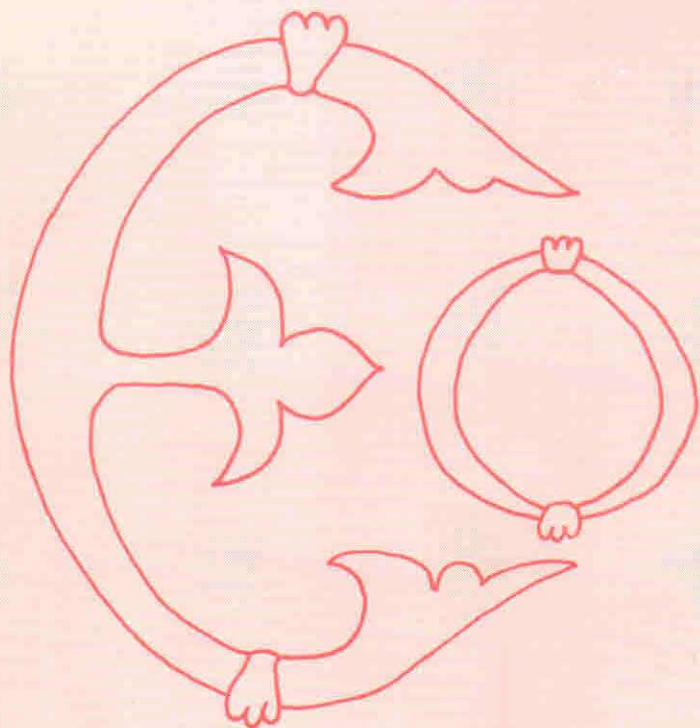


EDUCATION
OTHERWISE



NEWSLETTER 54

AUGUST 1987

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(October 1987)

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Contributions for the next edition should be sent to the editor by the deadline date and all material intended as such should be marked 'For Publication'. Contributors are asked to be sure they include their name and address.

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EDITORIAL



I am Ben's dad. Ben is eight, and he has been in and out of school. I am a teacher, and presently teach in the same school Ben attends.

Sometimes I take a leaf out of Ben's book and think we are taking everything a little too seriously. "Doesn't matter," says Ben when he does something I dislike. He has a point. Very little in life really 'matters'.

The views of Pip Rupik are under attack in this issue; Ivan Tyrrell's opinions have put him in the stocks. And I am in the doghouse! I have had the truly wonderful experience of having to include in the very newsletter I am editing a criticism of myself.

According to Barbara Hooley, who is researching into the causes why people leave EO, one of the most voiced reasons is 'too much squabbling in the newsletter'.

Let us not get bogged down with internal arguing. Learning is fun! And life is short! Let us all get on with it.

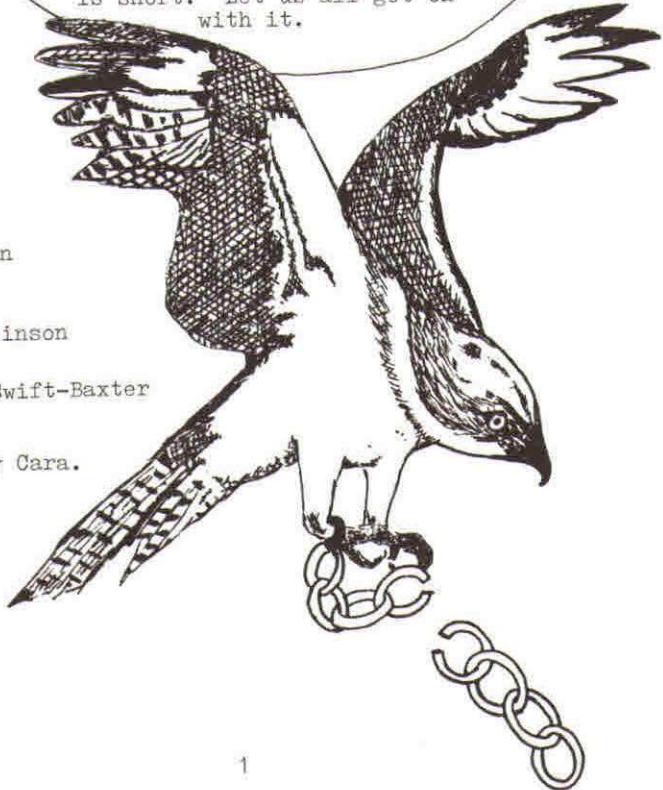
Thanks to Jill Dunstan for helping me with the editing.

Thanks to Pamela Tomlinson for the drawings.

And thanks to Dorne Swift-Baxter for running around!

Cover illustration by Cara.

Peter Williams
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REACTIONS TO IVAN TYRRELL

Dear EO

As a Christian, I just had to reply to Ivan Tyrrell's article in June's NL. Most of the facts included are not true: eg Jesus only called Peter 'Satan' (Mark 8: 33) this once because Peter was rebelling against God's plan for Jesus. Later (John 21: 15-17) Jesus forgave him and made Peter responsible for the welfare of the Church.

Most of the opinions included point to some bad experience with Christianity which has left a confused man. Perhaps Ivan Tyrrell will one day meet a Christian who is walking close to God and realise he has met the real thing.

Elaine Bowyer
27 Treetops
Felixstowe
Suffolk IP11 9ER

Dear EO

I think that Mr Tyrrell rather abused his position in using the last newsletter to vilify Christians and other religious people. While I think different views should be represented and discussed openly and honestly, his contributions were rather vicious in spirit and quite unhelpful.

David Armstrong
38 Park Terrace
North Shields
Tyne and Wear NE30 2E7

Dear EO

Of course! Thank you to Ivan Tyrrell for his intelligent, accurate and, above all, original critique of Christianity and other religions.

On the strength of this, we have thrown out Augustine and Aquinas, Dante and Donne. Now we are contemplating

Jack and the Beanstalk instead (an obvious metaphor for humanity's fruitless striving after heavenly knowledge and spiritual experience which encounters only false, primitive gods made in its own image, materialism and existential threat?). Perhaps we could start a fund to send copies of Grimm to John Paul II and Mother Teresa; they have probably never read any folk-tales. (I am only sorry that we are too late to enlighten Albert Schweitzer and Teilhard de Chardin.)

What really gets my two year old son 'drinking it all in, sighing with satisfaction at the end, and asking for the same story over and over again' (cf Julia Galvin's article More about RE) are the Thomas the Tank Engine Stories. Unfortunately they are avowedly Christian. Should we confiscate these?

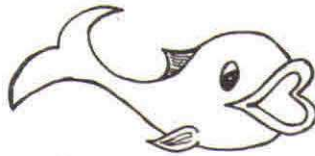
Paul and Fiona Handley
The Community
Little Gidding
Huntingdonshire

Dear EO

Re: Ivan Tyrrell's article on 'Christianity'

- 1 'Christianity has not been tried and found wanting - it has not been tried.' G K Chesterton
- 2 I suggest that he reads what Christ is reported as actually saying.
- 3 Methinks he doth protest too much! It is a common syndrome to attack violently what you fear or to which you are (despite yourself) attracted.
- 4 The ideals of Christianity may be a dead husk to him; I note that he does not knock atheism - is that a belief?...

Frederick Rapsey
Walnutree Manor
Haughley Suffolk



A REPLY TO IVAN TYRELL

Ivan Tyrell's comments on religious education in the home (June 1987), raise some interesting points. Some 17 years ago, I would have fully agreed with his views on Christianity, although I do feel that he has allowed his emotions to run away with him. His depiction of Christian teaching, for example, is no more than caricature.

