



E**DU**CATION

O**THER**WISE.



**NEWSLETTER**

**No: 36.**

**AUG. '84.**

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The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editor or Education Otherwise as a whole

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Next Editor: See Page 23.

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# EDITORIAL

*Pauline Thomasson*

Now comes the hard part....the Editorial.

Denis, my husband and I are what our local paper described as "Rebels" when it comes to the education of our children. We took Susan out of school at the age of 11, two years ago, and likewise Paul 12 months back. By the time Paul left Junior School, we had already been through the Courts in relation to our decision to teach Susan at home and I have been contacted on several occasions by other parents who are experiencing difficulties with their L.E.A.'s. Looking back, our decision was, MOST DEFINITELY, RIGHT! Our only regret is that our other daughter, Carol, was allowed to go on to a Secondary School, especially at a time when our Local Authority was in such a turmoil regarding the changeover to a Comprehensive system of schooling. She's nearly 17 now and has left.

As well as our own two, we have now acquired an additional pupil, who, during the school day, does go to school, but enjoys joining Susan and Paul in the evenings and weekends at their work.

One major problem which we worried about at the time of our Court battle, was the fact that we BOTH work. However, we got around this problem by the fact that Denis is able to work a late shift, which allows me to continue with my job as a Secretary during the day. Because, we both work, we considered it imperative to invest in a computer, so that one or other of us can programme lessons for the children to do when we are not there.

We wondered whether the Courts would accept what the children were doing as constituting a suitable education. However, times of lessons, contents of lessons, etc., were not necessary, as we were able to show the Senior Advisor, on his visit, that the work they were doing was enough to satisfy any Education Authority. We did not, at that time, have our computer, as many, many hours and careful thought and consideration into a suitable type of computer to carry out the job we wanted it to, were put in. He's due next week, 25th July, we only hope he likes it and the work on it!

However, now to get down to the business in hand; I have edited this newsletter with mixed feelings, those of joy and, in one instance, anger! I have laughed a lot, learned things about myself that I didn't know - that, when forced to, I CAN DRAW. There is, somewhere in me, an artist trying to get out....

I've driven my husband up the wall with the clicking of typewriter keys, the dogs are frightened of moving in case I bark at them, mind the wires! LIE DOWN. Don't touch this, don't sit on that!! But I have REALLY ENJOYED IT!

The main problem I've found with the editing, etc., is the fact that all the materials for publication seemed to arrive AFTER the 'Deadline' - all with apologies, I hope its not too late! Well, for most it wasn't....but to the odd couple I would say, Sorry!.....

However, I have passed on all the unused material to the next Editor, with my best wishes.

The one thing I am looking forward to, is actually seeing the finished product, awaiting anxiously the outcome of all my work.

By necessity, a lot of this newsletter is devoted to Unstone Grange, the Minutes and Financial Report/Balance Sheet, and I apologise for the quite lengthy Editorial.

We can all now get back to our normal, if unusual, daily routine.... well, unusual for our Estate, of working, teaching the children, often whilst eating, and generally wearing ourselves out.....OH, for our Holidays in August!

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Denis's contribution:

Holidays, WHAT HOLIDAYS? I think it would be an advantage to us if we were able to arrange with some of the local firms during our holidays, to take the children on visits round their factories to see how things are manufactured.

As I was experiencing difficulties in contacting particular firms - it being Bolton Holiday fortnight, a friend suggested I contact the local Careers Office, who, within two hours of my enquiry, supplied us with a "booklet" containing every local firm, with details of their business, what they manufacture or do, whether or not they accept parties, how many to a party if they do and any age limits imposed, also what notice they required for intended visitors.

I think it would be well worthwhile any E.O. Member obtaining this booklet which is called a "Resources Directory", as this is available in Bolton, I believe it should be available throughout the Country.

Our computer is the Sharp MZ.700, but we are having difficulty getting educational material, even though we have a local supplier who states that he can supply all Sharp software - we have had two tapes on order now for nearly a month - but, as stated in previous issues, suppliers only seem to want to be games orientated.

If any E.O. member has any educational material LISTINGS for the Sharp MZ.700 can you please get in touch, or indeed, if anyone with such a machine wants anything we have.

.....

My apologies to my darling daughter Susan, who has written a very good poem for inclusion and I've mislaid it.

*Love,  
Mum*

# E.O. thro' the Press

Edited by: Sarah Guthrie, with contributions from Janice Owen and Anne Weitz and special thanks to Jackie Fearnley.

## 'O' LEVEL SHOCK HORROR.

Following 15 years of debate about reform, G.C.E. 'O' levels and the C.S.E. have been replaced by a single system of examinations at 16 plus, known as the General Certificate of Secondary Education (G.C.S.E.), the new examination courses will start in 1986 and the first awards will be made in 1988.

THE GUARDIAN (21st June) says that the new system will test absolute standards rather than pupil performance relative to that of other pupils. The TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT (23rd June) suggests that the package launched by Sir Keith Joseph is "cleverly designed to please the educational world and soothe Conservative fears about standards".

PARENT POWER: A booklet about parental involvement in schools reveals that some parents - mostly mothers - feared and distrusted teachers and saw education as part of authority.

One mother said: "I feel just as I did when I was at school myself. They're so clever and they must think me so stupid - but I'm not stupid!..as soon as my children go through those school gates I feel I lose them completely. They're not mine until they come out again." (TIMES EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT - June '84).

## COMPUTERS - AGAIN.....AND.....AGAIN!!



Parts of the mathematics software pack for the government sponsored micro-computer programme for Primary Schools contain "serious mathematical deficiencies" said the Mathematical Association (GUARDIAN, 4th April and TELEGRAPH 6.4.84). It cost about £100,000 to develop the pack, which has been described as useful for showing children how NOT to programme a computer.....with the use of a computer, 5 year olds can now learn to write before they read, often turning out complete sentences within 6 weeks, finds a teaching experiment in the U.S. (SUNDAY MAIL, April 1984)

## THE LAW:

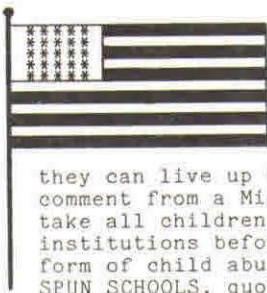
The Child Care law needs an urgent overhaul, recommended an all-party Commons Social Services Committee (GUARDIAN, April 27). "A total shake-up to simplify the legal minefield of child care law is essential without further delay" said the Director of the N.S.P.C.C.

## WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT IT ??????

A disturbing rise in school rugby injuries was attributed to the "win-at-all-costs" attitudes and the psyching-up of young schoolboys", plus illegal scrum tactics and foul play, said a report to the British Orthopaedic Association (TELEGRAPH 2.4.84). It called for a more healthy psychological approach, among other things .....

"The teacher should speak clearly and not harshly. Dyslexic children are often very sensitive to loud aggressive voices and respond poorly to teachers who shout at the class.....(advice from OVERCOMING DYSLEXIA, a book reviewed in the TELEGRAPH, 16.4.84...the school day or year could be cut to give teachers more time for lesson preparation (suggestion from Somerset's Chief Education Officer: GUARDIAN 9.4.84).....Disruptive behaviour is now being widely reported among primary schools and sometimes even pre-school children throughout Western Europe. Teachers report restlessness, instability and behavioural problems, including being "tired of school" which require the continual co-operation of school and home. (TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT, May '84).....

ANOTHER BREAKTHROUGH FOR SCIENCE: 14 years of research by Dr. Gordon Wells into how very young children learn cost £1m, and found that primary schools should look critically at their teaching methods (GUARDIAN 22 May). In particular, assessment of language competence via school tests were misleading because, the research found, children expressed themselves better at home in a relaxed conversational atmosphere. It also demonstrated that the majority of children learn extremely effectively through conversation at home where they are well-motivated because their speech is concerned with what they are actually doing at any given time..." The Senior Primary Adviser for Oxfordshire, John Coe, thought that schools could be more active in encouraging parents and children to come on increasingly long visits to school, all of which would help children "get used to the difference in approach and atmosphere between home and school." He would also like to see each infants classroom with a special 'home' corner where children "could be encouraged to talk in small groups..." Dr. Wells found it encouraging that we now have a clearer idea of how adults can contribute to children's development at this early age.



E.O. - U.S.A.

".....Education is too important to leave to parental whimsy. It should not create problem children who will burden society as problem adults. That's why we should permit home schooling only by those parents who demonstrate they can live up to that awesome responsibility..." (Editorial comment from a Miami newspaper: USA TODAY, December 1983)...."To take all children unnecessarily out of the home and put them into institutions before they are ready is perhaps our most pervasive form of child abuse today." (Authors of HOME GROWN KIDS AND HOME SPUN SCHOOLS, quoted in the above newspaper).

POSTSCRIPT.....

A man who ended up murdering his wife had been packed off to boarding school at an early age, and badly bullied by fellow pupils. When he reacted by stealing, starting fires and playing truant he was beaten by staff. (GUARDIAN, 30 June 1984)



Please send contributions to:

Sarah Guthrie,  
Field House,  
Thrandeston,  
DISS, Norfolk.

