

# education otherwise



Newsletter Winter 2013

£3

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

Please mark material '**for publication**' and include your name, address, phone number and email as we may need to contact you to discuss your contribution (though details may be withheld from publication on request). Email contributions will be acknowledged within a few days. If you require a postal acknowledgement please enclose 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 your EO membership is up to date before submission.*

***Deadline for the Spring issue is 1<sup>st</sup> February 2014***

**Please send contributions via Section Editors or Newsletter Co-ordinator:**

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**[postal contributions to: EONL Co-ord, PO Box 3761, Swindon, SN2 9GT]**

**~~~~~ N.B. postal system may delay your submission ~~~~~**

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*or* EO Reviews, PO Box 3761, Swindon, SN2 9GT

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### Co-ordinatorial

Hello everyone, and welcome to the Winter edition of the newsletter!

The glorious Summer of 2013, with its WEEKS of actual warm and sunny weather (!!!) now a distant memory – the bedsocks and fingerless gloves have been donned once more. Although my days of home educating are over, I still remember that rather smug/relieved feeling on a terrible, cold, wet Winter's morning, when we DIDN'T have to endure the school run!

I hope there is something of interest for you to read in this edition – Please do contribute your opinions, thoughts, advice and experiences to the newsletter, as we all have such a different perspective on the business of educating our children – all points of view are relevant. There is no 'one size fits all' regarding education, whether it takes place at home or elsewhere, and it's good to read about the variety of experiences we all have. I am especially interested to hear stories from people whose home educated children

are now post-16, as those new to home education can encounter a lot of hostility and criticism, to the extent they end up doubting themselves. It is very reassuring to hear about the experiences of those who have 'survived' – which is what the new 'I Did It My Way' section is all about – but if you don't tell it, we have nothing to print! If you're not a writer, your work can be edited to your approval – Your story is as unique as your children, so please share it.

As well as a crossword puzzle, which I cobbled together in MS Paint (I'm sure there are better ways known to the more technically minded out there!) I've made new 'Penny Pinchers' & 'Makes & Bakes' sections for the newsletter, and would love to read your contributions. H.E. is often a financial struggle – no subsidies for books, etc. Plus of course someone has to stay home, rather than go out to work! So any money-saving tips you may have, please share them, as well as any favourite crafting and cooking activities – the cheaper the better! The new section titled 'Resources' is for any websites, books, venues or activities useful for home educators – If you have your favourites, then again please share them!

See inside front cover for details on how to submit articles etc. for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Thanks for reading – I wish you all the best for the Season & for 2014 – see you there!

*Edana Edwards, acting newsletter co-ord.*



## VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

*If you can commit either regular or one-off chunks of time, and are willing to check emails frequently and liaise with appropriate trustee, please contact the trustee named for more information. If you feel you could contribute but don't fancy any of these vacancies, please send your ideas to our Volunteer Co-ordinator, Wendy <[vol-coordinator@educationotherwise.org](mailto:vol-coordinator@educationotherwise.org)>*

*N.B. all EO volunteers are eligible for a reduced membership subscription, and may claim reasonable travel expenses for attendance at AGMs.*

### Helpline Telephone Volunteers

We are always in need of volunteers for the Helpline rota, which is a vital part of EO's charitable outreach services. Volunteers answer the telephone for a week at a time (from home) as often as they wish. We need members who have substantial experience of home education and who can tell prospective home educators about the resources and support available and about local authority procedure. Knowledge of the various styles of H.E. would be an advantage, though many enquirers will just need signposting to EO's SEND, GCSE/College, Flexischooling, Anti-bullying or Single Parent Contacts. Calls can also be from parents at their wits' end with school or other education professionals and/or their child's unhappiness. The relief they feel upon hearing that HE isn't as difficult as they thought, clearly shows what a worthwhile service Helpline volunteers provide. For more information, contact Edwina (Enquiries Co-ordinator) [e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org](mailto:e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org) Tel: 01978 661882

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### Local Contact Volunteers

The primary role of the Local Contact is to welcome new HE families to EO and to provide contact with their local HE community, information about local activities, encouragement to be confident in their ability to home educate, and non-judgemental listening. It's also valuable if the LC can offer information about deregistration, the procedures and policies of their Local Authority, and support 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 the LC Co-ordinator, Lei Ashe: <[lccoordinator@educationotherwise.org](mailto:lccoordinator@educationotherwise.org)>

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### Updating website information

No sooner has our information been revised, than something changes and it needs doing again, so we need volunteers to check each of the downloadable leaflets, making sure that links and other contact details still work, adding new information, etc. See the website at [educationotherwise.net](http://educationotherwise.net) and choose your area of interest. If you notice a topic that isn't there, which you think would be useful to other home educators, please compile the information and send it to me, EO Publications Secretary, Anne Rix: <[arix@educationotherwise.org](mailto:arix@educationotherwise.org)> Tel: 01760 441810

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### Concessions Co-ordinator/Team

We already have a Concessions Contact, but need one or more people to seek additional concessions for EO members. As part of the Concessions Team, you will need to receive and action requests from organisations to join the list, or follow up recommendations from EO members.

A Team Co-ordinator is also needed to check existing concessions and set up a Microsoft Access database (or XL spreadsheet), to provide an annual concessions list and quarterly updates to the Newsletter Co-ordinator. Also to update this information on the EO website whenever necessary, via its online content management system (no HTML skills required). Good IT and organisational skills are essential, and instructions on updating the website can be provided. Contact

[trustees@educationotherwise.org](mailto:trustees@educationotherwise.org)



## Home Education Around the World Finland



For once, some good news! Home education is completely legal in Finland, meaning not only is it permitted, but also protected by the Finnish law and constitution. Its legal history, claims the Finnish Home Educators Association, dates back more than 300 years, with the first real education and school law in place since 1866. In those days most parents chose to home educate their children, and parent involvement is still very much an ongoing process as parents in Finland consider themselves responsible for family education, a fact that seems to be confirmed by the good results of the PISA study. So just like in Britain, education is compulsory (from ages 7 to 16), but school is not.

Mandatory exams (written and oral) are in place for home educated children, but the municipality may also be able to offer help regarding health care, free lunches, school books and other privileges, at least at primary level. However, whilst authorities have to accept the law and fulfil their role as education supervisors, they are sometimes not entirely familiar with the finer details, which can lead to home educating families being treated unfairly. Some forum posters say that home education is frowned upon in Finnish society because non-institutionalised children are supposedly missing out on the overall socialisation process, which takes place within the school system.

So home education in Finland is definitely not a common educational choice. Although wikipedia estimated 400 to 600 families home educate in Finland, The Home School Legal Defence Association states only 250 families take this route to educating their children, with many dropping out early, discouraged by the lack of support from authorities, as well as a lack of home education groups to socialise with. Only a small number go all the way through to secondary education.

- General overview:  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homeschooling\\_international\\_status\\_and\\_statistics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homeschooling_international_status_and_statistics)
- On education in Finland in general: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education\\_in\\_Finland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Finland)
- A legal website that monitors and fights for home ed law worldwide (Christian background): <http://www.hslda.org/hs/international/Finland/default.asp>
- The Finnish Home Educators Association website, in Finnish (try Google translate): <http://www.suomenkotiopettajat.fi/>
- An older, but still helpful thread, quite opinionated:  
<http://www.finlandforum.org/viewtopic.php?f=19&t=43543>
- Same here: <http://www.finlandforum.org/viewtopic.php?f=19&t=43543&sid=01168ff7ecb69e37b33f859d40fccd8d&start=15>
- interesting articles about education and home schooling, this one about Finland:  
[http://freesweden.net/finland\\_schools.html](http://freesweden.net/finland_schools.html)
- local home ed group, Finnish (try Google translate): <http://www.feeniks-koulu.fi/>

*Corinna Spellerberg*

# I Did it My Way

I decided to home educate in 1996. My son had been in school for over a year when, out of the blue, I was called in to see the teacher who explained that my son had a behavioural problem. I was very surprised as he had no problems at home, although I had always suspected that he was a bit 'different'. His teacher went on to explain that she had asked the special needs teacher to do an assessment. I was very cross about this as we had not been consulted, and I asked her why she had not let us know before, since it had clearly become a major problem. My son had become increasingly reluctant to go to school and was obviously miserable. There were more talks with the teacher, and she said he might be slightly autistic. I was so angry with the school as I thought they just couldn't cope with him, and I didn't like his teacher as she seemed condescending towards me. One day my son came home and said that the teacher had thrown him onto her chair in anger, scratching his head with her pencil whilst doing so. I was seething, and asked her about it the following morning. Although she denied it, I had no reason to doubt his word since he hardly ever told lies.

At this point my eldest son, who with his 3 brothers had been through the school system, suggested that I home educate my youngest. I had never heard of such a thing before, so my immediate reaction was, "But I'm not a teacher!" My son replied "Don't be ridiculous - what is he learning at 6 years old that you can't teach him at home? Surely it's just an extension of what you've always done with us at home!" So I took my young son out of school. At first he was very difficult indeed, as he believed that he was 'naughty', which took me 2 years to overcome. Yes he did have behavioural problems, and it seemed to me that was mostly what he *had* learned from school! Later on whilst watching a TV programme about a guy with Asperger Syndrome, I realised that my son seemed like a prime candidate, and this was confirmed by a 'specialist' several years later, by which time I had decided he was autistic and read extensively about it.

Having removed my 6 year old son from school, I decided that his younger sister would also be home educated. I had planned to go back to work, but instead here I was at home struggling to make ends meet. And yet strangely it seemed to be cheaper than sending them to school! No school uniform to buy, meaning we could get all their clothes from charity shops etc. I didn't have the stress of getting him ready for school every morning, or have to rush about getting him fed and to bed at a sensible time in the evening, so that he wouldn't be too tired for school the next day. We could go wherever we wanted. We could do whatever we wanted. Freedom began to dawn on me.....

He soon finished the reading scheme, although only able to read the first 66 keywords when he left school. Like most new home-educators we used workbooks linked to the National Curriculum, and he soon finished all the work at his key-stage; passing the practice tests several times. I wondered what they did in school? 10 minutes to get in and settled down; 10 minutes for register; 10 minutes packing up, and 10 minutes waiting for the teacher to get around to helping them or to give them more work. Not much time spent working really. No wonder so little gets done.

