship, help, support and advice for all families who are home-educating (or considering HE) in Leyland and surrounding districts. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/he-l-lo/>

#### **LEAD Home Education**

A chance to swap ideas, share stories and arrange local social gatherings. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lead\\_he/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lead_he/)

## LOCAL HOME EDUCATION GROUPS

### **Leicestershire**

#### **HE-AL**

A message board for Home Education Events in Leicestershire. <http://www.he-al.org.uk/index.html>=  
Home Education Around Leicestershire

### **Lincolnshire**

#### **North Hykeham HE Group**

Thurs 10-11.30ish. Primarily for toddlers. 07870 787328, [debi-crow@googlemail.com](mailto:debi-crow@googlemail.com)

#### **Lincolnshire Home Education**

Website <http://www.home-ed.ukf.net/index.htm>

#### **Home Ed Lincs**

Yahoo newsgroup coordinating home education activities in Lincolnshire. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/home\\_ed\\_lincs/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/home_ed_lincs/)

### **London**

#### **London Home Educators**

An online, moderated group providing information and resources to home educating families living in and around Central London.

<https://groups.google.com/group/LondonHE?hl=en>

#### **Adventures with Education**

A home-education group based in Hackney, London.  
<http://awe.gn.apc.org/>

#### **Haringey Home Education Club**

meetings and other events  
<http://www.hhec.org.uk/> [contact@hhec.org.uk](mailto:contact@hhec.org.uk)

### **Norfolk**

#### **West Norfolk Home Educators**

A meeting place for home educators and families interested in home educating. <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/WestNorfolkHomeEducators/>

#### **Home Education in Norfolk (HENS)**

A group for HE families in Norfolk. Those on the borders also welcome.

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

### **Northamptonshire**

#### **Northants HE**

Informal group, meets regularly for various activities. <http://www.northantshe.org.uk/>

### **Nottinghamshire**

#### **Notts Sheep Special**

Online support group for HE parents of special needs/ differently-abled children in and around Nottinghamshire & bordering counties. [http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Notts\\_Sheep-Special/](http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Notts_Sheep-Special/)

### **Oxfordshire**

#### **Oxfordshire Home Educators**

A group for all home educators living in Oxfordshire, but those in neighbouring counties are also welcome to join.  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OxonHE/>

## LOCAL HOME EDUCATION GROUPS

### **Shropshire**

#### **Otherwise Engaged**

Online diary of group activities, cultural events, workshops, resources and projects for Shropshire and West Midlands based HE families. <http://www.otherwise-engaged.org.uk/home-education.html>

#### **Telford area HE activities**

For times and dates of skating, football and drama sessions. Denise: 07866 888879

#### **Rushbury/Stretton**

HE Group Parent and child-led activities as well as people from the wider community Beverley: 01743 718429 Maria: 01588 630314

#### **Shropshire Home Education**

For HErs in Shropshire area to chat, arrange meets etc. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/shed>

### **Somerset**

#### **Wells Swimming Group**

Weekly swimming, Wells Leisure Centre, term time only. Lesley: 01749 689241, [mumfordturner@hotmail.com](mailto:mumfordturner@hotmail.com)

#### **FAB Home Ed Group**

(Shepton Mallett) Meets fortnightly at Shepton Mallet Scout Hut. Also FAB Times (local email newsletter) Mandy: 01749 347799

#### **Bath HE Yahoo! Group**

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

#### **North Somerset HE Group**

Weekly children's gym, walks, outings, etc. Yahoo! group for members. Vicky: 01275 848425, [victoria.preston@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:victoria.preston@yahoo.co.uk)

#### **Oake HE Group**

Monthly meetings and regular outings. Maggie: 01984 624651

### **Surrey**

#### **Godalming HE Group**

A group for HE families based in South West Surrey and the surrounding area. <http://swsurrey-home-ed.co.uk>

#### **Parents and Children Together (PACT)**

Guildford & surrounding areas newsletter for one-off events and regular weekly activities.. <http://www.pact-he.org.uk/>

#### **Sutton/Epsom HE group**

Meets weekly, and also monthly for outings. <http://epsomandsuttonhomeed.blogspot.com/> Paul 07506 781796, [pauldmsn@hotmail.com](mailto:pauldmsn@hotmail.com)

#### **HomeEddies**

Covers West and East of Surrey. Support, friendship, social get togethers, trips, activities, clubs and classes. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/homeeddieswest-east Surrey/>

#### **Home Educators Learning Project**

Aims to bring together Surrey based home educators for educational support, social and educational outings. <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/HELearningProject/>

## LOCAL HOME EDUCATION GROUPS

### **Sussex**

#### **Brighton and Hove Home Educators**

<http://bhhe.wordpress.com/>  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bhhe/>

#### **Eastbourne EO Group**

Regular gatherings & activities. <http://www.shinies.org.uk/>

#### **Forest Row HE Group**

regular monthly meetings + fun & learning groups at many other times. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FRHE/>

#### **HEDGE HE Group**

Hastings/St. Leonard, weekly social meetings + trips etc. <http://hedge-education.btck.co.uk/>

### **Warwickshire**

#### **Worcestershire Home Educators Network**

Meetings usually at least weekly throughout term time at various locations round the county. <http://www.worcestershire-home-educators.co.uk/>