Mr. Tyrell's enthusiasm for his position is fortunate, however, because typically more moderate, objective arguments frequently obscure the real issue, which is that such views are, of course, religious ones. They clearly (also considering his later comments on evolution, consciousness and so on) include very definite ideas about the origins, purpose and future of man. These are the very questions with which religion concerns itself.

The difficulty with such views, as I see it, is that they inevitably lead to the very thing that we all seek to avoid - namely indoctrination. When one's views are so liberally sprinkled with categorical assertions of the most sweeping type, so many appeal to the obvious. Surely, all intelligent persons believe the kind of arguments where there can be room for an alternative. Is there not a great danger of having a closed mind? How, for instance, can Ivan Tyrell present Christianity fairly to his children - for to do so he must present it on his own terms, including its claim to be true (for all people everywhere, regardless of whether they happen to believe it).

On the other hand, the committed Christian does not have this problem. Inherent in Christianity is the idea of choice - you may accept it or reject it. But how do you reject the idea that truth is relative (the deeply embedded assumption of all humanism), if you are never told that the alternative - Truth is absolute - is both tenable, intellectually respectable, and widely held? The difficulty is well illustrated by the fact that many humanists cannot even see the problem - they have been so well indoctrinated by schools.

The problem is not solved by trying to be objective, if such objectivity is held to be a priority for the pursuit of knowledge. One needs to be able to see that such a commitment to objectivity is very akin to a religious position, and cannot itself be justified objectively. Many people have difficulty appreciating the argument that pure objectivity is unattainable.

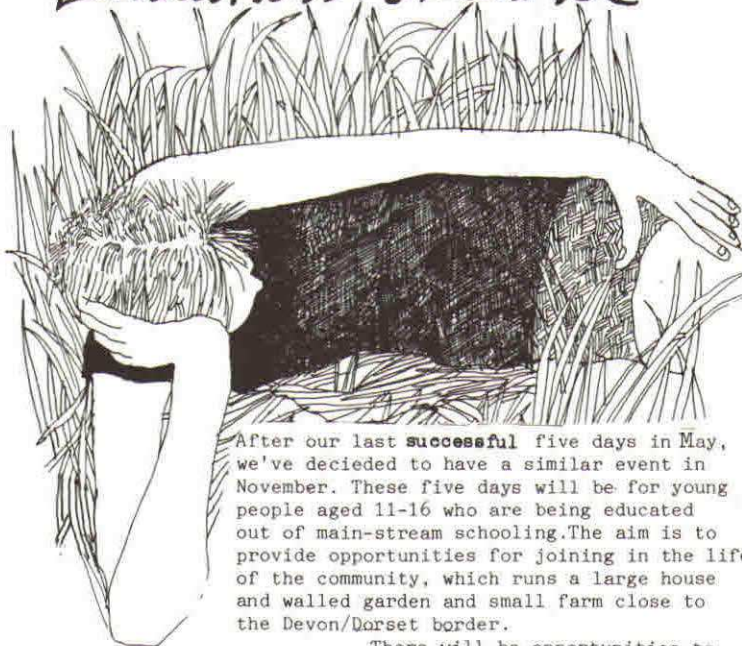
A further point arising from Ivan Tyrell's letter is that it is necessary to be at least moderately well informed to be able to teach at all. To characterise Christian history as he did is hardly responsible. He also appears not to have read the New Testament, otherwise he would discover that Jesus DID in fact, on many occasions during his ministry, take the necessary steps towards founding a Church. Once his work was completed he also completed its founding by commissioning Peter to act as its head, and sending the Holy Spirit to empower, teach and guide its

members.

A final word - be careful Ivan! 17 years ago, I would have agreed with you. Then things changed - for most of the time since then I have been a committed Christian.

Ian Murray-Watson: Slade Farm, PETERCHURCH, Hereford. HR2 OSU

Education otherwise



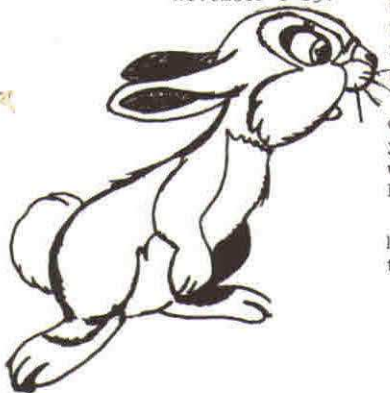
After our last **successful** five days in May, we've decided to have a similar event in November. These five days will be for young people aged 11-16 who are being educated out of main-stream schooling. The aim is to provide opportunities for joining in the life of the community, which runs a large house and walled garden and small farm close to the Devon/Dorset border.

There will be opportunities to explore the countryside, the fossil beaches of Charmouth and Lyme Regis, make friends and be creative. We have a pottery, art room, woodwork room, dark room and large rooms for dancing, music, circle dancing, playreading, games or just lying around in.

To book you need to send a £10 deposit (Total cost is £35) and please include your name and address. For more information write to Monkton Wyld Court, Charmouth, Bridport Dorset, DT6 6DQ. Telephone (0297) 60342.

We hope it will be a time for having fun and making friends. Look forward to seeing you!

November 8-13.



Religious Education at Home - Continued!

Ivan Tyrell made some valid points in his comments on R.E. at home in the June bulletin, but I have to disagree with some of the facts about Christianity.

I challenge the statement that Jesus didn't want a church founded - though I may sympathise with the reasons for that point of view! Maybe Jesus didn't, ideally, envisage the type of Church which developed..... But as well as likening Peter to Satan on one occasion, Jesus also referred to him as the rock on which He would build His church. The Bible contains many seeming paradoxes.

The present Christian revival, it seems to me, represents a wish of innumerable Christians around the world to write off all the errors of institutionalised churches, the hypocrisy of past and present, and get back to basics. Having said that, I think it an overstatement to say that Christianity has "mostly a history of evil and hypocrisy." All the good is too easily swept over.

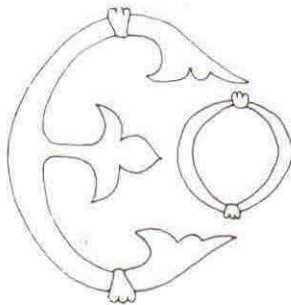
As a Christian home educator, I do value the opportunity to discuss with other parents how they broach the area of religion. As you rightly say, children (and all of us) learn best by absorption. I therefore welcome chances to share our Christian ethos with others who, like us, have opted out of institutions. There is almost as much to share with other home educators - a belief in freedom and individualism is almost the most fundamental common ground. A right interpretation of religions should reveal an openness to real spirituality.

Maybe the answer to the conflict of opinions and feelings on these "religious" topics is not to use the bulletin to air them. Religion has always been one of the "touchy" subjects of debate, and in my experience, it is most constructively debated face to face!

If there is anything true or worthwhile for our children to absorb from our own "Christian" approach (or any other approach), they will absorb it only if we are able to portray it. Also, I agree with Ivan that folk tales and stories are the best way to put morality across to young children. What he may not be aware of is that this fact has occurred to some religious educators, even within the Catholic Church, where there are now some much more "liberated" elements!