We met up with other, local home-educators, and I was amazed! Some children came up to me and started a conversation! They didn't just ignore me, as my 3 older children's friends had always done. I was a person! The children seemed to get along well - which, as I discovered is normal for home educated children. I don't know how anyone could think that home educated children miss out on social skills, as they all seemed infinitely better at socialising than any of the school children I had met over the years.

I soon realised that my son was getting a much richer education at home. He was able to follow his own interests; teaching himself computer programming, maths and science. He soon had an encyclopedic knowledge of trees, fossils and the human skeleton, amongst other things. My young daughter became adept at making up stories for them both to play together. They are both musical and artistic and spent many hours being creative. We joined other home-educators for art, sport, day-trips etc. We had a list of places to go out to, because I like to go out, and we would take the workbooks with us. As soon as they had finished working, they could play. We sat and watched deer in the woods as we worked quietly, and would sit in the local bird hide watching birds, and sometimes we just had a picnic. We went to the beach on lovely sunny days when nobody else was there. We went to the zoo when nobody else was there, and met up with other home-educators. It was bliss. I never once regretted not having gone back to work.

Other home-educators were very supportive too. One of the dads taught my son about computers - how to put them together; how they worked and how to program them. They talked for hours in a language I couldn't understand. Another parent spent hours teaching him social skills, and one of the other mums encouraged my daughter's creativity. We learnt to ski, skate and swim. Gradually workbooks were phased out and the children began following their own interests. If they were playing text adventures on the computer, why ask them to stop and do English? When it became apparent that my daughter struggled with maths and spelling, I suspected dyslexia, and was given so much support by everyone. She had a good understanding of maths, but when it came to writing it down and working it out on paper, she was hopeless. Her spelling was also way behind her reading and comprehension. I tried so many ways to help her, but nothing worked. One day one of the other home-educators handed out a program of events for our area. Every word had been spelt a different way! Yet we all read and understood it with no problem. So why the big fuss about spelling correctly? After that, I backed off and left her to it. The text adventures (or interactive fiction) worked brilliantly as the computer couldn't understand unless it was spelled correctly! She wrote Harry Potter spoofs and joined in with 'fan fiction'. Reviews of her work from other users online convinced her to pay attention to spelling and grammar!

Initially my husband had been against home-education as he wanted me to go back to work for financial reasons. I asked him to be patient and give us one term, to see if it helped our son. Even he had to admit the change in him was remarkable – he had become calm, happy and streaked ahead with his reading, writing and maths. He gave our daughter a hard time over her spelling, and gave me a hard time by saying constantly to the children, “You should be at school, you would love it” which of course my son knew was untrue, but my daughter didn't. My family and our GP would make remarks like “He'll grow up to be a recluse” “You're taking a risk home schooling” “How will they socialise?” “Its illegal isn't it?” “He's not autistic, he's just naughty and you don't know how to discipline him” “Can your daughter read?” My brother asked my daughter to read a book to him one day, and was pleasantly surprised at her fluent and meaningful reading. He asked my son about nuclear power stations and was forced to admit that my son knew more about them than he did! Sometimes I questioned what I was doing myself. “Am I doing the right thing? Will he ever learn that it's safe to be away from me? Will she ever be able to pass any exams? Will he ever lead an independent life?” I took on paid work which fitted around my husband being at home. Cleaning and leaflet distribution, trying to make ends meet. I stayed up all night, once a week, putting leaflets inside newspapers, and had several cleaning jobs. A bit of a climb down from the P.A. job I'd had before, but somehow we managed. Despite criticism from family, somehow we got through.

By the age of 14, my son showed remarkable talent as a musician, so I rang the local music services to ask if they could provide lessons for him. I was told they had to register with a local school. I rang the schools and guess what?... They already had far too many pupils waiting to play an instrument. Eventually I managed to

find help from a lady who chaired the local autistic society, who managed to arrange lessons for my son at a music academy with a different local authority. He passed his grade 5 theory, and his sister also learned to play keyboard. I paid for him to have guitar lessons privately but after the teacher called him "a knob" he gave up and taught himself at home. He also taught himself up to grade 5 on the piano. The examination forms always asked for his teacher's name and I used to write in my name rather jokingly, because it was HE who was teaching me!

When they reached 15, I asked if they wanted to do GCSEs at home or college. They both wanted to go to college at 15 but had to wait until they were 16 as there was no funding for them. When he was 16, my son had his college interview. I did not believe at this point that he would even go to college or be able to cope with it. He asked the maths teacher if he could do double maths and discussed with him the university papers he had downloaded and was reading as well as some of the work he had done at home. The college said that he needed GCSE maths in order to be funded for an 'A' level. I asked if he would be able to sit it in November, having started the course in September which they agreed to. He also auditioned for the music academy which was part of the same college and was accepted to do 2 'A' levels in music. He decided from day one that he didn't need me there to help him, and that he could cope by himself. As you can imagine, it was a huge culture shock! He needed a 2 hour, 'debriefing session' with me every day, but he was coping! He didn't mind being different, and found the other students a bit 'immature', so he studied hard and passed all 4 'A' levels! He went from being a child who couldn't leave my side, to being fully independent. It was his choice and he did it when he was ready, aged 16.

Because of my daughter's apparent dyslexia, she had to do foundation courses in English and Maths, going on to do GCSEs the following year, as well as 'A' levels. She was also given a formal diagnosis at last. She would come home and complain that other students just messed around in class, and smoked weed after lessons. Whereas she worked her socks off! She won 'Student of the Term' award for hard work, and also managed to pass GCSEs in Maths and English, and 3 'A' levels in Art, Music and Photography. As she didn't want a huge debt from going to University she has since worked in various jobs, and left home to live with her boyfriend. Two years after finishing his 'A' levels, my son's Maths teacher introduced him to a friend who was looking to employ someone with integrity, who was brilliant at maths. He got the job in a web design company, commuting every day to work on crowded trains. A couple of years later he met a lovely girl who later became his wife. They are currently both at a music conservatoire, having been accepted unconditionally. I feel I am now in a position to make a valid comparison between home education and traditional schooling, since my 3 other children went to a normal school. I think home education is far better, and wish I had had the foresight to home educate all of my children. I am much closer to the younger 2 because of the years we spent together. I feel they are much more confident in themselves, and are able to talk with anyone as an equal. They have had time to think, and time to develop their own personality.

Name and address supplied

**"Schools have not necessarily much to do with education...  
they are mainly institutions of control,  
where basic habits must be inculcated in the young.  
Education is quite different and has little place in school."**

*Sir Winston Churchill  
(1874-1965) Prime Minister of the United Kingdom*

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

*[This article first appeared in EONL no. 155, December 2003]*

### Diary Of A Home Educating Nobody

It is four years now since our children went to school. As Christmas approaches there's one thing I really appreciate about them not being there any more; they don't get their happy illusions shattered quite so brutally!

It was just before Christmas, when she was seven, that the kids in her class decided to enlighten my little girl about Santa.

"Some kids say there isn't a Santa," she said one night when we were doing the usual juggling match with the homework, the tiredness, the uniform, and the tea getting.

I was so taken aback I dropped some gravy granules into a cup of tea.

"Do they?" I played for time and gave the tea a good stir. I was thinking desperately about all those answers I'd prepared for such an occasion that seemed to have abandoned me!

"Mmmm. But I think there is otherwise we wouldn't get a stocking, would we?" she said.

I didn't answer but glued my eyes on the revolving tea, stirring madly, sensing her staring at me.

I also sensed she perhaps didn't really want to know – not this near to Christmas. So I suggested she get on with the homework, (can't imagine that now!), whilst I got on with the meal, hoping no one would notice the funny taste in the tea!

We didn't get to speak of it again so we maintained the charade even though I always swore I would never hoodwink my children about Santa, God, Sex and all those other things we adults keep mysterious about to increase our sense of importance!

We carried on with the stocking, the creeping into the bedroom on Christmas Eve desperately tired since she'd lain awake for hours trying to spot him.

Then we threw ourselves into bed for the few short hours we'd have before they woke and wanted to know if it was morning.

I love Christmas, don't you?

A few weeks after Christmas, back in school, the tinsel of the season worn off into the dullest work term in the school year (how wonderful not to be doing that any more!), she brought it up again.

"Mu-um?" She'd got her hands screwed into the crotch of her school skirt; favourite place for awkward moments.

"Ye-es?" I was immediately suspicious.

"Can I ask you something?"

"Is it difficult?"

"Oh, mum!" We grinned.

"Go on then, what is it?"

"Well..." voice diminished to a whisper, "... Is there a Santa?"

Hot sweats were nothing compared to what my body did just then! Despite all my well thought out answers my brain just went dead. I parried the question back to her.

"What do you think, darling?"

"I'm not sure." She looked down at her creased skirt and I thought, heck – it was time for honesty, not for burying my head in Home Front as much as I wanted to!

But I couldn't bear it – I still tried to wriggle out of it.

“How do you think the stockings get filled if there isn't a Santa?” I asked.

“The kids at school say it's your mum and dad.” Her head went right down and she looked sad. I got a lump on my chest that was surely going to give me a heart attack any minute!

“Is it? Is it you and dad?” she asked. Her school skirt would never be the same again.

I avoided her eyes and pulled her onto my knee taking a big breath.

“Yes darling, it's me and dad who fill the stockings,” I said quietly my lips on her hair.

“So there's no Santa?” Her voice sounded so small.

I don't care what they say about puberty; it will never hit as hard as this! And yes, I'm definitely going to have a heart attack!

But I was determined not to let the whole magic go and I started talking.

“Santa is a very magical story that all the grown ups keep. All the little children believe that Santa comes and fills their stockings and it makes Christmas all magical. But now that you know the truth it doesn't mean that it's not going to be just the same for you. We're still going to creep into your room and still going to fill your stocking with presents as if there really was a Santa.”

I held her tight. She felt heavy and sad. I kept on gabbling, more to keep the heart attack at bay than anything!

“And we'll go on filling your stocking as long as you want us to. As long as you don't peep of course!” I laughed – a little hysterically perhaps but I think she was getting brighter!

“You're part of the secret too now aren't you? You're such a grown up girl. But you'll never be too grown up for us to hang a stocking on the end of your bed nor for Christmas to be special. Nor to leave a mince pie out for your dad to eat.” We giggled and she looked up at last. I squeezed her tight, kissed her hair again and sniffed at the little bits of magic still in childhood.