# Talking about School!!

"In Britain we do not encourage pupils to enjoy school and Eltham Green was no exception. I did not enjoy it although I could list a few teachers there whom I respected and I would have shown my ex-headmaster great respect had I thought he deserved it. But that is not the case....." - (last word from BOY GEORGE, TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT, 4.5.84)

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"At school I used to wait in terror for my teacher to point a finger at me and say: 'Susan, you stand up and read the next two paragraphs.' As I struggled to decipher the words, perspiration would roll down my arms and make little patches on the floor." (Susan Hampshire, in a foreword to the book OVERCOMING DYSLEXIA, reported in the TELEGRAPH 16.4.84)

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"My school abandoned corporal punishment 5 years ago...(it) has led to many time-consuming telephone calls to parents as well as letters and forms. My God, it takes so much time. We need time to teach, not to fill in forms." (Head of a Nottinghamshire Comprehensive, TELEGRAPH, 25.4.84)

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The father of steam locomotion, Richard Trevithick, was described as slow to learn and disobedient in class. He played truant and, when he came to school did not attend lessons. But he was best in the school at maths. (BLUE PETER, B.B.C. TV, 10.5.84)

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"I had problems with life when I left. I found it difficult to relate to women..." "It really only equipped you for life in the Army. It was unacademic and hairy-kneed, catering for the thick sons of the rich" (ex-pupils of Gordonstoun School: TIMES, May)

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"Children don't expect school to be all that different from home so we have stereos, coffee, videos and discos if they are available" (Father Dominic Milroy, Head of Ampleforth Public School, talking in the TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT 15.6.84). He said that nowadays even remote boarding schools were besieged by parents visiting their offspring, and in the process, passing on to their teachers their own views about education. This upheaval was putting great strain on many of the boarding schools traditions....." people are questioning the blazers, badges and stripes of the military-based public school" and a system of rewards based on such spoils as trophies, prizes, cups and medals.

Edited by: Sarah Guthrie, with contributions from  
Jo Guthrie & Janice Owens.

## PUBLIC SPEAKING

Hazel Clawley of Small Heath, Birmingham has given an account of her recent experience of 'Public Speaking'.....

Yesterday (11th June) I spoke to a conference of 35 Birmingham librarians about E.O. The invitation probably stemmed from the John Holt conference of several years ago, when Birmingham libraries provided a book display, and a story-teller for the children's room. Since then, West Midlands E.O. have held a couple of meetings at the Central Children's Library, and have appreciated the supportive interest of the Staff there.

The theme of the Librarians' Conference this year was 'The Other Child', and the panel session I took part in was about children being educated in whole or in part outside the state school system. The other speakers were Jane Officer, a child guidance officer who works with school refusers, and Val Hart from St. Paul's School, a voluntary school for 25-30 'secondary-age' children who do not 'fit' into ordinary schools.

I spoke for about ten minutes about the legality of deschooling, about the aims of E.O. as an organisation, and, very briefly, about our own family's four and a half years of education outside school.

Question-time brought a surprising amount of flack. Most of the questions were directed at me, which was a pity in a way, because I was full of unanswered questions about the work of the other panellists, who I felt were fairly sympathetic towards E.O. After all, their lives are spent with children who have totally rejected (or been rejected by?) ordinary schools.

This is the 'morning after', and I'm still mulling over some of the questions, trying to fathom what lay behind them, and answering them now in the reflective calm of my own kitchen much more adequately (if more rudely!) than I did yesterday in face of the outraged (puzzled? defensive?) questioners.

I'm not going to attempt to reproduce my own halting off-the-cuff answers, or even today's more closely-argued versions, but I would like to share the questions with you, and maybe some of you would write in to the Newsletter and tell us what you would have said.

Why did you withdraw your child?

If you withdraw one, is the tendency for the others just not to go?

You describe your child's school in very negative terms. In seven years of my own children's schooling I've never come across a school like that. Did you try any other schools?

Aren't your children missing a vital social experience? How are they going to learn to mix with a large group of other children of all kinds - sex, race, class?

Everyone else in our society goes through this experience - how will your children cope with life in our society without this preparation?

If you withdraw them just because they're unhappy, aren't you fighting their battles for them? Surely they must learn to cope with their own problems?

I was unhappy at school, and just had to grin and bear it, and learn to cope. Many children dislike school. How can you tell when your child is just disliking school, like to many others, or has reached the point at which he really can't cope?

How can you cope with public exams when you're not qualified teachers? Surely you have to be educated yourself to educate your children.

All these questions came from two or three people who were obviously quite disturbed at the whole idea of E.O., and rejected any attempts I made at reply. At the same time, I sensed a general feeling of support from the rest of the group - murmurs, nods, asides - which made me feel the questioners were in the minority, but were so worked up about what I'd said that they virtually hogged the question time, in spite of the Chairperson's attempts to broaden the questioning. Conversations afterwards led me to believe that the persistent questioners were parents with children at school. Unhappy children?

There were a few more constructive questions:

What sort of jobs do E.O. children eventually get? How do employers react?

Are any standards set for academic work?

All the panel seem very negative about schools. What has gone wrong with Schools? What can be done about it? (!)

There was even time for a few questions to the other panellists, in the course of which I was interested to hear Jane Officer say she didn't use the term 'school phobic' for her school refusers as she thought a medical term like 'phobic' inappropriate.

What disappointed me was the lack of opportunity to talk about what really interests me - how children learn when freed from the pressures of schooling. We couldn't get away from the idea of E.O. as an unfortunate second-best when all else fails, rather than a positive way of setting children free to learn and develop at their own pace. If I'm ever asked to give a talk about E.O. again, I shall start from here - children as 'independent self-directed learners', to use Holt's phrase.

? ? ? ? ?  
E.O. QUESTIONNAIRE ? ? ?

Last time E.O. members were canvassed was in October 1982, and Caroline Grant's report on the results appeared in February 1983's newsletter. This time, questionnaires will only go (via co-ordinators, or posted direct) to families with a child born between September 1977 and August 1978, i.e. who reached "school age" fairly recently.

The only way an organisation can meet the wants and needs of its members is if the membership expresses their views, so please respond to the questionnaire!!

Briefly, families are being asked what they decided about the child's education, what factors influenced their decision, whether they found E.O. helpful and in what ways they would like E.O. (locally and/or nationally) to better meet their needs and expectations. (A draft has already gone to all co-ordinators, and everyone at the last Core Group meeting).

If you do not fall within the "sample", but would like to add your comments (or if you should get a questionnaire and get missed out) please send for a copy (encl. s.a.e.) from Ann Moss, 98 Victoria Avenue, Hull, HU5 3DS.

# EDUCATING ARCHIE

On his way to the HURLY



BURLY  
Holi day  
camp,  
cousin  
Albert is  
visiting  
Archie  
for tea....

I think our  
cat's probably  
allergic to  
cigarette smoke,  
Albert dear-



Albert says  
brown bread  
makes him  
throw up, Mum

Albert's  
bored, Mum



I'm not  
sure Archie  
can breathe  
like that,  
dear



**CRASH**

it's okay  
Mum I'll clean  
it all up....



Mum, Albert says if I don't go to school I'll  
never learn to \*●)! \* \* ●)! get  
on with people....



by SEG

## UNIVERSAL EDUCATION

The Universal Education Association is an organisation which arose out of the International Conference on Education, which took place in October 1982 at Pomaia in Italy (it was reported on in newsletter 27). The guiding principle behind Universal Education is that "Any real education must be based on the essence of human experience and be a living development of the total individual to his or her highest potential". The aim of the organisation is to spread the principles of Universal Education and to explore methods of achieving this. We recognise that any attempt to effect positive changes in human attitudes is necessarily a very long-term endeavour.

Universal Education was set up with the support of the Mahayana Tradition of Tibetan Buddhism, and some of its members are followers of Tibetan Buddhism. U.E. literature tends to reflect this influence, but the movement aims to extend its impact far more widely than this - in fact to be truly universal. How far it will achieve this aim has yet to be seen - it is still only in an embryonic stage. But in any case the Buddhist tradition with its emphasis on reason, compassion and understanding, is one which most E.O. members would be in sympathy with.

We held an open meeting in London in June which about 80 people attended. There was a choice of workshops which may give some idea of the flavour of the event: Meditation; Expression through Painting; Music & Movement; Creative Listening; Dream Awareness; Conflict Solving; Movement & Drama; Human Potential; and Developing Goals.

I attended Rachel Pinney's 'Creative Listening' which was mind-provoking as well as highly entertaining (see the notice about her in the last newsletter); and Meditation, which was taken by a Tibetan Lama who proclaimed that the purpose of life is happiness and exemplified his belief by his brimming good humour and reverberating laughter - but I'm not sure how directly relevant this was to bringing up children. Time ran short and the group discussions at the end about the future of U.E., although quite lively, were necessarily rather skimpy and inconclusive.

It was an enjoyable and stipulating day and I came away feeling the U.E. holds out a germ of hope for the future. It does seem to be the only movement in education that aims to promote a truly holistic approach to learning.

We plan to hold four open events a year and the next one will be on October 6th in London. For further information send a large s.a.e. to U.E.A., P.O. Box 482, London, SE15 6HR.

Dick Kitto.

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INFORMATION LIBRARY

Andy & Diane Anderson,  
95, Derrington Avenue,  
Crewe, Cheshire,  
CW2 7JA

Tel: Crewe (0270) 664060

We can now offer members nationally, the full use of the Information Library. If anyone has any queries or problems with regard to what educational material, etc., is available, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time, either by 'phone, letter or a visit. What we don't know, we will try and find out for you. Please feel free to use us.

To help with costs, please enclose a 2nd class stamp for each information sheet required or equivalent in P.O., or cheque - also, stamp for return postage.

Main Educational Publishers & Supplies Addresses;  
Pre-school Materials;  
Reading Schemes;  
Reading Books: 4 - 7 years ) These books complement  
" " : 7 - 12 years + ) the project lists.  
Book Lists - please state age group.  
English;  
Maths;  
History;  
Geography;  
Science - Biology (Botany and Zoology);  
Chemistry;  
Physics;  
Astronomy;  
Languages;  
Music;  
Remedial Material;  
Remedial Reading Books - please state age group;  
Project Material: 4 - 7 years;  
" " : 7 - 12 years +;  
Project Books  
Audiocassettes  
Videocassettes  
Ideas in Action (this can cover a lot of general things - ideas please)  
Charts and Posters;  
Clubs, Groups, Associations, etc.;  
Crafty Ideas (arts and crafts) yet to be put together - your ideas  
please).