I cannot accept that religions are "husks", to be shed. If we choose to express our religious instinct - or spirituality - within one of the traditional religions, we do not thereby believe these structures to be blameless. They are structures of belief and morality; and there is so much depth and scope - and wisdom - in the New Testament, that it cannot be easily dismissed just because we are now more enlightened by reason.

Eileen Clark: 6 Templand Road, DALRY, Ayrshire. KA24 5EU.



A DEPTH OF EDUCATION

The last newsletter was wonderful. At last we have begun to go more deeply into the question of what it means to educate our children.

I agreed with many of the things Ivan Tyrell said about organized religion but wondered whether inevitably his early experience at Mortlake Junior had actually formed another prejudice.

It is true that very wrong actions have been carried out in the name of Christianity but it has also been the inspiration for many selfless acts through the years. These have not arisen so much from the Ten Commandments which he suggests are very crude and purely negative (but which I imagine were appropriate for the people's stage of development at that time) but from the impulse which distinguished the Old from the New Testament which was Jesus' commandment to Love Thy Neighbour as thyself. This is a much more subtle and demanding requirement and one which has not yet outworn its usefulness. Indeed in many ways it is only just now coming into its own as people begin to realise themselves to be responsible not only for sections of society worse off than they, but also whole areas of the world.

I agree that religions are not all they seem to be but like Julia Galvin I'm sure that children in their early years need some certainties on which to root themselves. Not to teach children religion is also the assertion of a prejudice. If they need that foundation and are not given it, it cannot be replaced later so we must be very sure of what we are doing.

Teaching children about religion is not the same as trying to lead a life which relates to a spiritual world. We need to be aware of how we respond in certain situations where spiritual ingredient might be what is called for. For example, most of us will be faced with death - maybe of a person or of an animal. For a much older child it might be the time for a discussion on various attitudes to death but for a younger child there will be a need for some certainties to lean on. In the case of an animal you might be faced with the need of the children for some kind of ceremony and you have to make a choice of whether to respond or not.

Or it might happen at night when talking over the events of the day you feel a need in your child to relate to God. Obviously you can't tell your child things you do not believe yourself but by being open to their needs you may be surprised at where it will lead you.

From almost as soon as they have begun to string sentences together our children have started to ask awkward questions about who was the first man, what happens to people when they die, etc. Although I had very confused ideas about religion when Rose first got to this stage I could see that a discussion on the lines of what some people believed or didn't would mean nothing to her. Much of the time I answered her questions through answers in nature and (as Ivan Tyrell also suggested)

read her many of the fairy and folk tales of this and other countries. But I also read to her from the Bible about The Creation and so on as she grew older. In responding to her, and the others as they came along, I grew more confident. From responding, as if I knew the answers, I actually found more faith or whatever you like to call it. This was of course very different from passing on a set of dogmas.

In the end our family life has been enriched by the saying of a prayer with the children at bedtime, or the saying of grace before a meal. It can sometimes be hard to make the effort and one does not always feel like it.

At worst I feel it can't be doing any harm and at best I feel it engenders an attitude of relatedness to God, nature and other people. I have seen the satisfaction experienced by the children when given a way of relating to the spiritual world which I have come to believe is their home.



Jackie Fearnley,
Howe House,
Egton,
WHITBY.
N. Yorkshire.

BOOK REVIEWS

Please send reviews direct to the editor of the next newsletter. If you wish to review a newly, or shortly to be published book, please write to Helen Holland giving the title, author, and name and address of the publisher. Helen will ask the publisher to send you the book, but PLEASE WRITE A REVIEW PROMPTLY if your request is granted. Please enclose a stamped envelope (A4) for each publisher you wish approached.

Helen Holland
Inholmes Farmhouse
Plumpton Green
Plumpton Sussex

STORYLINE WILDLIFE BOOKS 1, 2, 3, 4
Published by Oliver & Boyd

These are excellent books in the Storyline series (which includes Storyline Geography, History, Religion).

Each book has 96 pages, generously illustrated in black and white and with many excellent colour photographs.

As the name suggests, they are a collection of storylines, each about some aspect of nature and/or wildlife.

The storylines are from 2-12 pages long - not just the usual collection of facts, but interwoven in a story, which means that they are good for reading to children of 3 years upwards, and by children aged 5/6 upwards (reading age approx 7-8).

They answer lots of questions and give information on topics which are just 'off the beaten track' eg Did you know that a starfish is not a fish, or that an octopus belongs to the mollusc family, or that the largest crocodile known to people recently weighed about 2 tonnes and was over 8 metres long!?

I would thoroughly recommend them to EO members and for use in schools from top infants to secondary. The books are £3.00 each, but at the time of writing there is an introductory offer of £7.00 for the four books. At that price they are a bargain!

Martin Evans
16 Thistle House
Dee Street
London E14 0PD

BRIGHT IDEAS....

some new titles in this lovely range, published by Scholastic, include:-

Bright Ideas Writing

This book presents fun and practical ways to help children develop their writing skills. The activities range from letter formation and basic handwriting to interesting ideas like making a newspaper, binding a book and writing a scroll. Very imaginative ideas, also a section on computers and word processors.

Bright Ideas Assemblies

As you might expect this book picks a theme and explores the facts, it covers a wide range of subject matters, traditional moral themes, environmental issues and interesting festival themes including those from other cultures.

Bright Ideas Music

A collection of musical activities with basic ideas clearly set out, a good simple introduction to sound and rhythm - particularly suitable for group use.

Bright Ideas Lifesavers

Though designed for primary teachers this book is full of interesting ideas for when you need something to do. A useful book to have on the shelf

Bright Ideas, Teachers Handbook, Language Resources.

A book full of rhymes and songs split into the following sections:- Action Rhymes Chants and Stories, Number Rhymes & Games, Playground Games, Nonsense Rhymes & Jingles, Singing and Dancing Games & Poems. A nice book, but expensive at £6.95.

Valerie Gommon,
19, New Road, Castlethorpe,
Milton Keynes.



SOUND IT OUT BOOKS 1, 2, 3
Published by Oliver & Boyd

We have been using these books with our son since the time he was 5½. They are a mixture of phonics and cloze (filling in gaps with the appropriate word) exercises, simple grammar (plurals, adjectives, nouns, capital letters) with lots of scope for reading, writing and spelling practice.

They are a bit 'schoolish', but used to dip into as part of a planned EO programme we think they are fairly good.

There are several small illustrations on most pages, and the appearance is attractive and not threatening in the way traditional English grammar books might seem to children.

One thing we were not happy with were the illustrations and references to a witch. Why do publishers have to resort to such (and even worse fantasy-type) characters in their books?...unhelpful and unnecessary.

Apart from this, quite good and useful for age 5+. £2.95 for the three books.

Martin Evans
16 Thistle House
Dee Street
London E14 0PD



The Particle Explosion

by Close, Marten & Sutton
O.U.P. 1987 £15.00.

Whole new families of particles have been discovered since the splitting of the atom and behind the discoveries lies an amazing array of machinery. This is a book well worth reading for the excitement of following developments in particle physics up to the present moment. Alternate chapters cover the historical development of the research and explain theory. Written for the average reader, the book is determinedly non-technical and is lavishly illustrated with photographs. A final chapter shows how the theoretical work has produced practical applications in medicine and art history. Thoroughly recommended for parents and older children (15+).

Physics: a course for G.C.S.E.

by Gilbert Rowell & Sidney Herbert
C.U.P. £6.95 - ISBN 0521 271282.