We hugged for ages. Talked a little more, mostly about presents. Laughed some. And she cheered up and I think I was off the critical list!

Then I just couldn't help asking. “Are you sad there's really no Santa?”

“A bit,” she sighed, “but at least I still get presents!” She laughed and looked at me. Right into my face, with that astuteness all children seem to possess when they know exactly what we're feeling.

So, aware that I needed comforting too, she offered these consoling words.

“Don't worry mum, I shan't mind about Santa too much. There's always the Tooth Fairy!”

As you can imagine, the school children soon put her right on that one as well!

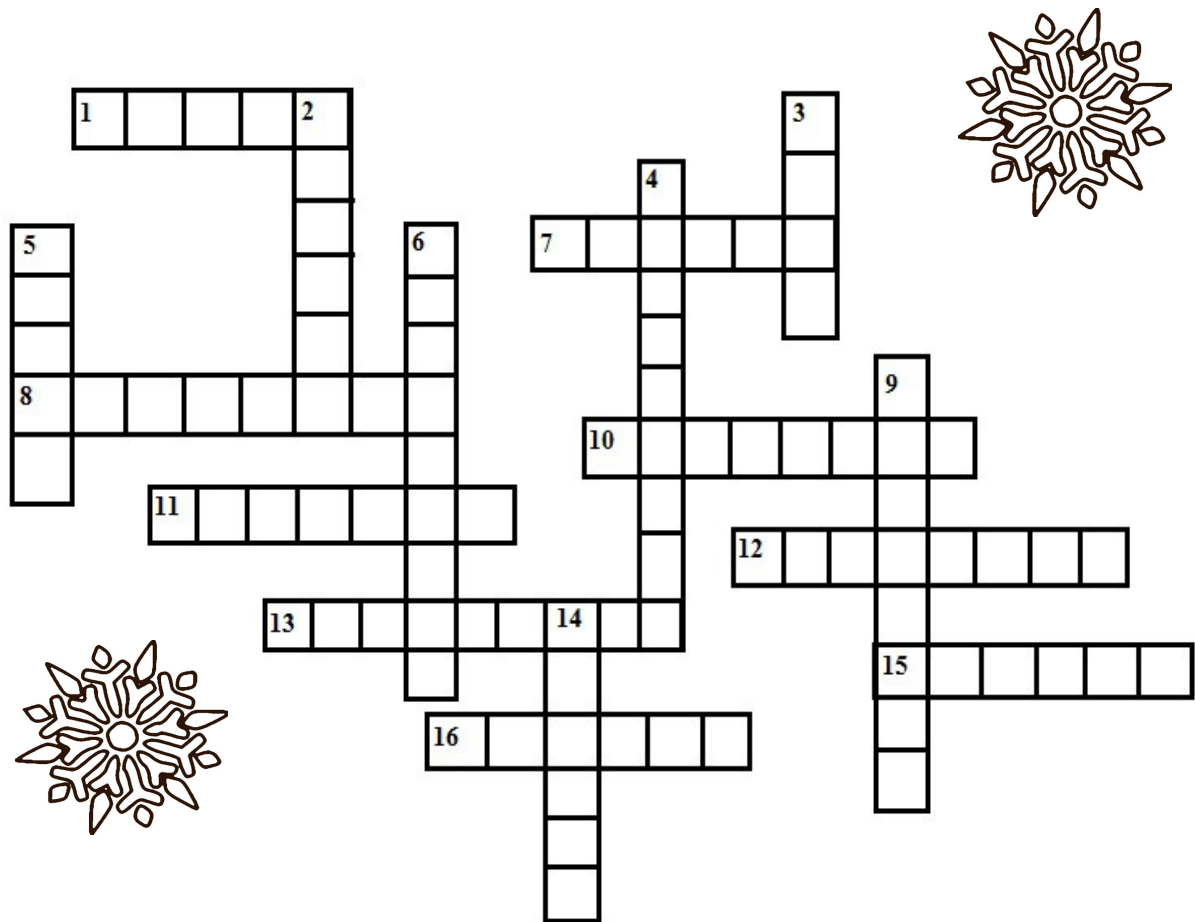
Thanks to home-edding her little sister had a much more gentle eye-opening!

Ross Mountney <http://rossmountney.wordpress.com>

[Ross has since written 2 books on Home Education, available through the EO Amazon Store]



# \*\*\* Winter Crossword Puzzle \*\*\*



## \*\*\* Clues \*\*\*

### Across

1. These keep your feet dry.
7. The UK's coldest season.
8. A caribou.
10. A snowstorm.
11. Year's beginning.
12. Conifer's fruit.
15. A spike of frozen drips.
16. Keeps your hands warm.

### Down

2. A toboggan.
3. Water freezes at \_ degrees C.
4. Six-sided ice crystal.
5. Wraps your neck.
6. Non-deciduous.
9. Liquid becomes solid.
14. Padded coat.



## Makes and Bakes

To Alleviate Boredom, Hunger...Or Both!



**Altered Books** ~ And 'found poetry'. Buy a cheap, hardbacked novel from a book outlet, library or used book shop – The pages need to be absorbent, not shiny or slick. Paint around a selection of your favourite words on a random page in the book – then fill in the rest of the page with paint, so that only the words are left visible. Read your 'found poem' then illustrate it too, or texture the page with stamps and stencils, or glue on pictures torn from magazines.

**String Stamps** ~ Find some sturdy, thick cardboard, and cut it to size around 8cm x 10cm. Stick some double sided carpet tape onto it, then peel off the backing. Cut short lengths of parcel string, and arrange them on the sticky surface, in shapes, wiggly lines and concentric curves. Paint the string, then quickly press it down onto paper, to reveal your pattern – This is great to use in altered books!

**Pomander** ~ Use a large, firm orange and about 30g to 50g of whole cloves. Tie a metre of 1cm ribbon around the orange from top to bottom, twisting the ribbon tightly around itself at the bottom and bringing the ends up to the top again – knot firmly and tie in a bow. Find a piercing tool of some kind – a tapestry needle, awl or large nail. Pierce holes in the orange skin, about half a cm apart. Push the cloves into the holes until the skin is covered in cloves. Hang the pomander up to dry – it will shrink as it dries, but will stay fragrant for a very long time.

**Christmas Crunch** ~ This can be eaten all year round of course, but is lovely with optional brandy added, parcelled up in a plastic food bag, and boxed as a gift for Christmas.

1. Grease a 20cm, square or round, shallow baking tin.
2. Gently melt 100g margarine or butter, with 150g plain chocolate, and 2 tablespoons (or 5 dessert spoons) of golden syrup.
3. Stir in 200g of crushed ginger biscuits (bash them to bits with a rolling pin – great fun!) and 100g of chopped or broken/bashed to bits hazelnuts.
4. Press into the greased tin; cool then chill in the fridge for a few hours, before cutting up.

**Flapjack** ~ A timeless classic!

1. In a large saucepan, gently melt 100g margarine or butter with 2 tablespoons of dark brown sugar and 2 tablespoons of golden syrup (a wooden stirring spoon can be used as an approximate measure).
2. Stir in 150g porridge oats, 50g flour, a pinch of salt and some cinnamon if liked. Mix well.
3. Tip into a greased, 20cm square or round, shallow baking tin, and press down firmly.
4. Bake in an oven for about 15 minutes, at about 180 to 190 C or Gas 5 – depending on your individual oven.
5. Allow to cool for 5 minutes, then cut into bars with a knife, leaving it in the tin until cold.

## Creative Writing Activity for All Ages Paraphrasing Poetry

Writing poetry needn't be difficult, and it can be fun! It's like messing about with glue and paints, only using words instead. It's even more fun with a 'springboard' to jump off from, which is why I enjoy paraphrasing poems. Choose a favourite poem and try to keep the original 'sounds' and rhythm whilst changing most or all of the words. This is a great exercise for improving vocabulary, creativity, dictionary skills, and crazy ideas!

I owe this one to Lewis Carroll – Can you guess which poem of his I based it on?

### Cuppa Coffee

'Twas breakfast, and the crusty loaves  
Did smell so fragrant where they lay.  
All sticky was the marmalade,  
And the fried eggs made my day.

“Where is the coffee, mother dear!  
I need it now, with double cream!  
Where is the sugar – do be clear -  
I've woken from a dream!”

He took his china mug in hand -  
Long time the kettle took to boil.  
While rested she, and sipped her tea,  
Worn out from all the toil.

And, as in idleness she sat,  
The kettle whistled merrily.  
He made his drink, and though too hot,  
He slurped it greedily!

One, two! One, two! The sugar spoon  
Fell to the floor most loudly!  
He left it there – pulled out a chair  
And farted very proudly.....

“And hast thou made my breakfast yet?  
Come serve it up here on my plate!  
Oh morning rush! I feel quite mad!  
At this rate I'll be late!”

'Twas breakfast, and the crusty loaves  
Did smell so fragrant where they lay.  
All sticky was the marmalade,  
And the fried eggs made my day.

*Edana Edwards, 2007*

# Penny Pinchers

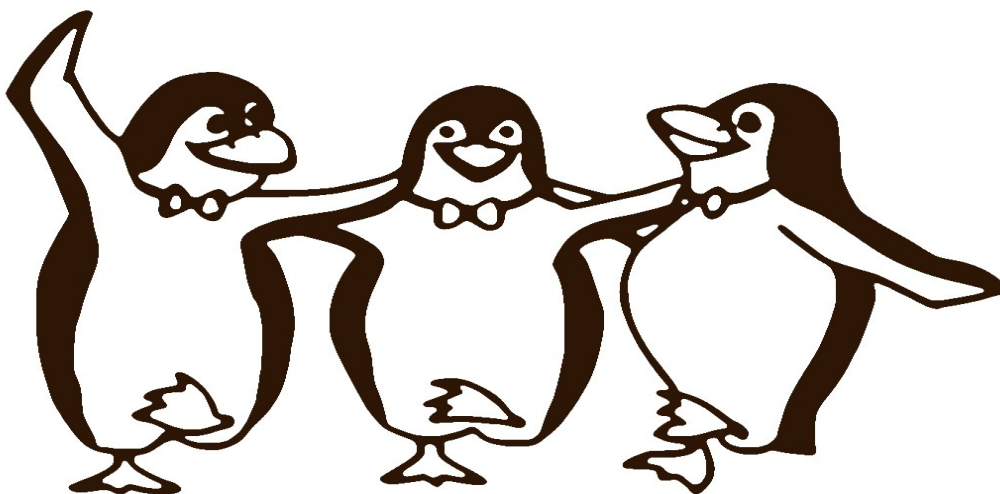
Tips For Education & Life On A Budget

**Cosy Up** ~ That woolly hat may look like a tea-cosy, but wearing it around the house keeps me piping hot too – Adding legwarmers, a padded waistcoat, and 2 thin, knitted jumpers (instead of one, expensive thick one), plus trainers or running shoes to keep my feet warm, has saved me a fortune on heating.