For anyone who hasn't time to write off to individual clubs, etc., I'll send what I have to hand, but it is impossible to estimate the postage as this will vary, please expect to pay extra postage at your end.

MORE INFORMATION ON ALL THE ABOVE PLEASE.

Please let us know what we have not included that you would like to see included. When recommending a book, etc., please give publisher, author and

price if known. When recommending anything, please give as much information as possible. We look forward to hearing from you with your ideas.

We are also willing to be used for putting people in touch with each other when they have anything to sell or are trying to obtain something.

Please include:

Your Name,  
Your Address,  
Your Telephone Number,  
Subject Matter, e.g. Maths, English, etc.  
Type of Material, e.g. Books, Cards, Tapes, etc.,  
Publisher,  
Author,  
Rough Age Level,  
Price,  
Any Comments.

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## Reviews

We have reviewed and can thoroughly recommend the following:

Macbeth, Othello, and King Lear

All in cartoon form - a fantastic way to study Shakespeare - and made even easier if you follow the text with an audi cassette, thus making them open to the young and slower learners.

More titles are due to be produced.

<u>Macbeth</u>	Hard Back - £5.95;	Soft Back - £3.95
<u>Othello</u>	" " - £6.95;	" " - £4.50
<u>King Lear</u>	" " - £6.95;	" " - £4.95

Tapes are being produced for the books, but we have used the 'Argo' tapes, which work out cheaper, or can probably be borrowed from the Library.

Our thanks to OVAL PUBLISHERS for donating the above books.

Still on the subject of Audio Tapes, from Terra Firma Cassettes, 55 Bollingbroke Road, London S.W.14, came 2 tapes with research and experiment suggestions lists and Star Charts. Play the tapes outside while studying the night sky at different times of the year - anything not understood can simply be replayed. Super for anyone with reading problems who would not be able to extract this information from the written word - inclusive of Postage & Packing, £8.90; our thanks for this donation.

"DRAMA" is a quarterly magazine for those interested in the Theatre - £6.00 for 4 issues. From: British Theatre Association, 9 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 6AE.

# A Weekend at UNSTONE GRANGE

By: Veronica Gibbs & Sue Stephenson

Sue Stephenson and I were peacefully eating our lunch in the dining room at Unstone Grange when we heard Betty Ball and Bruce Cox mention our names, we looked over and were met by the request that would one or the other of us, as first timers, write an account of the weekend. We were both too polite to follow our baser instincts and say "she can" and so decided to share the burden and both write.

The Gibbs side of the literary partnership consists of Trudie (8½), Kerry (5½), Peter and me and we have had the most tremendous weekend.

Kerry was the most vocal in her praise, deciding after the first day that was it - she was going to live there. We never saw enough of Trudie to discuss the matter with her.

The house itself is big and rambling, with doors, landings and stairs seemingly leading off everywhere. Most impressive to Kerry was the iron rung ladder from the ground floor hall up to a trapdoor into a first floor loo (hard luck if you were using it). There was so much space that it didn't matter too much that it rained...and rained...and it was quite a job to locate my family to feed them. I even lost Peter at one stage, then remembered the table tennis table in the garage. Apart from just running around the house, there was plenty for the children to do. Betty had supplied lots of brightly coloured paper and card, along with scissors, staples, glue, etc., as well as fabric paints, playdough and (of great appeal to the older children) a computer. Things weren't organised in a workshop manner, the materials were just supplied and the children got on with it. One parent took some children for a blindfold tree touching expedition and, on the Sunday afternoon, there was a treasure hunt. A swing for the rare occasion when it wasn't raining was organised by Peter Jones and my Pete and the children had a great time on it. The other great attraction of the children's was Simon and Caroline's baby daughter, Cloe - boys and girls alike squabbled over whose turn it was to hold her.

One of the first things the children did was face painting on the Friday evening and this continued on the Saturday morning, by this time, some of the adults had been decorated. I wish I had had a camera at the core group discussion on the Saturday afternoon, when ideas for E.O.s future were being discussed, for the sight of some of the core group seriously talking things over with faces painted in swirling patterns or as clowns really should have been recorded for the E.O. archives.

I enjoyed the meetings I attended and it has really brought home to me just how much of a members' organisation this is and it really is up to us members to support it by coming to the meetings, especially those with teenagers, as there was very little representation of this age group. The core group aren't formal or official, even with war paint. The people there were a wonderful mixture of personalities, all linked together by an interest in home education. Everything I set out to do took twice as long as it should have, as there was always someone to chat to on the way through the house (hello Betty) and the kitchen was a marvellous place for discussions and chats, the kettle was permanently on...to relieve those with dry throats from talking. It was also nice to eavesdrop (openly of course) on other conversations including one between a father, who had

spent some time with the children, and his daughter, along the lines of.....  
'but I must have a pee NOW'. The last evening, we especially enjoyed, as several  
parents got together around the piano with various musical instruments and had a  
musical session, children joining in as they wandered in and out, until at last  
it was time for us to paddle our way back to our tent with our very tired  
children, leaving all that noise and warmth in the lounge.

The last morning was spent trying to clear up around assorted children and  
debating things in the kitchen, then saying goodbye to all the people we had met.

I think the spirit of the weekend was summed up for me when six year old Calum  
Wallace came up to me and asked for a cuddle on the Sunday evening.....I hadn't  
known him when the weekend started.....Aren't kids SUPER!

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We went to Unstone Grange because I was curious to meet some more E.O. people;  
an added incentive was that it wasn't too far away for us, though others  
travelled from Sussex and Scotland, and when I read about 'workshops' and meetings,  
I was interested to find out what E.O. would offer to the visiting adults and  
children. The booking form asked what we could offer too - difficult when you  
didn't know at all how the weekend would go, but I managed to think of a couple  
of things that might fit in.

Our children are not de-schooled yet, I wondered if everyone else would be.....  
then again.....thinking of how relatively few in the contact list actually  
seemed to be home schooling, I wondered if anyone would be. Would there be the  
practical (morale boosting) experience that I hoped to make contact with, or  
would they all be theorists like us?

I looked forward eagerly to receiving the programme for the weekend, then we would  
know better what to expect, but, in the end, there was no programme....it had been  
decided, apart from a couple of 'Core Group' meetings, to let activities evolve.  
I fought down a nervous picture of anarchic children running riot, with adults in  
tight huddles with friends they'd already made.

We arrived in pouring rain, which was to be fairly constant all weekend. Youth  
Hostelling experience paid off, we felt at ease finding our way about and quickly  
settled into the kitchen to make a meal....well, I did. It was amazing how  
quickly the children left my side and became absorbed in the group. It was very  
difficult to prise them away to each and, as for helping with the cooking, etc.,  
as I had envisaged, nearly impossible - they disappeared in that lovely big house  
without trace!! It was no matter, kitchens have always proved good places to  
talk in and this one was no exception.

Despite nothing being scheduled, much purposeful and enjoyable activity did take  
place with the kids : an orgy of paper folding, giant bubble blowing, mask making,  
T-shirt printing, computer games, all made possible because someone had come  
loaded with the necessaries, and there was baby massage, welding, story telling,  
and an exciting collection of books and catalogues assembled by Diane and Andy  
Anderson from their resource centre service.

What made most impression? The genuine warm friendliness I found, it seemed when it was time to leave I was leaving friends I had known a long time..... then there was the ease of manner of the children, their readiness to talk and take one seriously.

I was also struck by the lack of a heirarchical structure to E.O., the responsibilities being taken by anyone who with E.C. is us, it is you - there is no 'they'.

And I found out about that mysterious 'Core Group' - you want to help run E.O. You're the Core Group.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This is a formal notice that the Annual General Meeting of..

EDUCATION OTHERWISE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

will be held at: 2.00 p.m. on

SATURDAY, 29TH SEPTEMBER at

UNSTONE GRANGE, Near SHEFFIELD

The business of the meeting will be:

1. To: receive the statement of Account and Balance Sheet;
2. To: receive the report of the Council (on this occasion the Core Group);
3. To: elect the members of the Council;
4. To: appoint Auditors for the next 12 months.

Notes:

- i) The balance sheet and accounts will date from the last balance of the unincorporated association on 9th February 1984; they will not have been audited.
- iii) The Constitution of the Council (which we intend to fulfill the function of the old Core Group) is laid down as:  
Chairman; Treasurer; General Secretary;  
Membership Secretary; Enquiries Secretary;  
Publications Secretary; 8-10 Regional representatives and up to 3 others - total between 14 and 19.  
Nominations for all these posts should reach me, in writing, between 1st and 21st September.
- iv) A member who is a qualified accountant has already volunteered for this job.

N.B. The nominations requested in "Notes - Para. iii" should be sent to:  
John Elenor, 31, Anson Road, London, NW2; the "me" referred to!!

Meanwhile.....

BACK AT UNSTONE GRANGE -

..... it's E.O.'s first Annual General Meeting.....

We have booked Unstone Grange again for the nights of Friday, 28th and Saturday, 29th September. Unstone is a marvellous place for E.O'ers - plenty of room in the house, large grounds, rural setting. Everyone enjoyed themselves again over the late May Bank Holiday weekend, so if YOU haven't been yet, why not give it a try? Also it will probably never be as cheap again, so come while the coming is good!

There will be self-catering accommodation for 34 people in beds in the house, plus cheaper sleeping on the floor in the lounge near the kitchen for about 8 people (bring own sleeping bags). There will also be camping in the field behind the house for the hardy - though can the September weather be any colder and wetter than its already been on the 2 May weekends we've been at Unstone? Would campers please provide themselves with their own cooking facilities.