This was my daughter's choice for a clear comprehensive G.C.S.E. Physics course. It covers all the material required for the examinations by all the different boards. There are questions on each chapter, with answers at the back. It is well laid out and easy to follow, though it sometimes moves through explanations a little fast.

EOers doing Physics may like to note that all the publishers seem to have G.C.S.E. titles ready e.g. G.C.S.E. Physics by Tom Duncan Pub: John Murray at £5.95, Explaining Physics G.C.S.E. edition by Stephen Pople Pub: O.U.P. £5.95 - both of which I have heard favourably reviewed - and others.

My own favourite approach is the Nuffield Revised Physics 4 books, general editors, E.M. Rogers and E.J. Wenham, pub: Longman. Pupil Text Years - 1 & 2 - £5.95 (one volume), Pupils Text Years - 3, 4 & 5 (separate volumes) £6.50 each. Written in a conversational style, crammed with experiments (many easy to do at home) and plenty of questions, these books have all the advantages

of the Nuffield experiment and a discovery-based step-by-step approach. Plenty of diagrams and pictures. The only disadvantage is cost - those needing the separate Teachers Guide will find these add a further £68.35 for the four books - and members might also be advised to check the compatibility of a Nuffield course with G.C.S.E.'s available through their local board. Electronics, which is now a part of the G.C.S.E. Physics syllabus, is only partially covered by the Nuffield text. Recommended is Electronics 11-13 by G. Foxcroft, J. Lewis and M. Summers, pub: Longman £4.35 - ISBN 0582 311128. This is one of the books in the Longman's Science 11-13 series, which covers basic introductory material in a clear, easy to follow style with plenty of illustrations.

Electronics by the same authors and publisher, covers the same ground with additional material up to G.C.S.E. ISBN 0582 046858 - £4.95.

A. Kamenka
62 Guthrum PI
Aycliffe
Co Durham
DL5 4QD



JAM

by Margaret Mahy
Magnet Paperback £1.95

This true story illustrated by Helen Craig tells of a talented father who runs the household admirably whilst his wife goes out to work as a scientist. Not content with everyday domestic duties, he starts jam-making when the old plum tree yields an exceptional harvest. Every container in the house is filled with delicious plum jam and the family has jam with everything every day for a year. Delightful pictures and a recipe for jam!

IS ANYONE HOME?

by Ron Maris
Picture Puffin £1.75

An attractively illustrated book with half pages to peep behind and discover who is in the farmyard.

STANLEY BAGSHAW & THE MAPEKING SQUARE CHEESE ROBBERY

by Bob Wilson
Picture Puffin £1.75

The ridiculous adventures of Stanley Bagshaw make very good reading aloud and this tale is no exception. If you like the idea of "Huddersgate, (famed for its tramlines) up north where it's boring and slow, Stanley Bagshaw resides with his Grandma at number 4 Prince Albert Row." then you'll enjoy the rhymed story and witty illustrations.

FISH IS FISH

by Leo Lionni
Picture Puffin £1.95

A brightly coloured story with a moral that will enchant and satisfy small children, this book is also very amusing in its own quiet way.

ONE DUCK, ANOTHER DUCK.
by Charlotte Pomerantz
Picture Puffin £1.95

This simple counting story for small children has nice big print as well as clear gay pictures.

THE RETURN OF THE ANTELOPE

by Willis Hall and Mary Hoffman
Picture Puffin £1.95

The illustrations by Faith Jacques make this book special. Two Victorian children discover three miniature sailors and look after them until their shipwrecked boat is replaced and they can sail back to Lilliput. A story with much potential which I feel is sadly not realised.

THE GUINEA PIG ABC

by Kate Duke
Methuen £5.95 hardback

Pat lovable guinea pigs climb over big colourful letters of the alphabet to illustrate amusingly such adjectives as Mean and Vain and Prickly.

WORK TOGETHER ACTIVITY BOOKS

published by Arnold Wheaton

These complement the Read Together stories and give opportunities for working with glue and scissors as well as colouring, reading and writing. The ideas are helpful if you are not quite sure what to do to encourage very young readers and to keep their interest.

Helen Holland



HUMAN SCALE EDUCATION CONFERENCE

I attended a one day conference of Human Scale Education at the Oxford Poly on the 15th March. Surprisingly, I was the only E.O. Member present. Other groups represented were varied, a really excellent cross section of professionals and others, working both inside and outside the accepted school system, to either re-instate or perpetuate human scale values.

In support of small schools were those threatened by closure due to falling rolls (no not motor cars from heaven) and those wishing to start small schools where none exist at the present (Liverpool, Carmarthen). The National Association for the Support of Small Schools and the Association of State Supported Alternative Schools and Waldorf Steiner were also represented.

Mike Davies, Co-Director of Stantonbury Campus, Milton Keynes, who had given a wonderfully rousing speech (reminiscent of "Once more into the breach dear friends...") the day before at the NASSS conference in London - added his voice to the general plea for human scale attitudes to be introduced into existing state schools. He said, "Since most young people are going to be educated in large schools, it would be sensible to revive the best aspect of small school ethos by restructuring large schools into loosely federated and largely autonomous sub-schools", (i.e. a school with 1,000 pupils, sub-divided into a federation of ten small schools, each with 100 pupils, sharing the resources and facilities of the large school, but maintaining the 'home' atmosphere of the small village school). This idea has been labelled "Mini-Schooling, and a booklet outlining its methods and effectiveness is available from Human Scale, price £2.50.

'Flexi-Schooling' was defined for the uninitiated as education that takes place in various environments, but usually more than one central base, where people from other professions and possibly parents too, share their skills with children, and/or offer work experience/apprenticeships to older students.

I gave an example of a friend in South London whose children spend two days a week at Kirkdale Free School, one day at a Family Workshop, frequented by E.O. families, which specialises in crafts, drama and music, and the rest of the week 'out of school' i.e. at home.

Brian Nicholson, Head Teacher of Dartington School, and Kim Taylor of the Guilbenkien Foundation (who subsidise Human Scale via the Schumacher Society), agreed unanimously that we should look towards the future of educational flexibility, perhaps using computers for home study and existing school facilities as resource centres for the community as a whole.

The importance of the 'home' as a resource was not to be over-looked and 'parents as teachers' an invaluable area of prime support. Looks like we've made the grade at last.

This led to a suggestion from the Co-ordinator that we should draw up a ten point criteria/guide line for Human Scale practitioners.

Apart from size, the main prerequisite for Human Scale Education was deemed to be the choice of teacher. Enthusiasm and the ability to instill love for a subject was a far more important aspect of a teachers role than that of accumulating academic achievement.

Further discussion on criteria was shelved as it would doubtless have caused a split in the group as a whole since the conference embraced such a wide range of un-like minded individuals, striving for the same goal. For example, my suggestion that if we asked children what they wanted, the answer wouldn't be school, would not go down well with those who were battling to keep closure at bay.

There will doubtless be an occasion to discuss criteria and other pressing issues at the three day conference in September, when I hope E.O. will be more widely represented.

Speakers include Fred Koury, Principal of 'City as School', New York, 'Flexible Schooling in the Community', Dr. Claire Burstall, Dir. Nat. Foundation for Educational Research, 'Small Schools - the last evidence', Tim Brighouse, Chief Ed. Officer, Oxon, 'The Human Scale in Education'.

The conference is at the Oxford Poly. on the 4th, 5th and 6th September 1987 and the fee for three days is £15.00.