**Back to Basics** ~ I have saved so much money since discovering the supermarket's 'basics' range. 80 tea bags for less than 30p? For a 12 cup a day person, that is a small fortune! I tested the range and really some things are better value than others. Tea is the biggest saving, followed by fish fingers and pasta, which we eat a lot of! Basic range fruit and veg. were not really worth the money – poorer quality, and often 'proper' fruit and veg. is on offer anyway. Basics tissues were another big saving for us. It is worth experimenting – I tried the basics laundry liquid for a while, and it was good, but I needed twice as much of it per wash, so went back to the big brand in the end! Basics kitchen foil etc. - good. Basics handwash – good. Basics biscuits and chocolate – good. Basics coffee – an acquired taste! Basics breakfast cereals and bread – OK. Basics peanut butter – YUM!!! So don't dismiss the basics range – be proud of your conveyor belt loaded with that distinctive packaging!

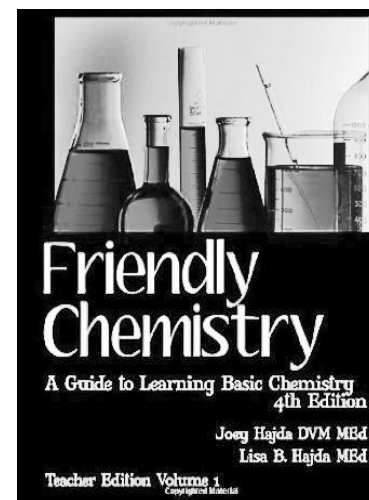
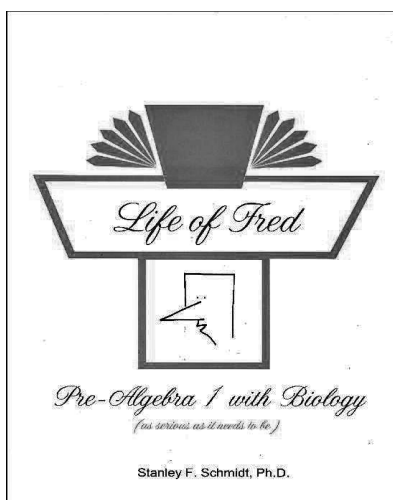
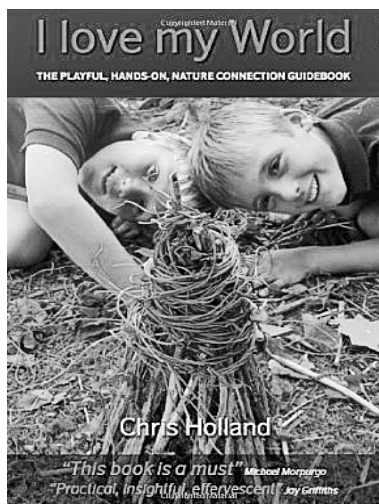
**Deliverance** ~ Which brings me to my next big money-saver – Supermarket delivery vans. I am no longer tempted by all those strategically placed 'bargains' as I avoid actually going around the shops. I just look at my usual saved products online – click them all into the virtual basket, and checkout. I am on a strict and tiny budget, and shopping online helps me stick to it. If I really need some expensive toothpaste, or cold remedies, etc. I can go through my basket, aiming to reduce it by £4 in some way, to meet the budget – Something which would be difficult to do if I was pushing a trolley for miles around a supermarket and adding it all up in my head whilst simultaneously battling with temptation to buy chocolate gâteau!

What are your top tips for saving money? Please send them in!



## Book Reviews - by Tammy

I have 3 great books for you this month, covering the environment, maths and science. We are also having a Prize Draw for a copy of 'I love my World' by Chris Holland. To enter the free prize draw simply email your contact details to: [bookreviews@educationotherwise.org](mailto:bookreviews@educationotherwise.org) by Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2014. We would also love to hear about the books that you and your family have enjoyed so please send in your reviews too!



### **I love my World**

Author: Chris Holland

RRP: £15.95

ISBN: 780956156600 - Website: [www.wholeland.org.uk](http://www.wholeland.org.uk)

Most books make you want to curl up in a warm, cozy spot whilst reading them from cover to cover, but this book has the opposite effect - It made me long to be outside with my children, enjoying all that nature has to offer!

The author, Chris Holland, is a trained environmentalist who wants to help parents and children reconnect with nature, as an antidote to the disconnect brought about by our modern World. The book opens with a beautiful creation myth designed to remind us that we are all an intrinsic part of the natural world. Chris goes on to discuss his philosophy and why he feels that getting to know the natural world is so key for us all.

In order to make this easier he has designed lots of activities which will appeal to adults and children of all ages, including survival skills, tracking, navigating, stalking, coppicing, first-aid, knot-making and citizenship, amongst many others - most costing little if nothing to enjoy. Each activity is broken down into 3 sections: 'Ready' 'Get Set' and 'Go'. In 'Ready', the activity is introduced and explained; 'Get Set' helps you to get physically prepared, and 'Go' details how to lead the session. There is also a 'Useful Things to Know' category for some activities, including tips, facts and extra, complimentary activities. Each activity is clearly explained, with advice on appropriate age, group size and time needed. Some are as simple as making clay creatures from found materials, whilst others, such as fire-making and foraging for edible plants, are more complex, so there really is something for all ages to enjoy.

'I Love my World' provides the perfect inspiration and guidance for active, 'outdoorsy' families, HE groups, Scout groups, Steiner/Waldorf groups, forest schools, in short just about everyone!

## **Life of Fred**

Author: Stanley F. Schmidt, Ph.D

Price: Varies by title and supplier

ISBN: Varies by title - Website: [www.fredgauss.com](http://www.fredgauss.com)

It is fair to say that my son considers maths a necessary evil rather than something that is enjoyable or fun. I have tried over the years to make it a fun subject, but to no avail. In my never ending quest I finally stumbled upon the 'Life of Fred' series, and to my amazement it has solved our problem! 'Life of Fred' is unlike any other maths curriculum. It is fun and engaging, using maths to solve real life problems, so children can see that maths is not something that just happens in books. The series centres on a 5 year old boy called Fred, who is a maths professor at Kittens University.

The curriculum is all encompassing, starting with primary school basics, going through to university level calculus and statistics. Rather than pages of endless sums, each chapter describes an episode in Fred's life, in which he uses maths to solve a problem. Then there are then a few similar problems for you to solve too. Every 5 chapters there is a round up of all the ideas presented, with problems for the student to work through. You should only move on to the next chapter if you get 8 out of 10 questions correct in this section. There are usually 5 sets of questions for the student to try though, so lots of positive reinforcement if they don't manage it on their first attempt.

The books are not just about maths either; other academic subjects are woven into the narrative. My son is currently working his way through 'Pre-Algebra with Biology'. The chapter he has just finished looked at eyelash length as a dominant gene, and the practice problems combined maths and genetics. We have found 'Life of Fred' an excellent and fun way to learn maths and highly recommend the series!

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Friendly Chemistry - A Guide to Learning Basic Chemistry**

Authors: Joey Hajda, Lisa Hajda

Price: £31 (Student Edition), £18 (student workbook), £15.54 ( teacher's edition vol 1), £15.54 ( teacher's edition vol 2), £6.21 (annotated solutions), £6.21 (manipulative set)

ISBN: 9781456511364 - Website: [www.friendlychemistry.com](http://www.friendlychemistry.com)

Teaching higher level science can be daunting if you don't have a scientific background. Resources that are easy to use and understand can make the job a lot easier. The authors of 'Friendly Chemistry' are home educating parents themselves and have designed the book to be user-friendly for both parents and students. It is aimed at American high school students and as such does not follow the GCSE syllabus and could not be used as a stand alone resource to prepare for the GCSE Chemistry exam. It also includes things which the GCSE syllabus does not. That said, it makes an excellent additional resource to use alongside conventional GCSE textbooks. The authors have made sure to include lots of 'home lab.' experiments with clear instructions, diagrams and helpful examples. They have also created a manipulative set which is used to help students learn how electrons are arranged in atoms. This set also includes chemical element flash-cards. There is a teacher's edition, and a separate, removable, answer-sheet for all of the worksheets and tests included in the student edition of the book. Overall, the book is a good introduction to chemistry and is easy to use and understand. If you are looking for something to cover the entire GCSE syllabus, then this book will not meet your needs, but if you are looking for something to augment other textbooks, or just keen to learn more about chemistry, then this is the perfect resource to have.

# Resources

I love the bbc website – click on the 'more' tab at the top to go to 'learning'  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/> and in particular 'bitesize' <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/>

The 'history' link, if you scroll down, has some fun activities for children  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/forkids/> and educational trips listed  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/thingstodo/category/history>

And the 'science' link has educational trips listed  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/thingstodo/category/science>

For older children, the 'adult learners' section of the 'learning' section  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/adults/> is very useful for basic skills in all areas.

The Open University has a fantastic free resource called Open Learn  
<http://www.open.edu/openlearn/>

For books on real paper (!) the EO amazon store link, at the top of the EO website home page has a huge and ever-growing list.

To make a crossword puzzle easily, as I did for this issue, use puzzlemaker.com  
<http://www.puzzle-maker.com/CW/> It's free to design the puzzle, but not free to print it off, which is why I copied mine out onto a large piece of paper, then made it in MSPaint, using the outline tool – which was also a fun activity if you're that way inclined!

Free clip-art used in this newsletter is from openclipart.org – just click on the picture you want, then right-click to save to your computer's pictures section. It will be saved as an SVG – to save it as bitmap or png file (more useful) just open it in your pictures, and then right-click to save the picture again – only this time choose from 'save as type' either bitmap or png.