N.B. There is no motor access to the camping field. There is also room for three camper vans.

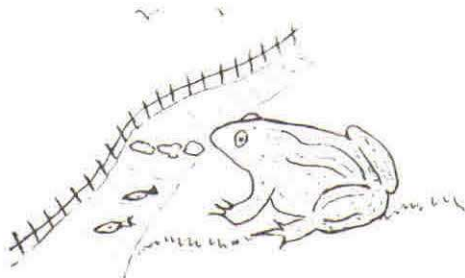
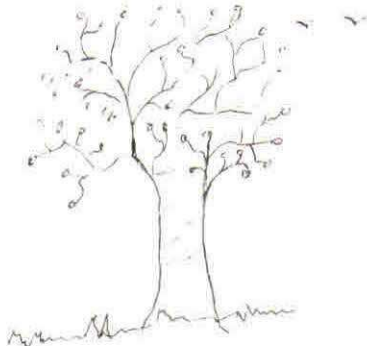
If you can help with workshops and activities for either adults or children, please give details on the booking form. The Andersons will be doing an exhibition of books and educational resources; Betty Ball is organising workshops/activities.

It is also possible to visit Unstone on a daily basis. It helps if you can let us know beforehand if you are coming, on the booking form, but this is not absolutely vital. However, if you are staying overnight, then you must book beforehand, however last minute this may be. Priority will be given to those booking for 2 nights, so that we can cover costs better.

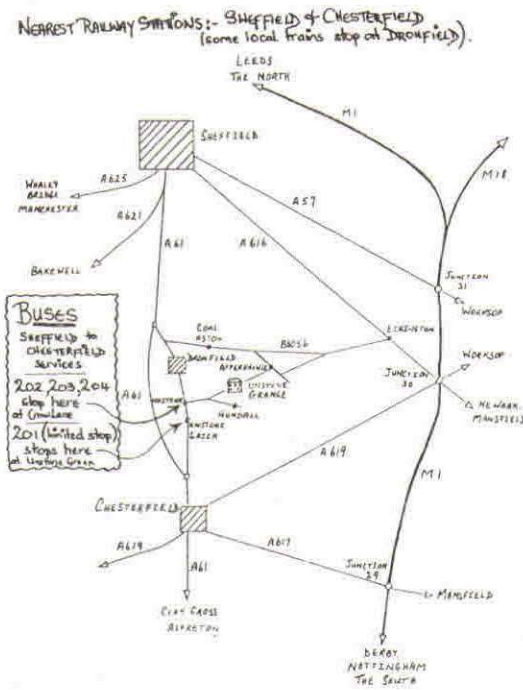
Cancellations:

I'm sorry but if you cancel within 3 weeks of the weekend, then we cannot give you a refund.

Any problems or queries, please contact Joan Hoare, address on booking form.



and.....HOW TO GET THERE.....



=====

## A Little Light RELIEF

A Conversation with Dad.....

Felix: "What things did you make at school?"  
 James: "None - nothing at all"  
 Lillah: "What good things did you do - I mean good deeds?"  
 James: "Not many - only looking after the little boys who were homesick".

What's the difference between an elephant and a biscuit?.....  
 You can't dip an elephant in your drink!