Any further information about the Autumn Conference and/or the Human Scale Education Newsletter and subscription (£8 = sub + 3 NL) from: Philip Toogood, Co-ordinator, Human Scale Education, 2 Harton Moor Cottage, Hartland, Devon, EX39 6LB (02374.640).

Poppy Green
42 St Marks Road
London
W10 6NR



What is the most popular answer to schoolteachers' questions?

I don't know.

Correct.



GCSE ON TV (AND ANOTHER IMPORTANT MATTER!)

Those of you who have read/will read this issue's 'Special Needs' supplement will notice Margaret Gilbert's article on their use of TV, and my comments concerning contributions for the April 1988 supplement on 'The use of TV and Radio'. (For those of you who do not read my supplements, I urge you to do so, since apart from being informative, and often relevant to children other than those in any 'Special needs' category, they are also great works of art and literature in their own right!)

The serious bit

Many of you have home educated children who have begun, or about to begin, external GCSE courses, or are working towards GCSE examinations. You may not realise that radio and TV educational services offer a number of series specifically for GCSE studies.

All the basic subjects seem to be covered. Some items appear to be of particular interest to EOers: for example ITV's Chemistry and Physics series designed as resource material for teachers including "demonstration experiments of the kind impossible in the school laboratory" and "demonstration experiments and quantitative investigations in the laboratory on selected physics topics...experiments difficult or impossible to undertake in the school laboratory".

Also, in January 1988 BBC are "starting a new and important strand of programmes for teachers". These are on the theme 'Coping with Change', and include programmes on Science ("on the organisation, management and assessment techniques required for a practical, problem-solving approach to Science"), TVEI ("including the development and organisation of the curriculum, technology, teaching and learning styles, and supported self-study"), Maths ("including problem-solving and investigative approaches, practical applications of Maths, the impact of microtechnology, and assessment").

BBC Radio are to broadcast two weekly magazine programmes: Mainstream GCSE "curriculum-based but easy, enjoyable listening for students in the third, fourth and fifth years. Each week there will be a number of short items or modules which support your GCSE course work. It is up to you to choose the topics most appropriate to your needs...". And Wavelength Plus "informal listening for sixth formers, students in college or people at home (concerning) those issues that affect the lives of people between the ages of 16 and 20".

In Spring 1988 BBC Radio will broadcast a series of independent learning packages under the series title Help Yourself. These include a number of GCSE relevant items: in particular, "plays relevant for Science, Modern Languages and English GCSE texts".

The crunch

Now that I have given you all this valuable information, I feel it is a good moment to abandon my usual restraint in only begging, pleading and bribing; and try wringing your consciences concerning your duty to contribute news, views and information to the magazine and supplements. Particularly my supplements! And very particularly the Use of Radio and TV supplement for 1988.

Lighthearted comment apart, most of you have a lot to offer. Especially to new and/or unsure EOers. However ordinary or boring you may feel your approach to be, it is of interest, comfort, and may have practical and

inspirational value to lots of other people (who, sadly, also feel ordinary, boring, and unable to contribute...).

I know that some of you do have quite unusual 'educational lives'. Certainly there are some very individual approaches and methods being used with handicapped children at home. I know also that these are full and often exhausting lives, but there are so many others who would benefit from your experiences. Although I recognise (and often experience!) these difficulties, I do beg you to find time to write something.

Well, if that does not do the trick for my Use of Radio and TV supplement for April 1988 (Have I mentioned this before?) or the Special Needs supplement number 4 for June 1988, I shall have to consider the use of force...

Sylvia Jeffs
16 St Bernards Road
Solihull
West Midlands



Two useful addresses:

BBC Education Information
London
W1A 1AA tel 01 991 8031 (24 hours)

IBA
70 Brompton Road
London
SW3 1EY or phone or write to your
local ITV company - address
in telephone directory.

SCHOOL IS NOT COMPULSORY

AND

PIP RUPIK

In reply to Pip Rupik's letter in the June '87 NL, we would like to draw her attention to the minutes of the Core Group meeting on 26 February 1984 printed in NL34 April 1984, page 40:

"It was agreed that he (Bruce Cox) should be paid for his expenses and for his time as it was now most important that these things should be done quickly."

and to the minutes of the Core Group meeting on 30 September 1984 in NL42 August 1985, page 46:

"A previous meeting had agreed to pay Bruce Cox for his time and trouble for producing the new edition of School is not Compulsory."

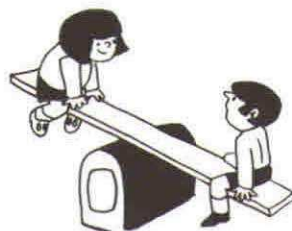
Having presented an account of the time he had spent on the work to the meeting, he withdrew, and in his absence the meeting agreed to pay £750.00 together with expenses of £56.60.

Previous minutes indicate the problem of finding someone with sufficient skill and time to do the job. It was decided that Bruce Cox should be asked to do the work as he had the relevant experience. We were relieved when Bruce accepted. When a draft was ready it was approved by all the EO officers serving at the time.

The new edition of SINC has been in circulation for 18 months and this is the first criticism of it. Invitations for comments and suggestions for amendments appear on page 60 along with the editors address. EO receives

many letters of thanks and praise for the quality and usefulness of all its publications.

Janet Everdell
Joan Hoare
Jill and Joseph O'Connor
Bruce and Christine Wallace
Rob and Anne Wade



A LETTER FROM PIP RUPIK

Dear EO

In the June NL 1986, I asked several things of 'the powers that be' in EO. I also made several points and suggestions to whoever has any authority to consider these things. And what response did I receive? Zero.

So, one frustrated year later, I needed some response - to new issues this time. So I worded it more strongly. Wow! I got response with a vengeance. Why did I have to resort to this? The response I have received to my June 1987 letter crystallises the answer beautifully...

The reaction from the Core Group has been that the intention to pay someone £750.00 to write SINC was in several newsletters - in the minutes! I reacted that nobody reads the minutes. The reaction from several Core Group members was that everyone should. Perhaps the Core Group would like to ask all the members whether they read the minutes; information coming to me suggests they do not.

Some time ago my husband suggested to a Core Group member that certain things could be changed within EO. The answer was that we should attend meetings. Perhaps the Core Group would like to look at how many of its members do actually attend meetings, and how few attend any meetings that actually have any clout with what EO does nationally.

And looking at these questions, I think they should ask: Is EO really fulfilling what its members want? We all know how hard office holders work, and I for one will be eternally grateful for the help and support I have been given on a personal level. But, realistically, I think EO has grown so much now, and the educational

climate changed so much, that we have to admit that Mr Average 1987 is not the same as Mr Average 1977. And his needs are certainly not the same.

- 1 Do most members want (or are they able) to attend meetings? I do not believe so.
- 2 Do most members want to have to read the minutes for info? I do not believe so.
- 3 But do people still want to be informed and involved? Certainly.

So what is the answer? I believe it lies in the newsletter. After all, it is a major expense for EO, and we should be utilising it to the full. After all it is the one thing every member gets. I believe it is too important to leave simply to the whims of whoever chooses to contribute and when.

We should still have contributions of course, but in addition someone should be a 'leading light' to it:

- a Picking major points out from minutes.
- b Ensuring there are always good factual and useful articles: hints and tips on the everyday task of learning.
- c Perhaps the newsletter could come to pieces for easy filing and consequent accessibility.
- d Everything seems so fragmented with causes here, fights there, at the moment.
- e But most of all, why cannot questions like "do we pay for SINC?" be asked of the whole membership through the newsletter, and the result be taken on votes?