## AGM REPORT (INFORMAL)

Formal minutes will be published in the 'member home' area of the website, but in the meantime trustees wanted to let members know that all went smoothly – the AGM was quorate and business was concluded within 45 minutes.

Following the reduction in number of trustees approved by Special Resolution at the last Annual General Meeting, all current trustees stood down. Trustees present introduced themselves to the meeting. Trustees who had previously been appointed due to the need to maintain the former minimum number of 14 could now retire gracefully, and we thank them for their goodwill and support over the past year.

Trustees listed below, having said they were willing to stand again, were re-elected. All trustees are responsible for decisions and operation of EO and some have additional responsibilities – see below.

- Lei Ashe – Local Contacts Co-ordinator since 2010.
- Beverley Cameron Young – Current Treasurer but will resign following job handover
- Shena Deuchars – Membership Secretary
- Fe Mukwamba-Sendall – (possible future Co. Sec.)
- Hanna Newton – without portfolio
- Anne Rix – Chair, Publications (acting Co. Sec.)
- Edwina Theunissen – Enquiries Secretary
- Kathleen Thompson – without portfolio

Two new trustees (Julie Arnold and Jayne Palmer) were also elected. Their statements follow. Julie has offered to take on the job of Treasurer, and trustees feel that her previous experience of EO financial management and IT skills will be valuable in improving the smooth running of EO. We hope that Jayne's organisational knowledge and experience in social media could enable EO to reach a wider audience.

*Anne Rix, for EO Trustees*

### NEW TRUSTEE STATEMENTS

#### JULIE ARNOLD

I joined E.O. as a member in 2003, when my children were 12, 11 and 9 and just starting their HE Journey. Later I became the Co-ordinator for the children's pages newsletter, which I very much enjoyed.

In 2006 I became an EO Trustee and volunteered to take over as Treasurer when Martine retired from the job. I retired in 2007. I remember suggesting very early on that it might help things to run more smoothly if the number of trustees was reduced, as I felt it would be easier and quicker to arrive at consensus with a smaller group of committed and active trustees, rather than waiting for agreement from those who had kindly agreed to stand to make up numbers, while truthfully stating that they had little time for business. I am glad to see that this has now happened.

My EO membership eventually lapsed; I now have 3 grandchildren and 2 on the way and have recently re-joined EO. I recognise that following the recent re-organisation there is a great deal of pressure on trustees to carry out tasks that had for some while been done by paid staff, and I am now in a position to offer a reasonable amount of time to carry out voluntary work. I have good IT and organisational skills, that I hope will be of use in the administration of EO.

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#### JAYNE PALMER

I have home educated my two boys who have SEN for 6 years now. EO gave me tremendous courage when I first took my children out of school, and I became a member in 2010. I am currently an EO Local Contact, and help on the enquiry line. I enjoy helping but I keep hearing how people are not receiving



## EO SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) News

Latest news on the SEN reforms (England only): We recommend that you read what has been declared so far on the new code, to keep up to date with the changes as they are happening (see links below). An 'Assessment of Readiness' survey has been set up to get feedback from 'organisations' concerning the rate of progress they have made for the transition. This may be the tool that will dictate how fast the proposed changes will actually happen. DfE (Dept. for Education) statutory guidance has stated that there should be ongoing protection throughout the transition:

"Until the new system is introduced the statutory guidance for LDAs (Learning Difficulty Assessments) will remain in place. We will publish arrangements for the transfer to education health and care plans for children and young people with statements and LDAs and those who might be undergoing an assessment for a statement or LDA when the legislation comes into effect. This will include arrangements relating to any elements of the current code of practice and LDA guidance that might remain in force during the transition period".

However, IPSEA (Independent Parental Special Education Advice) have expressed concerns that whilst the changeover is happening, some children could be left 'in limbo':

"The law is not changing until September 2014 at the earliest, which means that people in this pathfinder authority will be in limbo for a year if they accept an EHC (Education Health & Care) plan now. The Regulations which will cover the new plans and the revised Code of Practice are not yet even in consultative drafts, so that Local Authorities do not know yet how to write plans. In effect they are experimenting with an untried and ungoverned system. It's questionable whether in law Local Authorities can do this until after the law changes. Local Authorities must maintain statements until children no longer need them, and they cannot simply ask parents to waive their child's rights. If statements are ceased then parents must be issued with a formal notice of that decision".

At the time of writing, Home Education had not been included in the new code, which had not gone unnoticed in the House Of Lords:

**101A:** Clause 30, page 24, line 32, after "children" insert "for whom it is responsible"

**Lord Lucas:** My Lords, I shall also speak to the other amendments in this group. I apologise to the Committee for the appalling drafting of Amendment 101A; it must be hard for anyone here to understand what I am on about. All the amendments concern home education, and Amendment 101A seeks reassurance from the Minister that it is intended that the local offer should cover children in home education and not just children in conventional schooling.

Amendments 164A and 164B cover a part of the Bill where it seems that the wording reverses the current relationship between local authority and parent when it comes to education. Our education legislation is written so that the responsibility for educating children rests with the parent, and the local authority then has duties in support of that. The way in which the Bill is worded at the moment seems to place the duty on the local authority, with the parent in support. If that is the case, I hope to put the situation back to where it always has been and, to my mind, where it should be.

Amendments 152ZA and 157ZA are on a more optimistic note. In recent years, there has been a considerable improvement in relationships between local authorities and the home education community. We have escaped from the cloud cast by the Badman report and are entering a period where there is a spirit of co-operation and mutual understanding. It seems to me that we ought to look for a situation where a statement of special educational needs can encompass education otherwise, as it is known; that is, that the provision might be made otherwise than at school and as part of a home education package.

For that to happen, both the local authority and the home education parents would have to agree that this was a suitable package. There would have to be rapprochement between the two sides but, as I have said, this is becoming much more common. It therefore seems sensible that we should have an arrangement where it is possible for local authority and home educating parents to co-operate in the interests of the child, rather than the current arrangement, with the rather strange Catch-22 situation where if a home-educating parent asks a local authority for help for a child with special educational needs, that is taken as proof that they are not able to provide properly for that child and that child must go straight to school. If the parent therefore does not ask for help, the local authority has no right, role or responsibility for making any provision whatsoever. That seems a dichotomy that does not act in the best interests of the children concerned.

References:

Latest on SEN Code Of Practice and open consultation:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/special-educational-needs-sen-code-of-practice-and-regulations>

Assessment of readiness survey:

<http://www.keysurvey.co.uk/votingmodule/s180/f/557175/201c/>

DFE Guidance For Local Authorities:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/statutory/g00203393/lda>

IPSEA on SEN Reforms: <http://ipsea.blogspot.co.uk/>

House Of Lords: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131030-gc0001.htm#13103084000514>

You have until December 9th to register your opinions on the consultation –  
See 'Ways to Respond' on the first link above.

If you would like to contribute to EO SEND please contact Edwina:  
[e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org](mailto:e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org)



"It is a lonely existence to be a child with a disability which no-one can see or understand. You exasperate your teachers, you disappoint your parents, and worst of all you know that you are not just stupid."

*Susan Hampshire, Actress*

## 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 listed below is available via the Local HE Groups area of the EO website. **If you know of a group** that's not listed, please ask the organiser to enter it at [www.educationotherwise.net](http://www.educationotherwise.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 contact & other changes via the Local Groups Co-ordinator: [eolg@educationotherwise.org](mailto:eolg@educationotherwise.org)

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### England

#### Bedfordshire

**Christian Home Ed** – Scott and Rachel, [scottandrachel@ntlworld.com](mailto:scottandrachel@ntlworld.com)

**Busy B-Hes** – Weekly drop-in offering chats and support; activities.

Pauline 01234 720819 / 07976 026167 [p.curl28@btinternet.com](mailto:p.curl28@btinternet.com).

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

#### Berkshire

**Berkshire Home Educators** – for HE families in & adjoining Berkshire

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/groups/berkshirehomeeducators/>

**Expanding Horizons:** trips, activities, regular meet ups and information for other Local groups. [www.expandinghorizonsuk.com](http://www.expandinghorizonsuk.com) : Rebecca

01494 882484, [expandinghorizonsuk@gmail.com](mailto:expandinghorizonsuk@gmail.com)

**Heroes-HE** - weekly Home Education Club at animal farm, with

workshops, etc. [www.heroesberkshire.co.uk/homeeducators.html](http://www.heroesberkshire.co.uk/homeeducators.html)

#### Bristol

**Bristol Home Education** – A local support group Bristol area.

<http://www.bristolhomeeducation.org.uk/>

**Bristol Home Education Learn Place (HELP)** Carla 01179 354389

[carla-maria@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:carla-maria@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Bristol Home Education Co-op** – HE activities in Bristol - Classes,

workshops, days out, and a FREE weekly Co-op meet up with activities

Yahoo group for event details, information & support:

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

Contact: [BristolHEC-owner@yahooagroups.com](mailto:BristolHEC-owner@yahooagroups.com) Or 0117 9553582

**Home Education in Bristol and the South West** – information and links

for groups, events and activities in Bristol and the surrounding areas +

national info & resources

<http://alternative-education-bristol.moonfruit.com/>

Contact: Therese, [alternativeeducation.bristol@gmail.com](mailto:alternativeeducation.bristol@gmail.com)

#### Buckinghamshire

**Free Range Education** – range of educational events and activities in

Milton Keynes & North Bucks Sarah: 07725 039981

[www.freerangeeducation.org](http://www.freerangeeducation.org)

**High Wycombe Home Educators** – for HERs in & around High Wycombe

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

**Home Education Milton Keynes** – informal non-hierarchical group for

HERs in Milton Keynes & surrounding areas. <http://www.he-mk.org.uk>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MadCows-MK/join>

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

<http://www.mkhen.org.uk>

Georgeanne 01908 662256 [sienna-swift7@power.net.co.uk](mailto:sienna-swift7@power.net.co.uk)

**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>

**South Bucks Home Educators** – (& surrounding areas)

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

Expanding Horizons, (see Berkshire).