What's the difference between my brother and a fly?.....  
 There is none...they're both pests!!

~~~~~

Charges for Unstone Grange (children under 3 - no charge)

Per person per night

|                                          | Adults | Children (3-16 years) |
|------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| Residential (in house)                   | £3.00  | £2.50                 |
| Sleeping on floor in lounge near kitchen | 1.50   | 0.75                  |
| Camping (tents)                          | 1.00   | 0.50                  |
| Camping (van)                            | 1.00   | 0.50                  |
| Day visitors                             | 0.50   | -                     |

BOOKING FORM

Names of people attending (with age if under 16)

.....  
 .....  
 .....

Address and Telephone No.

.....  
 .....  
 .....

Will you be staying for Sept. 28  
 Sept. 29

| Nights | Days only |
|--------|-----------|
|        |           |
|        |           |

Please tick

If you are staying overnight, will you be:-

In a camper van

In the house (beds)

In the house (on floor)

Camping in tents

|  |
|--|
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

Please tick

I/we can help with childrens' activities/workshop (please specify) .....

.....  
 .....

Payment

Adults No. ....

£ .....

Children (over 3 & under 16) No. ....

£ .....

Non-returnable booking fee to cover postage  
 and stationery costs

£ .0..50.pence

TOTAL

£ .....

Please make out cheques/postal orders payable to Education Otherwise, and send cheques/postal orders and booking form to:- Joan Hoare, 25 Moor Oak's Rd., Broomhill, Sheffield S10 1RX (Tel. 0742-666605)

and.....still at Unstone.....

#### SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

#### BRINGING HISTORY ALIVE!!!

You are invited to bring along some resources for History, which can be used in a discussion of this topic...books, models and charts, any resources you have found. Leaflets and guides to places worth a visit...historical costumes you have made...Historical Novels that brought an era alive.....ANYTHING that you and your children enjoyed and want to share.

This is a new venture and 'History' could be the first of many topics that could be tried if it was found to be of use. It doesn't have to be academic, but hopefully we can go away inspired in some way. The Andersons have kindly agreed to bring along the History Section of the Information Library. They hope to take back as many ideas to add to the Information Library from you as you get from them.

Unstone Grange has huge notice boards in one lounge, which can be used to display material. It also has several lounges, so no-one need feel under any obligation to join in if they don't wish to. Following the suggestion by the Downies in the June Newsletter editorial, probably much of this could be written up in the December newsletter, which could have a History theme.

\* \* \* \* \*

One history book series brought to the attention of E.Oers by Angela Naidu, is that of the "USBORNE HISTORY SERIES", an excellent set of books, especially "The Children's Picture Pre-history" books, entitled 'Dinosaurs', 'Pre-historic Mammals' and 'Early Man'.

These contain some very interesting ideas for children to follow-up - Farrah (6½) and Kiran (4½) particularly enjoyed making their "pipecleanosaurus" models to demonstrate the skeletal structures of dinosaurs.

\*\*\*\*\*

Children's activities will also be arranged - offers of help and the ability to set up an activity for even a small group of children would be much appreciated. Paper, paints, scissors and glue will, of course, be available. Fabric paints will be available for anyone who wants to paint their own vest or shirt - much enjoyed at the May meeting.

ANY IDEAS??... Contact Betty Ball, 1 Fenton Road, Warboys, Huntingdon, or 'phone 0487-822083.

\*\*\*\*\*

ANOTHER SUGGESTION..... is that it would be very useful if a couple of people who are not involved in meetings and do not have very young children hanging onto them might like to 'adopt' a child while their parents were in a meeting - this obviously only applies to the very young toddlers/babies.

# Fossil Hall

by Angela Naidu



9, The Colliers,  
Heybridge Basin,  
Maldon, Essex.

This is a small factory near Witham (Essex), run by Stuart Baldwin who specializes in fossil replica's and project packs for schools.

As we live close to it, my children and I visited the factory one Saturday afternoon, by special arrangement, to see the wide range of items available. We bought individual replicas of a trilobite, ammonite, brittle-star, coral and a dinosaur tooth (0.40p to £1.50 each). We also bought a sample of amethyst, since my eldest, Farrah (6½) has expressed a desire to become a geologist.

There would, however, probably be a minimum order charge of £15.00 for any items requested by post, but a group of people could possibly manage this between them.

Mr. Baldwin does a project pack for approximately £9.00, which includes a detailed Teachers' booklet, information sheets, a set of work cards and four colour posters. This would be useful for a group of children working on the subject of dinosaurs; replica sets are also available at about £30.00, which, although expensive for individuals, would be useful for groups.

For further information write to:



Ammonite.

Stuart Baldwin,  
Fossil Hall,  
Boars Tye Road,  
Silver End,  
Witham,  
Essex,  
CM8 3QA



FINANCIAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

9TH FEBRUARY 1984 TO 18TH MAY 1984

|                                                          | <u>£</u> | <u>£</u>   |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------|
| <u>INCOME:</u>                                           |          |            |
| Subscriptions                                            | 2,372.70 |            |
| Publications and Stationery                              | 177.00   |            |
| T-Shirts                                                 | 29.62    |            |
| Subscriptions to G.W.S.                                  | 43.20    |            |
| Sale of T.Y.O.                                           | 309.00   |            |
| Advertising Revenue                                      | 156.00   |            |
| Bookings for Unstone Grange                              | 275.75   |            |
| Unexplained Credits (see Note 5)                         | 56.00    |            |
|                                                          | 3,419.27 |            |
| Cash in Hand at 9.2.84                                   | 5,706.56 | 9,125.83   |
| <u>EXPENDITURE:</u>                                      |          |            |
| Newsletters & Contact List (production and distribution) | 1,227.06 |            |
| Other Publications (production) - Note 2.                | 402.62   |            |
| Distribution of T-Shirts                                 | 6.87     |            |
| " " G.W.S.                                               | 20.00    |            |
| Purchase of T.Y.O. (see Note 1)                          | 273.60   |            |
| <u>Expenses</u> - Chairman (see Note 3)                  | 35.45    |            |
| General Secretary                                        | 49.45    |            |
| Membership Secretary                                     | 204.50   |            |
| Enquiries Secretary                                      | 157.14   |            |
| Treasurer                                                | 38.25    |            |
| Assistant Treasurer (see Note 6)                         | 80.49    |            |
| Publications' Secretary                                  | 33.77    |            |
| Co-ordinators'                                           | 105.05   |            |
| Donations and Subscriptions                              | 10.00    |            |
| Insurance                                                | 50.00    |            |
| Bank Charges                                             | 46.38    | (2,740.63) |
|                                                          | 6,385.20 |            |
| Balance in Hand at 18.5.84                               |          | 6,385.20   |

NOTES:

1. The costs involved in distributing T.Y.O. to those members who request same do not appear here but form part of the Membership Secretary's expenses.
2. The costs involved in distributing E.O. publications, other than the Newsletter and Contact List, do not appear here, but form part of the expenses of various officers and of co-ordinators (this also applies to a few of the costs involved in distributing the Newsletter).
3. All officers and co-ordinators give an itemised account of their spending when claiming expenses from the treasury and a record of these is kept. They are not thought to be of sufficiently wide interest to be given here.

Notes (Cont'd/.....)

4. A full account of how the charges of the E.O. account accumulate has not yet been received, but it is already known that the "processing" of Standing Orders accounts for most of these charges.
5. Statements from the Bank give no account of the original source of credits (other than Standing Orders) and, from time to time, the statement shows credits of which the Treasurer knows nothing. There is no objection to anonymous donations, but, if members paying money directly into the E.O. account do not wish to remain anonymous, they must let the Treasurer know of their payments by separate letter.
6. The Assistant Treasurer's expenses include all the costs of keeping records of membership, etc., on computer.

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TREASURER'S REPORT:

As the foregoing Balance Sheet shows, E.O. continues to prosper financially.

The question of what to do with surplus funds is still open. Three suggestions from members for solving this "problem" had been received at the time of the last Core Group Meeting. One of these suggestions (i.e. that a small amount should be spent keeping the contact list up-to-date by sending out a list of new members with each newsletter) was adopted forthwith by the Core Group (see minutes of meeting). The other suggestions are being kept in mind.

The Core Group considered it prudent not to make any alterations to E.O.'s basic pattern of spending at the moment, but rather to wait and see whether the accumulation of surplus funds is a continuing trend and, in the meantime, to collect together as many 'financial' ideas as possible. So, if you have any ideas, please make them known.

Alison Mafham

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WHERE TO GET WHAT?

|                           |                                                                                               |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Enquiries Secretary:      | Posters, digests, old Newsletters, handbills;                                                 |
| Membership Secretaries:   | Current and Old Newsletters, S.I.N.C., Early Years, Teach Your Own;                           |
| General Secretary:        | Envelope re-use labels - £1.00 per 100;                                                       |
| Co-ordinators' Secretary: | Stationery, Introductory literature, Membership Forms, Membership Secretaries Address Labels. |

\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\*



35, Mayfield Avenue,  
Stranraer.

Dear Alison Mafham,

You and your friends, have invited us to discuss ways of spending money, pouring in from members. I'm not actually a member, but I'm teaching my own and I'm always looking forward to reading the newsletter. At the moment I take the newsletter to the local library and there it rests amongst obscure periodicals.

I'm not quite happy with this situation. It would be much better if I could buy the E.O. magazine alongside the other mags I like to read. That would mean that our group has turned from the odd ones out, into a minority - hopefully steadily growing. So why not use the extra money to make the newsletter independent? There is no reason why the letters shouldn't continue to be the bulk of the magazine. On the contrary, as it becomes available to more people, you'd get a larger postbag.

You'd also be able to get more adverts which, in turn.....

The editor of the April newsletter was complaining about not getting enough response from members. It's very difficult to know where to send a letter to, when the address keeps on changing. The cut off date for the last one was 1st May - so who am I sending this one to? And suppose I didn't get an issue? The present system certainly doesn't make for easy communication.

I think there is one great contradiction in E.O. A lot of letters like to express anti-authoritarian ideas. I personally would like to help my daughter to become as independent as it is possible for a human being to be. So how could I join a company that wants to be known as a 'Charity'?

There is a lot of talk about equality in E.O. - but as soon as you form a group, equality goes out the window, because there are the groupies on one side and all the rest of the world on the other and of course we're so much better!