I believe all members want to be involved. But not through minutes

and organisational meetings, and no amount of Core Group opinion that they should read minutes will keep members.

I do not believe the Core Group realises that the present set up makes so many members feel disenfranchised. Meanwhile, we continue to lose members.

Perhaps this is what we are doing wrong!

Pip Rupik
17 Westmorland Street
Balby
Doncaster
DN4 9AQ

SEE ALSO a letter from Michael Adams on the subject - page 18 .



BOOK REVIEW

THE CHILDREN'S YEAR - a book of crafts and clothes for children and parents to make. By Stephanie Cooper, Christine Fynes-Clinton, Marye Rawling

This is another book from the Hawthorn Press, publishers of Festivals, Family and Food. As in the previous book, the activities are related to the seasons and various festivals of the year.

There is a wealth of suggestions - often quite simple but nevertheless effective - for toys that children can make for themselves (with or without the aid of adults), decorations for their house, and presents for their friends, relations or younger brothers and sisters. There is also quite a variety of clothes for adults (or a child with the help of an adult) to make for children, often with the aid of a pattern.

As with the Festivals, Family and Food book, the inspiration arises out of the work of Rudolf Steiner with the emphasis on the creation of objects of simplicity and beauty out of natural materials.

It is the kind of book that makes you



want to start on several projects at once, encouraged by the very sympathetic line drawings. The real test I suppose is whether the instructions work.

We have only been able to try out a fraction of the ideas, but in general the directions seem clear enough. One friend was of the opinion that the doll making instructions were even better than in the Doll Book (reviewed in a previous newsletter).

One criticism I did have in this area was the omission of English knitting needle sizes (US and metric only are quoted). One of my children did also point out a slightly misleading drawing accompanying the cord twisting section.

It can be surprisingly difficult to describe quite a simple activity not knowing what can be taken for granted in one's audience's experience.

The book costs £9.95 (£10.95 post included from the publishers) but well worth buying as it will probably be used until it falls apart! Alternatively, it could be ordered through the library and favourite suggestions copied out. In case of any difficulties in ordering, the address of Hawthorn Press is The Mount, Whiteshill, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL6 6JA, and they ask for cheques with order.

Jackie Fearnley
Howe House
Egton
Whitby

HURRAH FOR THE HOLS!

of course for the EO parent, life is **One Long Holiday**:-

as Archie's aunt Arcana reminds Mrs G-A



you can go where and when you want to



no hassle about school uniform..



and no trouble with the i.e.a.?

oh no, they think I'm barmy



LETTERS

Dear EO

As a member of E.O. I would like to comment on the letter by Pip Rupik in Newsletter No 53.

I wrote a report on our experiences with our L.E.A. in June newsletter 1986. In it, I thanked everyone who was responsible for SINC.

From our point of view the section on deregistration was vital. I personally don't care if it was written by a practising E.O'er or not. Carol and I spent a considerable amount of time to verify its (SINC) accuracy with regard to law, and it is spot on, in other words competent. It may not be perfect in every sense, but then nothing else in life is either.

As to its cost, if the £500 mentioned is accurate, and I don't know if it is or not, then it works out at 30p per member of E.O. i.e. membership 1,686, from minutes in Newsletter 52. I will personally send 30p to anyone who is unhappy with SINC on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope, 30p being their financial contribution to it. I think that SINC would have taken several weeks to research and verify and that £500 represents good value for money. How many hours of frantic searching through library books, and how many £1000's has it saved E.O. members?

The right to dispose of our funds is a good question. Next time any money is to be spent can we all be balloted, secretly of course, to see if it is a good idea or not? I am sure that E.O. has the funds for this, and if not, then I am sure all the members will happily pay up the necessary £1000's to ensure the cost is met. (J O K E)

Personally, again, I am very happy and pleased that a "core" group is willing and able to put a considerable amount of time and effort into helping us, the "ordinary" members of E.O. e.g. look at the addresses of the core group and then look at the address of the meeting place for the group. The effort and time speaks for itself in terms of distance alone. Armed with SINC and the contact list, which I find invaluable, we took our children out of school. Without SINC they would either still be in school, or me in prison for not sending them.

E.O. is very rich in its diversity of talents and skills and this combined with the maturity to tolerate others views without the vehemence expressed in some letters, makes E.O. a comfortable, practical and friendly place to be, let us try to keep it so. Long may it prosper.

Peace to all members, ordinary or 'otherwise'.

Michael Adams
14 The Grove
Wednesfield
Wolverhampton WV11 1RW

Dear E.O.

The magazine "Childright", June 1987, contains an article describing the plight of homeless families and their children. These families are often housed, temporarily, in sub-standard Bed & Breakfast hotels. The accommodation consists of one room per family, and the use of a kitchen which may be little more than a cubby-hole containing a cooker, and which may be shared by up to ten families. "Temporary" may extend not only for several months but, on occasions, to as long as five years. Lack of sufficient school places means that many of the children cannot even escape from their appalling "home" environment even to go to school. They suffer from diseases of overcrowding.

It occurs to me that if the opportunities for E.Oing were more widely known, a proportion of parents would withdraw their children from school, thus releasing school places which could be used by the children from homeless families. To escape for a few hours a day from their prison-like "home" conditions could be a valuable experience for some of these children.

According to Shelter and the Health Visitors Association, this situation occurs in cities such as: London, Bradford, Bristol, Oxford, Portsmouth, Reading, Tyneside, Bournemouth, Worthing and in rural areas such as Devon and Wiltshire.

L.E.A's in these areas persist in harassing truants and school phobics at great public expense instead of encouraging home education which would make school places available for the homeless.

Patricia Knox,
Pen Llywenan, Bodedern,
Holyhead, Gwynedd, LL65 4TS.



Dear EO

I have received the following letter. No names or addresses have been sent, but the information is provided here for the benefit of anyone interested.

Ty Canol
Llangynog
Carmarthen
Dyfed
SA33 5BF

Dear Sir or Madam

We are planning to open a small school for eleven to sixteen year olds at the Centre for Development Education in Llangynog starting in September. We would be willing to share the resources at the school with any parents educating their children at home; some of whom may be interested in flexi-schooling. Would you be willing to provide names and addresses of parents in this area who might be interested in this venture?
Yours sincerely

Valerie Luxton

Margaret Bonham-Noyle
Dyfed Co-ordinator
75 Inys-las
Cefncaeau
Llanelli SA14 9BU
tel 0554 776351

Dear E.O.

I refer to the book review in the June newsletter, written by Anne and Rob Wade, where they explain how delighted they were to read the paper, 'Home Education and the Law' By David Deutsch and Kolya Wolf. They had only one reservation about it, the very one that inspired me to read it!

I am one of those "very uncompromising parents", as far as the Local Education Authority goes, and I have sent rude and arrogant letters to my L.E.A. I am an angry woman who is struggling for something I believe in while I know for a fact that the L.E.A. believes in something completely different. It is not out to compromise with me, it is out to coerce me, wrongly inform me, intimidate and threaten me, use its so called powers to get my child back to school. It is waiting for my compromise. Courtesy to me is not just irrelevant, it is insulting.