#### Cambridgeshire

**Cambridgeshire Home Educators** – website [www.cambshomeed.co.uk](http://www.cambshomeed.co.uk)

Jane: [cambshomeed@gmail.com](mailto:cambshomeed@gmail.com)

**Cambridge Home Educating Families (CHEF)** – for parents/carers who

HE or considering HE. <http://www.cambridgehomeeducators.org.uk/>

Morag: 01223 464918 [morag2000@hotmail.com](mailto:morag2000@hotmail.com)

**Cambridge Home Educating Community Activity List** – summary of sessions and regular groups in Cambridge [www.educationchoice.org.uk](http://www.educationchoice.org.uk)

Karen: 01223 573220 [karen@karenrodgers.co.uk](mailto:karen@karenrodgers.co.uk)

#### Cheshire

**Mid Cheshire Home Educators** – Bi-monthly meetings and regular

outings. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mche>

**South Cheshire Home Educators** – Jacqui, [southcheshirehe@gmail.com](mailto:southcheshirehe@gmail.com)

<http://www.southcheshirehe.btck.co.uk/>

#### Cornwall

**Home Grown** – S E Cornwall HEGroup - Alternate Mondays in Liskeard:

classes in drawing & draughtsmanship / drama For ages 8-15. £6 per

session. : Kath 01579 340591

**Lostwithiel area H.E. group** - New group just starting up - come along

and help! Contact: Craig, [hyrax@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hyrax@hotmail.co.uk)

#### Cumbria

**Cumbria Home Educators** – Meets fortnightly near Kendal and in

Penrith. <http://www.communigate.co.uk/lakes/cumbriahomeed/>

**West Cumbria Home Educators** – (including Keswick). Mutual support

for HERs in West Cumbria : [WestCumbriaHomeEd@gmail.com](mailto:WestCumbriaHomeEd@gmail.com)

#### Derbyshire

**Derby Home Education Group (DHEG)** – Weekly. Gym Club at sports

centre with instructor. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/derbyhe/>

**Home Ed Buxton Area** – Local meetings/activities for HERs and those

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

#### Devon

**Unschooling Exeter** – New group being formed – ideas welcome.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/552587398141482/>

Contact: Zion [zio.lights@gmail.com](mailto:zio.lights@gmail.com)

**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>

**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)

**Exeter Home Education Community** Wednesday drop-in; GCSE; green

woodwork permaculture pottery & more. [nbedford@btinternet.com](mailto:nbedford@btinternet.com)

<http://exeterhomeeducationcommunity.co.uk> Neil 01363 82314

**Freedom Fields EHE** – Weekly social group, for HE children and young

people with parents. Tuesdays 11am -2pm.at Freedom Fields in

Plymouth [http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/PlymouthUK\\_HomeEd/](http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/PlymouthUK_HomeEd/)

**Stover HE Group** – Longstanding HE community based around Stover/

Newton Abbot. Informal educational and social meets in local and

surrounding areas. [stoverhegroup@gmail.com](mailto:stoverhegroup@gmail.com)

**Teignbridge and Torbay Home Educators** – Social events and

educational visits. <http://www.teignbridgeandtorbayhe.co.uk>

Julia 07905 293223 [Julia@classroomfree.co.uk](mailto:Julia@classroomfree.co.uk)

**Dartmoor and SW Home Education Group**. Based in S Dartmoor, HE

events locally and in many parts of the SW.

<http://dartmoor-sw-he-group.yolasite.com/>

Contact: [dartmoor.sw.he.group@gmail.com](mailto:dartmoor.sw.he.group@gmail.com)

**South Devon Home Education Group** –

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

Helen 01803 390639 [helenlloyd-hoare@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:helenlloyd-hoare@blueyonder.co.uk)

**FLAGS Home Education Group** – Exeter, every Friday - A welcoming

group for families with children of all ages. Lisa 07969299543 or Sue

[su.gold777@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:su.gold777@yahoo.co.uk) <http://www.homeeducationexeter.com/>.

## Dorset

**HEoND** Home Educators of North Dorset, Sturminster Newton.

[www.groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/HEoND/info](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/HEoND/info)

**Bournemouth HEED** – Weekly Monday meetings Carol 01202 677066  
[carolstone@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:carolstone@yahoo.co.uk)

**HERA** – friendly group based in Creekmoor Poole. Weekly workshops and activities + outings and events. [www.heradorset.shutterfly.com](http://www.heradorset.shutterfly.com)

**Bournemouth and Poole Home Educators** – Bournemouth/Poole area for play dates and visits to places of interest/museums/etc.

[http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Bournemouth\\_and\\_PooleHomeEducators/?yguid=419936795](http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Bournemouth_and_PooleHomeEducators/?yguid=419936795). Emma: [bmth.home.ed@gmail.com](mailto:bmth.home.ed@gmail.com)

## Durham

**Durham HE** – Yahoo group. Get-togethers arranged between members in various areas of County

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/County-durham-homeed>

## Essex

**A Different Class Home Education Group** – Southend-on-Sea. Non-profit weekly meetings regular outings. [www.adifferentclass.org](http://www.adifferentclass.org)

**Haverhill HE group** – Covering South Suffolk/North Essex.

Eve 01440 788228 or 07768 763913 [wixde@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wixde@yahoo.co.uk)

**WIGWAM Epping Forest** – A weekly informal drop-in group. Eleanor Stapleton 07866 701442 [elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk)

**Southend HE Group** – Meets weekly. Lots of outings and activities.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/southendhomeeducation/southendhomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk>

## Gloucestershire

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

**Glos Otherwise Club** Fiona 01684 290087 [brookesfam@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:brookesfam@tiscali.co.uk)

**Forest of Dean HE group** – Bridge and dam building river clearance fire building woodland walks etc. Roxy [cdshf@googlemail.com](mailto:cdshf@googlemail.com)

**Stroud email list** Nick 01453 840036 [nick.weir@localfood.org.uk](mailto:nick.weir@localfood.org.uk)

**Cirencester and Cotswold group** – Meetings plus will answer HE queries. Pam 01285 721008 [pamela.perryman@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.perryman@gmail.com)

## Hampshire

**Hampshire FRHEBEEs** – Free Range & Home Educated Bees. West Hampshire area and borders to arrange meet ups and activities.

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

**North Hampshire HE Group** – Regular activities and meetings organised suitable for all ages <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/NH-HE/>

Jaki 07731 805323 [jakimparsons@gmail.com](mailto:jakimparsons@gmail.com)

**Portsmouth Home Education Group** – HE or interested in HE

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

**SEEDS** – Meets every term time afternoon for sports/play + weekly full day activity. Southampton. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/seeds1/>

## Herefordshire

**Hereford Home Education** – Indoor and outdoor facilities ages 3-15. [herefordhe@gmail.com](mailto:herefordhe@gmail.com)

**Monmouth and Herefordshire Home Educators** – Local meets and events Yahoo! group. Roxy 07765 058 777

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

## Hertfordshire

**Herts Home Educators** – Yahoo! group for Hertfordshire home educators. [newhomeeducators@gmail.com](mailto:newhomeeducators@gmail.com)

## Isle of Wight

**Isle of Wight Learning Zone** – A network of HE families

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

**IW Home Ed** - Facebook group & yahoo group for IoW.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/IWHomeEd/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IWHomeEd/> Karen:

[Karen@curvespace.com](mailto:Karen@curvespace.com) or 01983 568516

## Kent

**Rochester Group** - Meets weekly in Rochester - Contact: Sally:

[sally\\_wilson@lineone.net](mailto:sally_wilson@lineone.net)

**Bromley Home Education Hub** - new (July 2013) meets weekly in large

venue at Orpington. <http://www.he-hub.com> Contact: Nicola

[nicola.sumpter@yahoo.com](mailto:nicola.sumpter@yahoo.com) 07895312380, Or Phoenix

[phoenix.debola@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:phoenix.debola@yahoo.co.uk) 07803704496.

**Dragonfly Kidz HE Group** – (Canterbury & Thanet) meets socially for learning activities swimming bowling days out etc. in a wide range of locations around Canterbury Thanet Whitstable etc. All Welcome!

Steph for more info: [stephgater@rocketmail.com](mailto:stephgater@rocketmail.com) 01304 814362.

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

**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>

**Medway and Maidstone HE activity group - HE OMEGA** – A group of home educating families in Medway and Kent.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HE-omega/>

Contact Esther: [e.selhi@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:e.selhi@yahoo.co.uk)

**SATHE Supporting Autism Through Home Education** – West Kent group open to all parents/carers HE/flexi-schooling or considering EO for children with autism/ sensitivities or learning difficulties.

Denice 07554 386844 [S-A-T-H-E@yahoogroups.co.uk](mailto:S-A-T-H-E@yahoogroups.co.uk)

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/S-A-T-H-E/>

**South East Home Educators** – (Kent/Sussex) Meet regularly for trips, hall meets, swimming etc. To join Yahoo! group email:

[southeasthomeeducators-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:southeasthomeeducators-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Or contact: Lesley Herriot [lesley294@aol.com](mailto:lesley294@aol.com) 07828193668

<http://www.southeast-home-educators.co.uk>

**Wealden Home Educators' Network** – active network of home

educating families in SE England. We offer help and support, information, activities, events and camps for home educators.

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

## Lancashire

**LEAD Home Education** – swap ideas, share stories and arrange local social gatherings. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lead\\_he/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lead_he/)

**Boneheds** – Help support advice and friendship to all families who are home educating (or considering HE) in Bolton Lancashire and 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/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/he-l-lo/>

## Leicestershire

**Leicestershire Christian Home Educators** – monthly meet up every 3rd Tuesday 10am-3pm at Oak Farm Park CV13 0JD. Free play opportunity in a safe and fun place. Home Ed Off-Peak Pass available: £1.50 per

child £5 per family free drinks. All welcome! Anne-Marie Marshall:

[mrsammarshall@googlemail.com](mailto:mrsammarshall@googlemail.com)

**Charnwood & Melton Yahoo Group** – many home ed groups, gatherings and Events. Vikki, [vikkiandmartin@googlemail.com](mailto:vikkiandmartin@googlemail.com)

**HE-AL message board** – details of HE Events in Leicestershire. Site run by local HE groups, but open to all HErs in the Leicestershire area

<http://he-al.weebly.com/index.html>

<http://he-al.weebly.com/index.html>

## Lincolnshire

**Lincolnshire HE** – <http://www.home-ed.ukf.net/index.htm>

**Home Ed Lincs** – Yahoo newsgroup coordinating HE activities in Lincolnshire. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/home\\_ed\\_lincs/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/home_ed_lincs/)

**North Hykeham HE Group** – Thurs 10-11.30ish. Primarily for toddlers. 07870 787328 [debi-crow@googlemail.com](mailto:debi-crow@googlemail.com)

**Homeschool Lincolnshire** – active and supportive group, 40 + families incl. plenty of teenagers. Monthly events and activities list: Elaine

01507 328688, [homeschool.lincolnshire@outlook.com](mailto:homeschool.lincolnshire@outlook.com)

[homeschool.lincolnshire@outlook.com](mailto:homeschool.lincolnshire@outlook.com)

## London

**Markfield - Portland Home Education Group** – for children 3 – 12 yrs old. Contact: Shelly : [Shellydonael@gmail.com](mailto:Shellydonael@gmail.com) .