E.O. had one very good editor, David Bethell. He got things going a bit too fast so everybody said "Oh let's stay mediocre, we're special enough as it is, we don't like excellence!". I don't know why he resigned and I don't care! All I know is that he put a very good magazine together. For a good propaganda organ, we need excellent people.

Keep up the good work!

Sigrun Macgilchrist.

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## Next Edition.....

Entries for the OCTOBER Newsletter should be forwarded to:

Jean Shepherd,  
9, Cranbourne Gardens,  
Welwyn Garden City,  
Herts.

by the 1ST SEPTEMBER 1984, all materials intended as such should be clearly marked "For Publication".



## Letters

a f d v s  
n g q w u

30, Hillhead Street,  
Glasgow,  
G12 8PZ

Dear Sue,

### A response to your plea for "SUGGESTIONS PLEASE" - N.L.35

Fears about the response of the neighbourhood to having children out of school are, I'm quite sure, echoed by many people. I felt exactly the same about having Ewan and Kathleen out. For me it was the fact of making public what I believe, that was nerve wracking - having children out of school could be taken as an implicit criticism of schools and of everyone else who has children at school, and I wasn't out to threaten anyone and didn't want to be continually having to defend myself.

For some time I found people's questions hard to cope with, but with experience and meeting other E.O. families and finding more and more people with children in school sympathetic (and even admiring) my confidence has grown. Now, when asked "how are they getting on at School?" we say "Fine" if we are in a hurry (their school being the world), or "they are not at school, they are being educated at home" if we can give half an hour for discussion and explanation. The approach I take is that home-based education is not ideal, it is a compromise, but so is school and, for us as a family, we are much happier without school. That way it is put over as a personal decision and not a judgement of anyone else, whose own decision may be just as valid for them. It is also more likely to keep the discussion open so that information can be exchanged and no-one need be on the defensive.

The other comment we often get is "are you on holiday?" or "not at school today then". This occurs mostly when out shopping in the morning (afternoons aren't nearly so sacrosanct).

It is essential to find support from somewhere. If you haven't met other E.O. families, phone up the nearest folk who have children out of school and arrange to visit. This should give you, and the children, the confidence boost needed to "take the plunge". My children are now much more confident about their position too. I'm sure answering people's questions positively and confidently is important to their self esteem and meeting other E.O. families makes them feel part of something special and less 'different'. Everyone is a bit 'different' in their own way afterall.

from: Lesley Downie.

Reply to:

"DYSLEXIA : MYTH OR REALITY?"

Newsletter No: 35 - June 1984

It is encouraging to see the question being asked.

Juan Campos refers to my article in the April 1983 Newsletter, which, he says "gave a too simple account of the causes of poor reading....". I assure him, the causes are indeed SIMPLE.

The function of successful reading is exceedingly complex, but the acquisition of reading is comparable to the acquisition of speech - something which children learn without it being taught as a skill, much less a collection of skills. Children "catch" speaking from those around them; lucky children "catch" reading in the same way. Learning to read is not like learning to drive a Car - it is much more like learning to ride a Bike! Poor reading is usually caused by the strenuous intervention of well-meaning, but misguided, instructors, who believe they know what reading consists of - but, in fact, do not.

There is no need to take my word for it; instead, consult:

"Dyslexia or Illiteracy? : realising the right to read"

by: Peter Young & Colin Tyre  
(Milton Keynes, Open University Press,  
1983).

Its authors study the full range of current views on dyslexia and attempts to correct it, without trying to blind anyone with science, and in impeccably clear English, describe a programme to improve the reading of children who were conspicuously failing, whether categorised as dyslexic or not. It is a heartening book and professional in the very best sense.

It is remarkable in other ways too. It makes NO reference to intelligence, nor does it relate success or failure in reading to social class.

Young & Tyre must surely be the only researchers to have resisted either!

Further, the programme described would not have succeeded without the active involvement of parents, but never once are they patronised or implied to be mute free labour.

You might say that the purpose of the programme was to demonstrate to the children how reading goes, and it succeeded beyond the authors' hopes - Reading spread like a minor epidemic.

Of the several cases they quote, I liked best the one about the little girl who came bursting home from school one day and, whirling round the garden, cried

"I've just found reading's easy,  
You've just got to let it make sense!"

Now, if someone would apply the same sensible spirit to studying failure in spelling, writing, numeracy..... It's all waiting to be done. Let us be grateful to Young and Tyre for this admirable start.

A. M. Nimmo.

Mon. Wed.  
Tues. Fri  
Thursday.

197, Canterbury Road,  
Eddington,  
Herne Bay,

July, 1984

Hello Friends,

Remember us? The everyday adventures of 'Piers & Parent'! For all those who requested more 'news', - here goes.....

The 10th July was another milestone in the 'saga'....We dutifully kept our appointment with the Local Educational Psychologist....Once again, I was torn to shreds, but in a completely different way this time.

'He', began by SHOUTING - "have a seat", then with the rapidity of a demented machine gun, said "What do you want for your Son?" - I then started to say, "but its all written, etc., etc.," - I was then interrupted, and once more he shouted - "it's all your fault, you have put him off school!!".....well, I felt both anger and adrenalin surge. However, something told me, 'hey, this is a deliberate ploy to make me angry, and thus be able to write me off as emotionally unstable, etc., SO, - from somewhere I managed a HUGE, theatrical grin and shrugged and proclaimed LOUDLY (to match him) "You are playing a game with me and I can't win, can I?". He looked slightly crestfallen and, whilst scrutinizing his shoes for imaginary dust - recovered the professional mask and proceeded thus.....

"The school tell me that Piers is settling nicely now! He only doesn't work in the subjects that 'bore' him!!\*"

I was utterly amazed, and said - "we aren't discussing the right child, surely?"

He said "oh yes we are, his teachers tell me that he is happy and communicative" - I laughed and said "but this can't be true, if it is, why did they tell me the opposite?" He then said, "that is what YOU tell me they said, I have no written evidence to support this, where is your evidence?"

Dear E.O's, can you imagine how angry I felt then? - but somehow I remained cool and said - "O.K., why don't we arrange another meeting of Piers year head and his registration tutor, myself and yourself?-then YOU can ask them what they said re Piers in front of me?" He didn't reply, merely looked once more for signs of shoe pollution, looked up and said "I'll see Piers now - you wait outside".....

Piers and I just managed to exchange winks before he disappeared into the inner sanctum for 1½ hours!! My head and heart were in turmoil, I wanted to batter that door down....but I sketched the view from the window instead!

However, after the above-mentioned time lapse, Piers emerged looking somewhat flushed, but triumphant!! I was puzzled??.....and RE-CALLED!!

Once again - snappily - "sit down" (delivered in a fast yankee accent)..... "Right" he said, "Piers is a very bright boy and I'm going to try to get him a place at Redhill (Surrey) as a boarder."

I said....." NO " - He said "WHY?" ME - "I do not want him boarded" ....HE ...."Where do you want him?" ...ME - "The Local Steiner School" .....HE - (with ill concealed anger) "NEVER, I won't recommend that!"...ME - "WHY NOT?"

HE - "Because I can't and wouldn't if I could - a waste of time", HE - again - "Why not Redhill?"

ME - "But isn't it a School for the emotionally disturbed?"

HE - "YES, anyone who doesn't fit in with their present school IS MALADJUSTED!"

ME - " HE ISN'T MALADJUSTED!!!"

HE - "OH YES HE IS!! YOU are just worried about the term maladjusted - it simply means he doesn't fit in where he now is educated"

ME - "He is NOT maladjusted, however, I should like to look at this School, can you tell me its name?"

HE - "Not at this stage, I can't, NO"

ME (laughing) - "well I suppose I can get wheels and find it!"

HE - "IT'S A FREE COUNTRY!!!"

ME - "well, O.K., we'll wait to hear from you, yes?"

HE - "Yes that's right, but we may NOT offer him a place at Redhill anyway. Piers may have to stay where he is!!", he came to see us out, and said goodbye to Piers - FINI!

Not quite - some interesting things which arose during the interview follows:

To Piers, "YOU ARE settling now" (shouting).....Piers reply, "No I'm not" (shouting back). Also to Piers, "its good to have to deal with stress, stress teaches you how to cope!". Piers (I think magnificent reply) "YES (shouting), and too much stress makes you ILL!!!"

Also, when I was recalled, I was told that, talking to Piers was just like talking to me..."you have influenced him" he said "he has the same turn of phrase - uses the same words!".....however, I at least was given one accolade, when he said grudgingly "you'd be a lousy parent if you hadn't!!!".

Farewell dear friends.

P.S. If they offer "Redhill", we shall go to VIEW and all shall be revealed.

Oh yes, when Piers was asked what he most hated about School, he replied "THE BULLYING".....Back came the answer...."IT TAKES TWO TO BULLY!!!"

Could some 'educated' reader PLEASE explaint to Piers and I the reasoning behind this?

June La Trobe.

\*\*\*\*\*



197, Canterbury Road,  
Eddington,  
Herne Bay,  
Kent.

Dear E.O.,

A big thank you to all those readers who wrote me such words of encouragement re. 'Piers'.

Some of you I have replied to in person. However, I am now so overwhelmed with correspondence I thought it best to give thanks through the Newsletter.

Your words were so warm and generous, particularly those who have encouraged me to think that my own academic limitations need not prevent 'Piers' and I opting out!

Special thanks to Lois Cook and family, of Herne Bay, who actually sought me out at home. From now, the Cooks and La Trobes are 'friends' and without E.O. we should never have known of each others existence.

With renewed vigour, we now move toward 'freedom'.

Lastly, I shall always carry with me as a talisman, the words of Christopher Shute, a West Midlands E.O. Member, who wrote me:-

"Education is thoroughly satisfied curiosity!

Sincerely,  
June La Trobe, M/s.

FOR SALE:

Notices

NORFOLK/SUFFOLK BORDER:

DETACHED COTTAGE in good repair  
for sale in area with several E.O.  
families.

3-4 Bedrooms;            ½ acre Garden;

Friendly village with 2 shops and  
community bus. 15 miles from sea.

Price:                            £35,000

Further details:

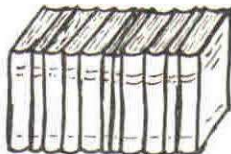
Jackie or James Fearnley, who  
have moved to: Top Farm,  
The Common,  
Metfield,  
Nr. Harleston, Norfolk.

Tel: Linstead (098 685) 428.

ANOTHER STOCKIST - of books on  
Steiner and related subjects is:

The Botton Bookshop,  
Botton Village,  
Danby,  
Whitby, N. Yorks.,  
YO21 2NJ.

They will send their extensive  
catalogue on request.



Feeling ISOLATED from other E.O. members? Then think about these two simple ideas:

- a) Lots of E.O. Members have camping equipment, but it's a real drag to pack up a tent, sleeping bags, cooker and so on to go away for just a couple of nights. So, why not put up your tent on your lawn, with your sleeping bags in and invite other E.O. members to come and stay in it. What a joy it would be to travel so light. Perhaps someone could start a list of people in different areas who would be prepared to provide their tents for E.O. members use.
- b) Most of you will know of the Family Railcard costing £12 a year, giving half price travel to adults and children for £1 each per journey, as long as at least 1 adult and 1 child travel. Even if the child travelling is under 5 and would normally travel free, by paying £1 for him the adult(s) could travel half price - well worthwhile.

Combine this with joining your child to Railriders, leaflets from your local station, and you could save even more. At £2 a year to join, it gives an excellent magazine 3 times a year with competitions and offers, plus a £5 book of tickets (2 x £1 and 6 x 50p) these can be used against the family Railcard so that you need never pay more than 50p for your child to travel - sometimes free! Further £5 books are available for £1, these two, used together can really open up the country to E.O.ers to visit places first-hand at a reasonable cost.

from Betty Ball



MORE BOOKS...

Basic Arithmetic Practice, books 1-5  
by K. A. Hesse  
Prices vary.

Reviewer: Jennifer Linsel  
Publishers: Longman Group