I have despaired at the lack of truth and directness, at the backing down, the compromises, the little games we E.Oers are advised to play in order to 'get our own way'. Grovelling is not my scene, yet having to leave our home and area is a terrible price to have to pay. Until we all stand up and say what we really feel and what we really want as one voice, as well as individually, then we are not going to change anything for real. A one voiced individual is not enough. Uncompromisers such as myself will have to suffer while compromisers do nothing to further the cause.

The 'Home Education and the Law' paper was truly a delight and a comfort to read, even though it turned out not to be particularly useful for me as a parent of a registered child. It sheds a more optimistic light forward for the parents of an unregistered child than I expect would have been got from the newsletters and 'School is not Compulsory'.

Although these are informative and heartwarming booklets, they lack, in my opinion, what the paper provides - a feeling that lips can be put to better use other than smiling and kissing the boots of the L.E.A. as it shows us the powers that the L.E.A. HAS NOT GOT.

Joan McNamara.

"As we are in the process of moving, I do not wish for an address to be published."

Dear EO

We have a 4 berth (more if you are prepared to rough it) 24 ft caravan available for use. We would like to invite any EO families who would like to 'escape' for a long or short stay in the Highlands.

We have 2 children: Jodi 7, Ricky 5, both out of school at present, a large stupid dog, cats, chickens, budgies. We are surrounded at times by cows, sheep, etc., so you would have to like animals.

We live in an old croft house which we eventually hope to renovate when the time is right. So everything is a bit chaotic. Nevertheless, it can be good fun, and would be much more so with others to share it with.

We do not want to make any financial gain from this, so we are not asking for any money. Only that any expense incurred be contributed towards as we are on a low income. We would want payment for the share of electricity used, for example. So anyone on a low income, out of work or single parents, would be most welcome.

It will not be available from 19 August to 04 September, but any other time is OK. Just write or phone.

Martyn and Marcia, Jodi, Ricky Aldridge
Mercia Croft
Gruids
By Lairg
Sutherland IV27 4EF
tel 0549 2450

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

BERKSHIRE

We had a lovely relaxing day (apart from being made to walk!) at Russells Water on the 28th of May.

We are looking forward to meeting again at the Slough Museum, and afterwards at Toni and Gerald Donovan's house on the 29th of June.

There will be an 'Open Afternoon' at 79 Whiteknights Road, Reading, on Saturday the 25th of July. Everyone is welcome, but please bring tea. If you are thinking of making a day of it, the Museum of English Rural Life at the University of Reading is open on Saturday mornings. The grounds are lovely for a picnic - a lake and ducks laid on! See you at 2.00 pm.

Treatment of Travellers (Showground people and Gypsies) by leas

In Berkshire we have been having a tough battle with the lea to provide adequately for the education of Traveller children. The 'No area pool', into which all leas have to pay for extra teachers, travel expenses, school clothing, and so on, has not been heard of, it is claimed by the lea. They hope the public has not heard of it either! The result is that this racial minority is being badly treated.

I have learnt a good deal in the last year. Anyone who wants information is very welcome to get in touch.

Lynette Cameron
79 Whiteknights Road
Reading RG6 2BB
tel (0734) 661656

DORSET

The new address of the Dorset co-ordinator, Suky Kaplan, is 7 Lorne Road, Dorchester, DT1 2LQ. And her new telephone number is (0305) 62355.

Apologies to those who have been unable to get in touch with me over the last few weeks.

Suky Kaplan

STRATHCLYDE

I have enjoyed doing this job for two years, and I have made many good friends. However, I now need to hand over to a willing volunteer. We will be having a meeting in our home on Saturday afternoon, the 5th of September. All are welcome. Please phone for directions.

Ann Murray
Snipes Cottage
Neilston
Glasgow
tel 041 881 4946

ESSEX

As usual, we have meetings every three weeks or so, but there are often other things going on in Essex in addition to these. If you are interested in meeting other members, or would like to find out more, please give me a call.

Forthcoming meetings will include

Wednesday 12 August -
No definite plans while writing, but one possibility is to join in some museum related activities Chelmsford Museum are organising during the week for children aged 7-14. There would be plenty to do for those children who fall outside this age range, or do not wish to join in. But please call me for final arrangements.

Tuesday 25 August -
Yes, Tuesday! Meet by the pier entrance, 11.30 am, Walton-on-the-Naze. Weather permitting, I am sure most children will be happy to spend the day on the beach, but I believe there is an area nearby where fossils can be found. This might be an added attraction.

Wednesday 16 September -
At the home of Teresa Price, 9 Linkway, Hornchurch. Please arrive any time after 11.00 am, and bring a packed lunch. For directions, phone Teresa on 04024 47254.

ESSEX (contd)

Wednesday 7 October -
Suggestions invited! Where would
YOU like a meeting?

Wednesday 28 October -
Possible visit to the Maldon Salt
Company. Details to be arranged.

Please contact me for further details,
or in case of any changes.

Sandie Cottee
17 South View Road
Rettendon Common
Chelmsford Essex
tel Wickford (0268) 733259

NORFOLK

By the time people read this, we will
have had at least one group workshop a
week throughout the summer. We have
made kites, bread, stained glass windows,
visited a watermill, Norfolk and
Norwich Hospital, a university experi-
mental farm, and numerous regional
museums. We have followed up some
museum lessons with workshops in our
homes.

We have started a Resource Centre
which operates on a library basis, but
due to three of our most active
families suffering bereavements,
priorities have obviously been
elsewhere, and a lot of work needs to
be done.

Our local newsletter is free, bi-
monthly, and gives info about future
workshops and lessons. NEON is
obtainable by sending Simon Middleton
six SAEs (1st class stamp, large
envelopes) to 23 Plumstead Road,
Norwich.

We are again having a camp at How Hill
Conservation Centre, Ludham, Norfolk,
from Friday 21 August to Wednesday 2
September. Cost is £1.00 per person
per night. Cold water washing
facilities and toilets in beautiful
area with water gardens, hides,
marshman's cottage converted to small
museum, site for camp fire, and lots
of interesting walks.

Please telephone me to book, or write.
Also, for info about the Resource
Centre.

See you there.

Anne Clark
33 Orchard Street
Norwich NR2 4PR
tel (0603) 667053

SUFFOLK

With the help of David Deutsch's
report on home education and the
law, I have been able to ask the
local education office (Bury) to
change the forms they are currently
sending out to prospective EO
parents. These contain many
misleading, sometimes downright
unlawful statements, which could
really deter people from embarking
on home education (presumably that
is why they do it!). Similar forms
are sent out from Lowestoft too.
So if anyone in my region is
encountering problems because of
these forms, or knows of anyone
being sent them, would they please
get in touch with me?

A brighter note: we have been
meeting weekly at Thornham Field
Centre on a local estate. Often
fourteen children have attended to
spend the day doing nature studies
under the eye of the resident
ecologist. Activities have expanded
this year to include dancing, music,
pottery, and drama workshops. And
we hope to do more in the autumn.
We would be happy for more Suffolk
members to join us. So, again,
contact me if you are interested.

Sarah Guthrie
Field House
Mellis Road
Thrandeston
DISS Norfolk
tel 037 983 678

NORTH LONDON

This group has been meeting monthly
for about six months now. It is an
informal group where parents and
children get to know each other and

to discuss their ideas and experiences. Children of all age groups are welcome whether or not they are out of school.

Most of the meetings have been small, though intimate, and we would welcome new members to the group; also people new to EO and any friends of members who are thinking of joining or are just curious.