**The Otherwise Club (NW)** – A community centre for HE families. Leslie 0208 969 0893

**Brandram Roaders** – Weekly meetings in term time. [rbyradburn@hotmail.com](mailto:rbyradburn@hotmail.com)

**Haringey Home Education Club** – meetings and other events <http://www.hhec.org.uk/> @hhec.org.uk

**Magpie Home Educators (East London)** – Phil 0208 500 1053

**Home Study Groups** – small group of HE families pooling resources for tutored home study groups. Ingie 0203 566 8706 [iberritt@gmail.com](mailto:iberritt@gmail.com)

**WIGWAM** Jubilee Park N9 . Informal drop-in group for families with children of any age. Eleanor Stapleton 07866 701442 [elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk)

## Norfolk

**Home Education in Norfolk (HENs)** – A group for HE families in Norfolk. Those on the borders also welcome.

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

**West Norfolk Home Educators** – A meeting place for home educators and families interested in home educating.

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

**The Barefoot Learners** – Games and activities for all ages. Be Coffin 07814 592 290 or 01263 73 99 83

## Northamptonshire

**Northants HE** – Informal group meets regularly for various activities <http://www.northantshe.org.uk/>

**iFlow** – weekly HE community group in NW Northants. Aiming to provide continuity of support and friendships parent and professionally led educational activities. A wide range of resources in a large community space with sports facilities and outdoor play [www.iflow-he.org](http://www.iflow-he.org) Email: [welcomelflow@gmail.com](mailto:welcomelflow@gmail.com)

## Nottinghamshire

**Notts Sheep Special** – Online support group for HE parents of special needs/differently-abled children in 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 also welcome to join.

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

**OHED** – Website with information about HE in Oxfordshire [www.ohed.org.uk](http://www.ohed.org.uk) Louisa: [louisa.southey@gmail.com](mailto:louisa.southey@gmail.com) or 01865 735705

**Expanding Horizons** (See Berkshire).

## Shropshire

**Rushbury/Stretton HE Group** – Parent and child-led activities as well as people from the wider community Beverley 01743 718429

**Telford area HE** – activities For times and dates of skating football and drama sessions. Denise 07866 888879

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

**Otherwise Engaged** – Online diary of group activities cultural events workshops resources and projects for Shrops and West Mids based HE families. <http://www.otherwise-engaged.org.uk/home-education.html>

## Somerset

**Taunton Home Education Group** – Free play, arts & crafts, games , etc. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tauntonhomeeducation/>

[tauntonhomeeducation@yahoo.com](mailto:tauntonhomeeducation@yahoo.com)

<http://tauntonhomeed.blogspot.com/>

**Taunton Free Range home ed.** friendly laid back group of HE families from Somerset, meeting every Monday for socialisation and optional craft/experiment/activity. Contact Natanya on 01823 257929 or email [tauntonfreerangekids@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tauntonfreerangekids@yahoo.co.uk)

**HEY Yeovil** – All HE families welcome. Lyn Crocker 01963 23669 [heyevovil@hotmail.com](mailto:heyevovil@hotmail.com)

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

**Oake HE Group** – Monthly meetings and regular outings. Maggie 01984 624651

**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)

**Bath HE Yahoo! Group** –

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

**FAB Home Ed Group** (Shepton Mallet) - meets fortnightly.

Contact AJ on 01761 413316 [ajlewisatwell@hotmail.com](mailto:ajlewisatwell@hotmail.com)

[mendiphomeed@yahoo.com](mailto:mendiphomeed@yahoo.com)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Mendiphomeed/info>

## Suffolk

**Dennington HE Group** – Wide range of activities all ages welcome. Janet 01728 638795 [janetlomas@ymail.com](mailto:janetlomas@ymail.com)

**Haverhill HE group** – Covering South Suffolk/North Essex. Eve 01440 788228 or 07768 763913 [wixde@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wixde@yahoo.co.uk)

**Ipswich HE** Wednesdays Shared lunch and activities.

Emma [emma@nattyem.co.uk](mailto:emma@nattyem.co.uk)

**Ipswich town centre group + Book Club** – Lisa 07538 102322 [llw\\_llg@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:llw_llg@yahoo.co.uk)

**Tostock HE Group** – All families welcome to this very friendly group. Jan 01359 251184 [angusto@btinternet.com](mailto:angusto@btinternet.com)

## Surrey

**Dorking Home Educators** - meet fortnightly in Dorking. Drop-in sessions and pre-booked activities. Plus regular outings and trips.

[www.facebook.com/groups/113572308842436](http://www.facebook.com/groups/113572308842436)

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

Contact: Amanda: [schrodingerscat81@hotmail.com](mailto:schrodingerscat81@hotmail.com)

**SW Surrey Home Ed** – Weekly gatherings Farnham or Godalming. <http://www.swsurrey-home-ed.co.uk/index.php>

**Sutton/Epsom HE group** – Meets weekly and also monthly for outings. Paul 07506 781796 [pauldmsn@hotmail.com](mailto:pauldmsn@hotmail.com)

<http://epsomandsuttonhomeed.blogspot.com/>

**Leatherhead Home Education Group** – Leatherhead and surrounding area regular day trips and activities. Chrissie Thorpe 07840285703 [christabelthorpe@hotmail.com](mailto:christabelthorpe@hotmail.com)

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/313168112059023/>

**Parents and Children Together (PACT)** – Guildford & surrounding areas newsletter for one-off events and regular weekly activities.

<http://www.pact-he.org.uk/>

**Home Educators Learning Project**

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

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

**Surbiton Home Ed Group (SHEd)** – parent-led clubs, professionally led educational workshops . children aged 0-16 regularly attending.

Contact Ingrid: [ingrid.meaker@mac.com](mailto:ingrid.meaker@mac.com)

## Sussex

**ActivEO** HE Group W Sussex and Hants (see Hampshire)

**HEDGE Home Ed Group** – Hastings/St. Leonards weekly social meetings + trips etc. [www.hedge-education.btck.co.uk](http://www.hedge-education.btck.co.uk) Beshlie 01424 812870

**South Eastern Home Educators** – (Kent/Sussex) See Kent for details.

**Forest Row HE Group** – regular monthly meetings + many other fun & learning <http://www.facebook.com/groups/forestrowhomeeducators> .

**Eastbourne EO Group** – Regular gatherings & activities.

<http://www.shinies.org.uk/>

**Brighton and Hove Home Educators** – Information on HE events and groups in the area. <http://bhhe.wordpress.com/>

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

**Hastings & Rother Home Educators (HARHE)** – small number of families; activities include Forest School, cycling, daytrips, bowling and swimming. Check out our website and us or come along to an activity [www.harhe.btck.co.uk](http://www.harhe.btck.co.uk) Catherine: 01424 812213

## Warwickshire

**Creative Youth Adventure Club (Coventry)** – For over 11s working towards Arts Awards. Sarah sarah@nellyb.co.uk

**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, Alison 07782 299181 <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/warwickhe>

## Wiltshire

**Chapmanslade Home Education Group** – For Chapmanslade and surrounding areas (Westbury, Warminster, Frome, Bath, Trowbridge etc). We meet twice a month. Find us on Facebook: *Chapmanslade Home Education Group*. Contact: Maria [maria@trivialbusiness.co.uk](mailto:maria@trivialbusiness.co.uk)

**The Outpost Education Centre** – meet near Chippenham Tuesdays term time. <http://www.theoutpost.org.uk/> [info@theoutpost.org.uk](mailto:info@theoutpost.org.uk)

**Salisbury Plain Home Education Circle** – Parents who use the National Curriculum as guidance, but believe that best education comes from experience. Dee: [dee.dilloway@yahoo.com](mailto:dee.dilloway@yahoo.com) , 07753 260317

## Worcestershire

**Bewdley HE Group** – Weekly meetings, social/activities etc. all welcome. Sophie 01299 405669, [sophiebutcher29@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sophiebutcher29@yahoo.co.uk)  
**Worcestershire Home Ed** Yahoo Group Email list for Worcs HERS <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/worcestershirehome-ed/>

## Yorkshire

**Home Education Doncaster Group (HEDG)** – For Doncaster and surrounding areas. <http://www.homeeducationdoncaster.co.uk/>, Contact: Gillian [gillycooper@hotmail.com](mailto:gillycooper@hotmail.com) 07938 007 306

**DHE** Doncaster home educators Yahoo group for families in the Doncaster and surrounding areas. Cheryl Moy on 07825 914340 [cheryl0407@aol.com](mailto:cheryl0407@aol.com) <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/DHE/>

**HENNEY (Home Education Network North East Yorkshire)** Regular meet ups around the Scarborough and East coast area. Lisa Riley [lisa\\_riley@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lisa_riley@tiscali.co.uk) [henney-owner@yahoo.com](mailto:henney-owner@yahoo.com)

**Huddersfield Art Workshops** – Monthly 8yrs plus. Jane 01484 645034  
**Huddersfield Book Group** Monthly Marsden library. Jane 01484 645034  
**Huddersfield Home Educators** – Monthly themed meetings. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wyhec/> Mandy 01484 460026 [meandchi7@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:meandchi7@yahoo.co.uk)

**Yorkshire Home Edders Yahoo! group** – A friendly & active group with visits & workshops for children 8-16. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/yorkshirehomedders/>

**NYHEC (group for HE parents)** – for parents HEing in North Yorkshire. [nyhecowner@yahoo.com](mailto:nyhecowner@yahoo.com)