These books are intended for use as practice alongside the usual textbook. Each of the books are graded and it is recommended that no more than two pages be worked on at a time. The fifth book in the series covers Weighing and Measuring, including practical exercises in comparing the capacity of liquids. Answers are provided in all five books. Decimals, the fourth book contains hundreds of sums to be filled in. Using a pencil these useful books can be used over and over again.

- The five books are:
1. Adding and Subtracting;
  2. Multiplying and Dividing;
  3. Fractions;
  4. Decimals;
  5. Weighing and Measuring.

|                |                                    |                 |                   |        |        |           |
|----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------|--------|-----------|
| $4\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{2}{3} =$ | $3.4 -$         | $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. | 10 oz. | kg.    | tab.spoon |
| $\frac{73}{8}$ | $\frac{3}{8} \times \frac{1}{4} =$ | $\frac{2.1}{-}$ | cm.               | mtrs.  | grams. | des.spoon |
| $—$            |                                    | $—$             | $379 + 13 =$      |        |        |           |

At last - the long awaited third edition of the RURAL SETTLEMENT HANDBOOK will be published on 10th September.

"An essential reference book for all rural dwellers, aspiring smallholders, armchair re-settlers and everyone concerned with the Countryside".

Several contributions by members of E.O.

Order your copy now, sent post free, price £4.95, from Lighthouse Books, 27a, Sydney Street, Brightlingsea, Essex, CO7 0BG.

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FAST LEARNING.....

"A THOUSAND WORDS IN LESS THAN ONE MINUTE!"

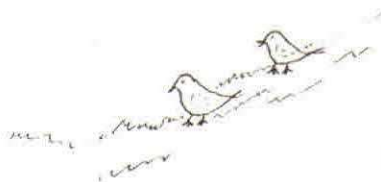
"Andre Maurois [French novelist] has recounted an incident between soldiers who met in the trenches during World War I. A Portuguese soldier offered to teach a French soldier a thousand words of Portuguese in less than one minute for 100 francs. The French soldier accepted. 'Look,' said the Portuguese, 'all the words you have in French that end in -tion are the same in Portuguese, except that they end in -cao... There are over a thousand of them and they are all feminine gender, just like French. That took less than a minute, didn't it? One hundred francs, please'" - Native Tongues, by Charles Berlitz.

Often this same principle applies in converting English words into French, Spanish, Italian or Portuguese, and vice versa. Thus many words ending in -tion in English have the same spelling in French, but sometimes with accents added. In Spanish the -tion becomes -cion; in Italian -zione; in Portuguese -cao. Example: Nation: nation (Fr.); nacion (Sp.); nazione (It.); nacao (Port.).

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ANOTHER REVIEW:

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Lodge, Sandby, Beds. SG19 2DL have some excellent project guides at a low price; ask for their Order Form and likewise Pedigree Pet Foods, Education Centre, National Office, Waltham-on-the-Wold, Melton Mowbray, Leics., LE14 4RS.



# Are You a potential EDITOR?

THEN READ ON.....

It is some time since any detail has been given about what editing an issue of the newsletter involves and also since an appeal has been made for willing editors, which, invariably leads to momentary panic just before the deadline of each issue when I realise that there is, as yet, no-one lined up to edit the next one. In addition, at the last core group meeting, it was suggested that the recent climate of criticism may have discouraged some members from volunteering to try their hand at a newsletter. This, then, is an appeal to a few more would-be editors to make themselves known, and a guide as to what they will be letting themselves in for.

Obviously, there are some mistakes that are best not repeated, but (for want of a more original way of putting it) no-one's perfect, and the main thing, as I'm sure most of us would agree, is that a newsletter actually arrives on most of our doormats every two months or so.....

The job of editor falls into three main parts:

1. Selecting and editing the material submitted.

This is largely at the editor's discretion. Certain items must be included - the minutes of Core Group meetings, advance notice of meetings, and so on. Other regulars are: Through the Press, Talking about School, News from the Regions, Archie, letters, reviews, notices and small ads, and sometimes E.O. in Literature. The editor sometimes has to concoct notices and other short items when only the 'bare bones' have been submitted. In the case of the articles which fill up the rest of the newsletter, it is preferable that those written by members about their own ideas and experiences take precedence over reprints from other sources, although the editor may see fit to include one of the latter, or an extract therefrom, if it strikes her/him as being of particular interest to E.O. members (having first obtained the permission of the original publisher). Sometimes, the more long-winded articles have to be condensed. Finally, of course, an editorial has to be provided.

2. Typing the material to be included:

The typing should be done with a carbon film ribbon (as opposed to nylon) on an electric typewriter. There are usually sufficient funds available to cover the hire of a suitable typewriter if necessary. Some editors do their own typing, others seek out another member locally who is prepared to do the typing. This is the most time-consuming part of the job.

Each page is prepared as A4 size (the size of a double spread in the newsletter) and is reduced to A5 at the printing stage.

3. Layout:

This involves deciding on what is to go where and then laying out each individual page, complete with titles, illustrations, etc. Some pages will probably be typed as they are to remain, while in other cases, various separate bits will be pasted onto an A4 sheet (you can snip up and repaste as much as you like as long as the finished product is neat and clean).





# News From The REGIONS

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## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE:

All Bucks. and surrounding area E.Oers and friends are invited to a Summer Picnic for kite flying and games on AUGUST 5TH, at WEST WYCOMBE HILL, WEST WYCOMBE VILLAGE, Nr. High Wycombe, Bucks. at 2.00 P.M.

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## ESSEX:

"Time bobs on" says West Yorkshire.....yes, I know what you mean. It's some time now since any news was sent in from Essex. It's not because there has been a lack of news - quite the contrary. In fact, November 5th saw us at the home of Steve & Melanie Nield building bonfires and barbecues, making guys and masks. The firework display seemed endless and the barbecue turned out baked potatoes, chestnuts, sausages and burgers as fast as we could eat them, while the table heaved under piles of salad, pumpkin pies and rolls. We finished the evening around the bonfire, with Andy McGeeny playing the guitar. Thanks Steve and Melanie for a memorable day - and they have already offered to play host again this November 5th (they are gluttons for punishment!).

Winter meetings usually mean asking members to act as host, but late in the summer, Irene Harris gave me a slip of paper with details of her village hall; further enquiries proved it suitable for E.O. Meetings so we initially booked the "Pitman Room" for two pre-Christmas meetings. With our hopes for a Christmas party now definite, we organised an art workshop and set about making hats, crackers, tree decorations and Christmas Cards, etc., in preparation.....

The "Pitman Room" turned out ideal for our meetings. The rent was very reasonable, centrally situated for most members, and being in the grounds of the village school, the playing field and playgrounds offered lots of space to let off steam (though we were always cautious about disturbing the school children during their lessons!). A few minutes down the road, a recently opened shop offered craft materials and other equipment much used by E.O. families, and most members took the opportunity to "stock up" since the prices were extremely reasonable. The shop also proved very useful if we found we needed extra crepe paper, or glue, etc....and we soon became well known, "goodness, has three weeks come round already?"

One of the other uses for the Pitman Room is the part-time village library. The bookshelves line the walls, but are locked except for library sessions. On our first visit to the room, the County Library Inspector called in to check on the facilities and to show a colleague how a library can double-up as a general meeting place. He was a pleasant man and, after apologising for interrupting us, we got talking and, as a result, because we are an "educational group", we were given permission to use the library books during our meetings and were given a key to be used at our discretion for a trial 6 month period. So, now, not only did we have a suitable meeting place, but a personal library too! Things were really looking up!

We use the Pitman Room (on average) every three weeks, choosing a different theme for each meeting. These ranged from Dinosaurs, Easter Crafts, a Maths Workshop and various others. Members took along relevant games, craft materials and equipment and, in doing so, we hoped everyone would find something new and interesting, and perhaps go away with a few new ideas.

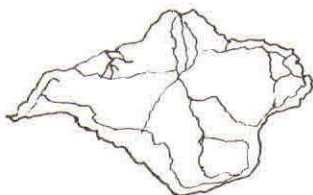
Other meetings during this time, included a visit to the Bethnal Green Toy Museum. We had hoped that other families in the London area might join us there, but, despite a notice in the E.O. newsletter, we did not see any other members (other than the six or so families who travelled from Essex). Our most recent meeting was a camping weekend, at East Bergholt in Suffolk. Unfortunately, a couple of families were unable to come along at the last minute and only Peter and Veronica Gibbs (plus Kerry & Trudy!) joined us.

However, we were not daunted and spent the afternoon in the swimming pool and later went for a twilight walk. The children were fascinated by the bats swooping overhead, and the next day we were towed (but that's another story.....) to Flatford Mill. We had a hilarious boat trip down the river, and all in all, a very enjoyable weekend.

It would be nice to see some new faces coming along to the meetings, so come on, Essex members, GET IN TOUCH, let me KNOW any ideas you might have regarding local meetings, come along and meet fellow members!

A local newsletter is printed, giving full details of these meetings. If you would like your name on the mailing list send £1 to me....or give me a call if you would like to know more about the meetings.

Sandie Cottee, 24 Deneway, Vange, Basildon, Essex, SS16 4TJ - Basildon 554968.



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Ferry Times to the Island - SATURDAYS.

8.35 a.m. - 9.30 a.m.  
10.20 a.m. - 11.15 a.m.  
12.10 p.m. - 1.05 p.m.

further details from: RED FUNNEL Office,  
Tel: Southampton 26211.

ISLE OF WIGHT:

We hope you will join us for an E.O. day on the Isle of Wight on SATURDAY, 11TH AUGUST. We are living in a small fisherman's Cottage by the sea and, weather permitting, we hope to be able to enjoy a good outdoor day together, sharing boating, clay modelling, beach combing, tofu making and any other ideas anyone likes to bring along.

We suggest you bring a picnic lunch, or food to barbeque if you like, and we will provide drinks.

We are happy to provide transport from the ferry terminal in West Cowes to our cottage - ferry times to the Island given above.

On the evening of Friday, 10th August, there is a wonderful firework display in Cowes, to celebrate the end of Cowes Week Yatch Racing. If anyone is interested in coming over for this and making a weekend of it, we could arrange camping space in our garden. I hope some of you will be able to join us at least for the day, if so, contact: Miranda Shuttleworth,  
Marsh Cottage, Rew Street,  
Gurnard, Cowes, Isle of Wight - Tel: Cowes (0983) 292790.

SOUTH LONDON:

E.O. Members are invited to meet each other at Margaret and Mike Gilbert's, 45, Burntwood Lane, SW17 0JY on SUNDAY, 2ND SEPTEMBER, 1.00 - 6.00 P.M.

Refreshments, badge making, educational jumble (bring some with you!), etc...

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NORTHUMBERLAND/TYNE & WEAR/DURHAM:

SPEAKER NEEDED!

After a long period of inactivity here in the North-East, things are at last beginning to happen.

We have organized several successful get-togethers for members and, in the Autumn, are planning to hold a "Public Meeting" in Newcastle on the subject of Alternatives in Education. We have a speaker on Rudolf Steiner and one on alternative education generally.

What we still need though, is someone to talk about Education Otherwise.

Would anyone with experience of home education be willing to come and speak - we would, of course pay expenses.

Please get in touch if you can help.....

Contact: Kate Harvey,  
Eastwood Foot,  
Slaley,  
Hexham,  
Northumberland.

Tel: 0434 73 479.



## High Lea Farm School,

HINTON MARTELL, WIMBORNE, DORSET - Tel: 0258 840888