#### **Warwick District HE**

Primarily for children 0-11 though all welcome, Warwick and Leamington <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/warwickhe> Alison: 07782 299181

### **West Midlands**

#### **Birmingham Home Ed**

Contact and events for HE families. <http://www.homeeducationbirmingham.org.uk>

### **Wiltshire**

#### **The Outpost Education Centre**

Located near Chippenham. Group activities, education workshops, trips, tutoring, events and projects. <http://www.theoutpost.org.uk/> [info@theoutpost.org.uk](mailto:info@theoutpost.org.uk)

### **Yorkshire**

#### **SYHEC**

Yahoo! group for parents HEing in South Yorkshire. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/syhec/>

#### **Yorkshire Home Edders**

Yahoo! group A friendly group for home educators throughout the Yorkshire region. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/yorkshirehomedders/>

## **W A L E S – Regional**

#### **South West Wales Home Educators' Network**

Email list for Home Educators in and around South Wales to arrange get-togethers and events, share ideas and news, and offer support. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/swhen/>

#### **Monmouth/Hereford/Gloucester**

For information about group activities in the Monmouth/Hereford/Gloucester area contact local EO member Roxy: 01989 768128 [cdsnhf@googlemail.com](mailto:cdsnhf@googlemail.com)

## LOCAL HOME EDUCATION GROUPS

### W A L E S – By County

#### **Carmarthenshire**

##### **Camarthen HE Group**

Regular meetings in Johnstown, Carmarthen caroline.milburn@yahoo.com

##### **North Carmarthen HE Group**

meetings for friendship & play  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ncarmarthenhomeed>

#### **Denbighshire**

##### **Froncysyllte HE group**

Fortnightly group meets 10-4pm. Social play and chat.  
vivodsam@gmail.com

#### **Flintshire**

##### **Flintshire Home Education**

Regular meet ups, activities, support.  
flintshirehomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk

#### **Glamorgan**

##### **New Foundations**

HE Meets Cardiff, Thursdays 10-4. All activities are free.  
<http://www.newfoundationshe.com/> 02920 216502,  
newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com

##### **Bridgend Home Education group**

The group is free and families from across South Wales are welcome.  
<http://www.bridgendhomeeducators.org>  
Rachel hectaremagill@aol.com

##### **Newport Home Education Group**

Rogerstone 1-4pm £4/family.  
Fiona fionataylor910@btinternet.com

## LOCAL HOME EDUCATION GROUPS

#### **Gwynedd**

##### **Tregarth Creative Learning and Support**

Regular meetings, free weekly newsletter of events via email. <http://www.creativelearningandsupport.co.uk/>  
Julie: 01286 678181, jdchapmanmaurice@aol.com

##### **Langower HE Group**

Weekly meetings. rowenna73@hotmail.com

#### **Monmouthshire**

##### **South Wales Home Educators**

Network <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/swhen/>

##### **Monmouth and Herefordshire Home educators**

Local meets and events, Yahoo! group. Roxy: 01989 768128

##### **Monmouth Home Educators**

Meets at Rockfield Community Centre.  
Roxy01989 768128,cdsnhf@googlemail.com

#### **Montgomeryshire**

##### **Shiny Happy Children**

Regular meetings in Llanfyllin and surrounding areas.  
KatiellanfyllinHE@gmail.com

#### **Neath**

##### **Port Talbot - Wise Up Community HE Group**

(registered charity) Support and information for home educating families and those considering home education.  
<http://www.wiseuphe.netfirms.com/>  
ianna.violet@hotmail.com

#### **Powys**

##### **New Leaf HE Group**

(Newtown) Occasional meetings for varied activities, all ages. siouxcatsy@yahoo.co.uk

##### **Wrexham and Surrounds Home Education (WASHE)**

Activities around Wrexham area. <http://washe.co.uk/>



## Current Trustees:

### Lei Ashe

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### Beverley Cameron-Young (Treasurer)

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Email to *trustees@educationotherwise.org*  
goes to all trustees.

PLEASE NOTE EO'S NEW ADDRESS FOR  
CORRESPONDENCE BY LETTER:

Education Otherwise

P.O. Box 3761

SWINDON

SN2 9GT

## Memberships

Membership enquiries, address changes,  
membership cards, new member admin.:  
please contact the Membership Secretary:  
*membership@educationotherwise.org*  
or PO Box 3761, Swindon, SN2 9GT

Local Contacts Co-ordinator:

### Lei Ashe

*lcco-ordinator@educationotherwise.org*

Single parent contact:

### Sam Kruger 08445 003794

*denbighshire-lc@educationotherwise.org*

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### Mandy Phoenix

*flexi-school@educationotherwise.org*

Anti-Bullying Contact:

### Kathleen Thompson 01942 897 779

College/GCSE Contact:

### Roger Scaiffe 08445 003 708

SEN/Disability contacts:

### Christine Waterman 08445 003 887

**Jennifer Skillen** *jskillen@educationotherwise.org*

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### Jayne Owen 08445 008 469

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*concessions@educationotherwise.org*

AND NEW WEBSITE:

***www.education-otherwise.net***

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

Our principal aims are to:

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

For further information send an A5 s.s.a.e. to:

Education Otherwise  
PO Box 3761, Swindon SN2 9GT  
Helpline 0845 4786 345

[www.education-otherwise.net](http://www.education-otherwise.net)

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