**North + West HE Group** – Meets Skipton monthly and Bradford Gym Club weekly. Regular meetings and outings. Judith 01756 791356

**Rotherham Home Education** – friendly informal group for HERS in & around S.Yorkshire. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RothHE/> Pauline 077764 06409 [collicandydog123@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:collicandydog123@yahoo.co.uk)

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

**Wakefield District Home Education Group** – New Group 2013. Currently regular Bowling & Ice skating. Will be organising more trips and visits as numbers increase. Contact Tracey: [wakefieldHE-owner@yahoo.com](mailto:wakefieldHE-owner@yahoo.com)

## Regional – East of England

**East Anglian Home Ed Network** – <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/East-Anglian-Home-Ed-Network/>

## Regional – East Midlands

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

## Regional – South East

**FLAGS (Kent/Surrey/Sussex)** –. 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)

**ActiveO** HE Group based in West Sussex and Hampshire Contact number 01243 552780 <http://www.activeo.co.uk/index.html>

**South Hants Home Ed** – A support group for home educators <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/southhantshomeed/>

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

**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)

**South East Home Educators** – (Kent/Sussex) See Kent for details.

**Wealden Home Educators' Network (WHEN)** (SE England) see Kent.

## Regional – South West

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

**HERs and Events SW** – network to support new HERS or those new to the area. New input welcomed. [southdevonlc@gmail.com](mailto:southdevonlc@gmail.com)

<http://hecontactssandeventssw.yolasite.com>

**HE in Bristol and SW** – see Bristol

## Regional – West Midlands

**Birmingham Home Ed** – and events for HE families. <http://www.homeeducationbirmingham.org.uk>

## Isle of Man

**Home Educating Network - Isle of Man** – informal group of parents HEing on the Isle of Man. Yvonne, [isleofmanlc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:isleofmanlc@educationotherwise.org) <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/hen-iom/>

## Wales

### Carmarthenshire

**Camarthen HE Group** – Regular meetings in Johnstown Carmarthen [caroline.milburn@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:vivodsam@gmail.com)

### Flintshire

**Flintshire Home Education** – Regular meet ups activities & support. [flintshirehomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:flintshirehomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk)

### Glamorgan

**New Foundations HE** – Meets Cardiff Thursdays 10-4. All activities free. <http://www.newfoundationshe.com> 02920216502 [newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com](mailto:newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com)

**Bridgend Home Educators**. free play, GCSE classes, Arts Award, outside speakers, activities, etc. See [www.bridgendhomeeducators.org](http://www.bridgendhomeeducators.org) or .email [info@bridgendhomeeducators.org](mailto:info@bridgendhomeeducators.org)

**Newport Home Education Group** – Group Rogerstone 1-4pm £4/family. Fiona [fionataylor910@btinternet.com](mailto:fionataylor910@btinternet.com)

### Gwynedd

**Langower HE Group** – Weekly meetings. [rowenna73@hotmail.com](mailto:rowenna73@hotmail.com)  
**Creative Learning and Support** – Now meet meet every Wed. pm in Bangor. Julie on 01286 678181 or Sarah on 01248 355182 <http://www.creativelearningandsupport.co.uk>

### Monmouthshire

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

**Usk Home Education** – Monthly (Thurs) meet other HERS in the area for fun and games and cups of tea. Roxy: [cdsnhf@gmail.com](mailto:cdsnhf@gmail.com) or 01989 768 128 <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HerefordshireHE/>

## Montgomeryshire

**Shiny Happy Children** – Regular meetings in Llanfyllin and surrounding areas. Katie [llanfyllinHE@gmail.com](mailto:llanfyllinHE@gmail.com)

## Neath Port Talbot

**Wise Up Community HE Group** (Port Talbot) – Support and information for home educating families and those considering home education. <http://www.zoneseven.co.uk> [ianna.violet@hotmail.com](mailto:ianna.violet@hotmail.com)

## Powys

**New Leaf HE Group** (Newtown) – Occasional meetings for varied activities all ages. [siouxcatsy@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:siouxcatsy@yahoo.co.uk)

**Wrexham and Surrounds Home Education (WASHE)** – Activities around Wrexham area. <http://washe.co.uk/>

## Regional

**Elective Home Education Wales** – Linking HE families across Wales. <http://www.ehew.co.uk>

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

**New Foundations** – HE group and charity offering social & educational activities and support in Cardiff and South Wales. Every Mon 10am - 3pm. All HE families welcome. [www.newfoundationshe.com](http://www.newfoundationshe.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/329840653796249/>  
Jayne: [newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com](mailto:newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com) Or 02920216502

## Channel Islands

**Home Education Jersey** – New home education group. Jess: [homeeducationjersey@gmail.com](mailto:homeeducationjersey@gmail.com)

**Guernsey Home Educators** – Fledgling group of home educators and those sympathetic to home education in Guernsey. Yvonne Burford on 01481 264776 or [Atplir@hotmail.com](mailto:Atplir@hotmail.com)

## International (UK based)

**HE-DS (Home Educating a child with Down's syndrome)** – Linking families who are home educating a child with Down's syndrome. <http://www.oakwellbarns.co.uk> Yahoo group (private, by invitation)  
Anita Kolaczynska 01686 413502 [anitakolaczynska@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:anitakolaczynska@yahoo.co.uk)

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### USE IT – OR LOSE IT !

#### PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR LOCAL GROUPS Future price increase?

As notified in the last newsletter, the cost to groups has been held at £10 for the year (or part year) to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014. However, despite the excellent value this represents for local groups, take up is still low and group contributions fall far short of the premium paid by EO, which is funded out of members' subscriptions. While trustees feel that it is reasonable to subsidise this benefit to members to some extent, unless many more groups take advantage of the deal THIS YEAR, the cost to each group will definitely need to increase for following years.

We realise that groups have different renewal dates, and you might not have thought of taking up this offer because your existing insurance is still in place. However, if your policy comes up for renewal

between now and next summer, please consider taking out the EO group policy instead – at £10 up to the end of August 2014 we think it will still compare favourably with the rates we have heard that individual HE groups are paying.

Also, please don't leave it till the last minute to look at the policy documents and guidance for the EO insurance. We have found that groups take some time to digest the information, and then may have queries. Getting the required three EO member signatures also seems to cause delays.

Detailed guidance and an application form are available to download from the Member Home area of the EO website. To minimise work for volunteers, we would request members to obtain these from the website, but in case of difficulty you may request details by email from the Local Groups Insurance Co-ordinator (Anne is acting for now):  
<[lgic@educationotherwise.org](mailto:lgic@educationotherwise.org)>



## Who does What in EO

### Current Trustees [Council Members]

**Julie Arnold** (email pending)

**Lei Ashe** (Local Contacts Co-ord)

lashe@educationotherwise.org

**Beverley Cameron-Young** (Treasurer)

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**Shena Deuchars** (Membership Sec.)

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**Fe Mukwamba-Sendall**

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**Jayne Palmer** (email pending)

**Anne Rix** (Chair & Publications Sec.)

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**Edwina Theunissen**

e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org

**Kathleen Thompson**

kthompson@educationotherwise.org

N.B. Email to

[trustees@educationotherwise.org](mailto:trustees@educationotherwise.org)

goes to all trustees

Address for correspondence by letter:

Education Otherwise

P.O. Box 3761

SWINDON

SN2 9GT

AND NEW WEBSITE:

[www.educationotherwise.net](http://www.educationotherwise.net)

N.B. THIS IS **SEPARATE** FROM THE EO EMAILS

AND FORUMS, WHICH ARE STILL BASED ON

THE OLD URL: [educationotherwise.org](http://educationotherwise.org)

### Membership

Membership enquiries, address changes,

membership cards, new member admin:

please contact the Membership Secretary:

[membership@educationotherwise.org](mailto:membership@educationotherwise.org)

or PO Box 3761, Swindon, SN2 9GT

### Other Useful Contacts

Anti-Bullying Contact: **Kathleen Thompson**

01942 89 77 79

College/GCSE Contact: **Roger Scaife** 08445 003 708

GCSEs at Home: **Louise** 08445 003 688

OU GCSE equivalents: **Wendy** 08445 003 691

GCSE/Exams email list:

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HE-Exams-GCSE-A\\_AS\\_Levels-OU-Others/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HE-Exams-GCSE-A_AS_Levels-OU-Others/)

Concessions Contact: **Lynsey Scott**

[concessions@educationotherwise.org](mailto:concessions@educationotherwise.org)

Concessions Co-ordinator: **Vacant**

Enquiries Secretary: **Edwina Theunissen**

01978 661 882 [e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org](mailto:e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org)

Flexi-schooling: **Alison Sauer**

[Alison@sauer.demon.co.uk](mailto:Alison@sauer.demon.co.uk) 01282 854719

Local Contacts Co-ordinator: **Lei Ashe**

[lcco-ordinator@educationotherwise.org](mailto:lcco-ordinator@educationotherwise.org)

Local Group Insurance: **Anne Rix**

[lgic@educationotherwise.org](mailto:lgic@educationotherwise.org)

Local Groups Listings: **Kennell Family**

[eolg@educationotherwise.org](mailto:eolg@educationotherwise.org)

Newsletter Coordinator: **Edana Edwards (Acting)**

[<eonews@btinternet.com>](mailto:eonews@btinternet.com)

Publications Secretary: **Anne Rix**

[<arix@educationotherwise.org>](mailto:arix@educationotherwise.org) 01760 44 18 10

School Anxiety Support: **Jayne Owen** 08445 008469

Single Parent Contact : **Sam Kruger** 08445 003794

[denbighshire-lc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:denbighshire-lc@educationotherwise.org)

Special Needs: **Denice** [send@educationotherwise.org](mailto:send@educationotherwise.org)

**Alisa**: 01749 830034 / 07707 060973

SEND email list via: <http://www.he-special.org.uk/>

Volunteer Co-ordinator: **Wendy Knight**

[vol-coordinator@educationotherwise.org](mailto:vol-coordinator@educationotherwise.org)

Webmasters: **Louisa and Charles**

[webmaster@educationotherwise.org](mailto:webmaster@educationotherwise.org)

# education otherwise

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

Our principal aims are to:

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

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

P.O. BOX 3761  
SWINDON, SN2 9GT

Helpline 0845 4786 345

Web Site: <http://www.educationotherwise.net>

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