High Lea is a Victorian Farmhouse and old farm buildings, surrounded by inquisitive chickens, and other animals. The School started from nothing two years ago and, after amazing hard work, laughter and tears, we are now established and growing daily. The Education is aimed at each child's inner magic, to the future, remembering the past. Our greatest characteristic must be the remarkable happiness of everyone involved - especially the children.

The advantages of High Lea are - highly qualified, caring teachers; small classes; beautiful grounds on a country estate; courses to G.C.E.; apprenticeship beginnings; proper lunches; parental involvement; no set fees; contributions which you can afford; a modern, thoughtful and individual education at a co-educational, independent school - just down the road from you.

There are classes for children from 3½ years to 14 and visitors are welcome. Please telephone before 4.00p.m. for appointments. You are invited to tea any Friday afternoon from 4.00 p.m.

# Minutes of

## CORE GROUP MEETING

Held on Sunday, 27th May  
at 10.00 a.m. at:

UNSTONE GRANGE, NEAR SHEFFIELD....

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Present: Bruce Cox (Chairman)  
John Elenor (Minutes)  
Christine Wallace, Alison Mafham,  
Andy Anderson, Caroline Grant  
Bob Wade.

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1. Minutes of previous meeting:

A brief addition was made:- there had been a last minute discussion of two items, namely T-Shirts and envelope re-use labels - no-one could quite remember what was the outcome of the discussion.

2. Matters arising:

- 2.1 Envelope re-use labels - Andy will now hold stocks of these and supply them to co-ordinators as one of their entitlements. John confirmed that there are 6000 left.
- 2.2 Copyright: Bruce confirmed that there is no legal protection against the misuse of the Contact List, although a trade association has been formed which makes it a condition of membership that members respect the privacy of such lists. We agreed that, if a commercial concern asks for a copy of the list, they should be invited instead to advertise in the newsletter.
- 2.3 S.I.N.C. (revised) and Teenage Years; Bruce confirmed that both are progressing well.
- 2.4 Research: A questionnaire had been sent to co-ordinators and elicited a one-third response. It was agreed that this would be revised and sent direct to members.
- 2.5 Publications: Dick Kitto had informed us that the purchase of Butterworth would be noticeably more than £50.00, with very little resale value. It was agreed that the extra cost was still justified. A rider was added that Dick be asked to say something about Education Law in Scotland and N. Ireland.

3. Reports:

- 3.1 Enquiries Secretary: (a written report submitted by Janet)

The number of enquiries has varied greatly, from 95 to 220 per month, partly related to the amount of press coverage. Articles have appeared in the.....

3.1 (cont'd/.....)

Times Educational Supplement (17th Feb.), the Times (7th March), the Sunday Times (18th March), the Sunday Telegraph (4th March) and Home & Freezer Digest (June); Jane Davies had a letter printed in the Guardian; Bruce Cox was interviewed on Womans Hour, and the Downies were interviewed on Radio Scotland. Interest is being shown by Channel 4, B.B.C. West and B.B.C. Wales.

Personal visits to central office are now more common, while at the same time hardly a day passes without an enquiry from abroad. There is a growing amount of interest from professional educators, including head-teachers who have been given our name and number by L.E.A. officials; indeed a Cambridgeshire attendance officer recently visited a family with a Court Order in one hand and E.O. literature in the other! The case was dismissed and the boy is now home-educated.

Janet has spoken to the sixth-form social studies group at a Peterborough Community College, ably abetted by Marilyn Woods from Bretton; the talk was well received and they have been asked back for next year.

3.2 General Secretary:

John reported that we had recently added to our affiliations to useful bodies, and asked for volunteers who would receive literature from these bodies and publish anything useful in our newsletter.

The response was:

National Out-of-School Alliance (for  
latch-key children).....Andy Anderson;

Alternative Education Resource Group  
(Australia's equivalent to E.O.) - Caroline Grant  
Prunes (ditto from New Zealand).... " "

John had also written to Childrens Rights (the new journal of the Children's Legal Centre) enquiring about a magazine-swap. They did not want to operate this way, but asked for information about joining E.O; the meeting agreed that we should affiliate to them, and ask Dick Kitto if he would be able to monitor their journal for us.

Wendy Freebourne, who is organizing the conference of the European Association for Humanistic Psychology, had asked us to supply a delegate to the conference at the end of July to participate in the symposium on Education. John had agreed to go; the meeting agreed that he should be subsidized to the extent of the conference fee (without the accommodation fee).

### 3.3 Membership Secretary:

Total membership now stands at 1,190 fully paid up; a further 31 members have not responded to the reminder sent them in April, and 113 have lapsed since January. The rate of joining for the first five months of 1984 has been around 10% higher than in the corresponding period in 1983; about 5% of new members pay less than the standard rate. Of those joining since January 1984:-

- 36% have all their children in school
- 32% have at least one child out
- 23% have children below school age
- 9% have no children.

It was agreed that, because of this growth, the print run for newsletters should be increased, and that the Contact List should be reprinted in December to be sent to new members, along with an addendum of those who had joined since the Contact List was published. This would be in the form of the loose-leaf insertions that are to appear with every newsletter from August onwards.

At the moment the application forms from new members have an uncertain route to the co-ordinator; this was standardized as - Wallaces to Emmetts to Anne Moss to co-ordinator. Bob and Anne should be asked to agree between them who photocopied what, so that forms could reach the co-ordinator with minimum delay.

### 3.4 Treasurer:

Alison stated that E.O.'s reserves were £6,385.00 divided between £932 in the current account and £5453 on deposit. As a result, it is now possible for co-ordinators and newsletter editors to claim their expenses; members wanting to incur expenses on behalf of E.O. should agree this with their co-ordinator and claim via him/her. Alison agreed to publish a balance sheet in the newsletter every four months, including an explanation of bank charges.

Since it is awkward to have the account in Shepherd's Bush while Alison lives in Chester, and even more awkward to move the account altogether, we agreed that Shepherd's Bush should remain the collecting bank for standing orders, but that Alison should open a new account at a convenient and helpful bank in Chester; funds from Shepherd's Bush would be channelled into this.

Some financial reserves should be earmarked for expenses incurred by Bob Emmett in using his computer for E.O.'s benefit, including the possibility of a replacement.

### 3.5 Publications Secretary:

We had paid £34.00 to the printer of the last newsletter for him to mail it to members; it was agreed that this expense was easily justified by taking the task off the shoulders of the devoted few.

Pauline Thomasson is the editor for August; the Grants offered to do October, and the Wallaces December, (Oct. will now be edited by Jean Shepherd.)

It was agreed that we should advertise in fringe magazines 'back copies of newsletters, available at 50p' in order to get rid of stocks; and also advertise E.O. in general terms in certain newspapers - Grants and Wallaces to organize this.

### 3.6 Co-ordinators' Co-ordinator:

Andy has so far had only two replies to his request for co-ordinators to find out (where possible) why members have lapsed. Most co-ordinators state that 'phone calls are preferable to letters, even if more expensive. He would like co-ordinators to take more responsibility for keeping in touch with their members, particularly if they were likely to move away from the area or not be able to give enough time to the job; it might be useful to appoint an assistant co-ordinator to help with specific tasks (as some areas do). At present we have 62 co-ordinators, and need 7 more.

The meeting agreed that it would be useful to have a small number of regional co-ordinators in addition, who could take an over-view of activities, and make sure that each County in the region was well supported.

## 4. Financial Matters:

- 4.1 The newsletter can be increased to 52 pages (or equivalent - i.e. if there is an insert we drop four pages to keep the weight constant so as not to incur extra postage costs).
- 4.2 It was re-iterated that officers, including co-ordinators, can have their expenses paid; likewise newsletter editors.
- 4.3 Teenage Years, when published, should be offered free to all members in return for S.A.E.
- 4.4 Co-ordinators should automatically receive a copy of the revised S.I.N.C., as well as Teenage Years and Dick's booklet on the new Education Acts.
- 4.5 Despite healthy finances, it is still a good thing to accept advertising in the newsletter, provided the proportion of space devoted to it remains as agreed.

5. Trust and Legal Status:

John reported that the Trust Deed has been approved by the Charity Commissioners and we are nearly ready to be incorporated and registered. John agreed to investigate the cost of the proceedings and the procedure for electing officers; the next meeting was provisionally fixed as the A.G.M.

6. Future Meetings:

- 6.1 For September we will try to get Unstone Grange again; this should include a co-ordinators meeting, as well as the A.G.M.
- 6.2 There are three possibilities for February:  
Crewe (Andy will investigate);  
London (John will investigate);  
and Birmingham (?)
- 6.3 The May meeting will be held to coincide with the May Day Bank Holiday (first Monday in May).

7. Any Other Business:

- 7.1 The Educational Resources Information Service, run by Andy Anderson, should be advertised regularly in the newsletter.
- 7.2 It was agreed that the Introductory Letter need NOT be rewritten.
- 7.3 (from the previous day's Open Meeting).....  
Ideas for spending the money that the Trust will be able to appeal for: in the long term, buy (or build) Resource Centre(s), which would be available as workshop facilities, etc.; in the short term, subsidise week, or weekend, sessions in Youth Hostels, etc.; support co-ordinators to travel round their area to give assistance to members with problems.
- 7.4 Finally, a vote of thanks was extended to Joan Hoare for the magnificent work she had put into organizing such a successful and enjoyable weekend.

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## **Important!**

CO-ORDINATORS' MEETING - Unstone Grange, Saturday, 29th September 1984

There will be a Co-ordinators' Meeting at 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 a.m. on the above date, for decisions and discussions on matters to go forward to the Annual General Meeting from the Co-ordinators.

We shall also be discussing Regionalisation of Co-ordinators.

# EO OFFICERS

Treasurer:

Alison Mafham,  
3, Park Road West,  
Curzon Park,  
Chester.

Membership Secretaries:

Bruce & Christine Wallace,  
25, Diabaig,  
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Scotland,  
IV22 2HE

Tel: 044581 225

Assistant Treasurer:  
(Renewals)

Bob Emmett,  
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Llandudno,  
Gwynedd,  
LL30 1YJ

Enquiries Secretary:

Janet Everdell,  
25, Common Lane,  
Hemingford Abbots,  
Cambs.  
PE18 9AN

Tel: 0480 63130  
(NOT after 9.30 p.m.)

General Secretary:

John Elenor,  
31, Anson Road,  
London, NW2.

Reviews Editor:

Helen Holland,  
Inholms Farm,  
Plumpton Green,  
Nr. Lewes,  
Sussex.

Co-Ordinators' Secretary:

Andy Anderson,  
95, Derrington Avenue,  
Crewe,  
CW2 7JA

Tel: 0270 664060

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E.O. is affiliated to:

N.C.C.L.,  
Future Studies Centre,  
National Out of School Alliance.

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# education otherwise

Education Otherwise is a membership organisation whose principal aim is to provide a support and information network for families whose children are being educated outside school, for those who are contemplating such a step and for those who wish to support the freedom of families to take proper responsibility for the education of children.

Our principal aims are as follows

To encourage the provision of alternative learning situations outside the school system.

To re-affirm that parents have the primary responsibility for their children's education and that they have the right to exercise this responsibility by educating them out of school.

To establish the primary right of children that full consideration, with due allowance for their age and understanding, shall be given to their wishes and feelings regarding their education.

For further information send a 9" x 4" s.a.e. to

25 Common Lane, Hemingford Abbots, Cambs. PE18 9AN