The meetings are at Burghley Road Under 5s Centre, 23½ Burghley Road (off Turnpike Lane), London N8. All meetings start at 2.00 pm, but people are welcome to come anytime from then onwards. The centre has good play, changing, and kitchen facilities, and most people generally bring food to share for tea which contributes to the warm feeling of the group.

The next two meetings of the group are on Sunday the 6th of September, and Sunday the 4th of October.

If you have any questions concerning the group, or EO in general, please contact me.

Jeffrey Benge
17 Nelson Mandela Close
Coppetts Road
Muswell Hill
London N10 1LA
tel 01 883 7906

ANOTHER BOOK REVIEW...

MODELS OF LOVE: The Parent-child journey
Joyce Vissell and Barry Vissell
Ranura Publishing £8.95

Recently there has been some concern expressed by EO parents about the importance of caring for their children's spiritual development. This is a book written by two parents who are bringing up their children in such a way that they do not feel themselves to be solely responsible for their care, but feel they are helped by various spiritual beings in their work.

They make references to various people who have taught them, retreats they have attended, and the influence of Buddhism, anthroposophy and New Age Philosophy in general.

Some of the sections by other contributors I found rather gushing or patronizing, but the authors themselves seemed very honest and therefore helpful: not afraid to start from their own inadequacies as parents, and willing to admit to bad temper or impatience with their own children.

They suggest we need to work at different levels as parents - on our relationship with our own parents, and with our partner, as well as working out our connection with the spiritual world. One of the beauties of having children they say is that conflict between partners can be brought out into the open instead of remaining as a more hidden undercurrent.

The advice given seems mostly to be very balanced: for example, good reasons for and against having your children in the same bed, and how it can suit some and not others.

Practising EO members will find relevant the chapter where they describe their older daughter's days at a Waldorf school, and the conclusion they come to that they are missing out on too much of her childhood, so decide on home-schooling.

(continued on page 24)

WEST YORKSHIRE

Our next meeting is at Frank and Sandra Goad's home on Monday 14 September at 8.00 pm. The address is 93 Devonshire Street, Keighley; and the telephone number for directions: 0535 663558.

These get-togethers, as well as being informative and confidence building, are very enjoyable and continue to be popular.

We hope ScrapShop can also be present with lots of interesting, usable stuff to take away: card, paper, fabric, leather, etc.

Peter Williams
2 Kent Avenue
PUDSBY
tel 0532 568940

Annual General Meeting
at Featherstone Castle

The Castle is now fully booked. Mr. Clarke, the owner, will not permit "sleeping on the floor", or camping in the Castle grounds. However, there is a good, large campsite, run by the National Trust barely 1 mile away. Transport can be arranged, if needed, from Haltwhistle Station. Also to and from the Castle on Saturday and Sunday.

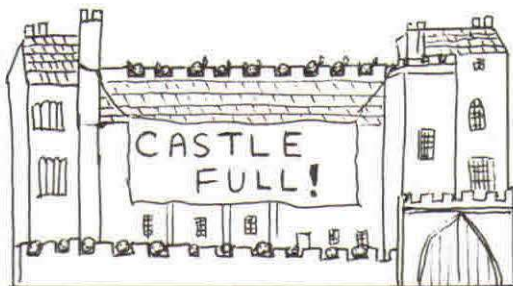
LET US KNOW EXPECTED TRAIN!

There are also a number of Youth Hostels in the area. "Greenhead", "Once Brewed", "Alston" and "Ninebanks" all within about 10 miles, and therefore suitable for those with transport.

If you want to join in the group meals, please let us know a week in advance, at least. Cost will be £2.00 per person per day, over 12 years, and £1.00 for 5 to 12 year olds.

Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Christine & Bruce Wallace.



BO CAMP AT THORNHAM FIELD CENTRE
just south of Diss, East Anglia
17-21 August 1987.

Full details in June's NL

Late bookings are being taken for this camp for children between the ages of 9 and 14 who are educated out of school, but others may be considered.

Telephone Bruce Cox without delay:
098 682 315.



MODELS OF LOVE (continued from page 23)

There is a very moving chapter relating three people's experiences of their children's deaths, and a useful one on healing - pointing out the growth effect of illness on children and reminding us of the lessons we can learn from them.

Among other subjects covered are pregnancy and childbirth, baby blessing, single parenthood, and 'blending families'; bedtime - including meditating with children; the effects of television; the courage to discipline; laughing at ourselves; swakening the Goddess; growing with teenagers; the family retreat; birthdays, Mother's day, Father's day and on being a grandparent.

For me, the best chapters are those written by the authors themselves, rooted in a firmly held belief that our children came from the spiritual world and choose us as parents. The secret of their approach is not only in this awareness, but in their ability to be open to change and growth for themselves, so that parenting is seen as a spiritual journey, a therapy and a great adventure, as well as being the most important job you can do.

Jackie Fearnley
Howe House
Egton
Whitby

Not so many new ~~enquiries~~ since the previous (February '87) supplement, but sadly, a few problems have arisen for longstanding members - mainly to do with 'Statementing'. Some have been of the "I've managed to avoid it so far but now the LEA insist" variety, but most are because of disagreements over the Statement's content - either

the LEA's assessments of the child's abilities and needs are felt to be incorrect, or the provision specified to meet the needs is felt to be inadequate or wholly inappropriate.

Several people have expressed the view I have often heard - that their LEA has 'tailored' the description of their child's needs to fit the provision locally available. (Money is short, and it costs a lot to send a child to a specialist school out of the area, or the children are being 'allocated' to the special schools because of falling rolls instead of resources being made available for their integration into mainstream schools.) In fact, this is underlined by the recently published report from the House of Commons Select Committee * which says: "The committee is in little doubt that a lack of resources has severely hampered the successful implementation of the 1981 Act. Extra resources have been needed to fund the administrative costs of LEAs of the assessment and making of a statement as well as the major costs, which are difficult to quantify, of arranging more properly funded placements in primary and secondary schools."

Also, there have been problems for some members whose children have been in school, concerning the very poor quality of educational and other provision - even where it originally 'looked good on paper'; i.e. where the assessors seemed to have 'discerned the child's needs satisfactorily, and the Statement had specified the proper provision to meet those needs.

However, there is a brighter side to report. Recent 'withdrawees' are happy and already improving in a number of ways. For one member, "the change has been wonderful....he is happy....his nightmares have disappeared....he's recovering his self-confidence....he has blossomed!"

I have not yet heard from anyone who regrets having withdrawn their child from school. Hopefully there IS no-one - but as Esther Rantzen says: "If you know different.....let us know."

I should be pleased to hear from anyone who has sought my advice concerning conflict/negotiations/etc. with their LEA. I am tempted, when I don't know the outcome of these matters, to operate on the presumption that 'no news is good news', but I sometimes suspect that this is a delusion and that no news probably means that the advice was useless (or worse!) and you are too good-natured to complain!

In particular, I should be grateful for information about the fortunes of anyone who has withdrawn their child from a special school without LEA consent. I have spoken to a number of people who intended to do this, but no-one has informed me of the subsequent events, or the final outcome. I would feel happier if my advice to others in future could include some indication of the possible/probable consequences.

* Third Report from the Education, Science and Arts Committee, session 1986-87 Special Educational Needs: Implementation of the Education Act 1981. Volume 1. Available from HMSO price £10.80.

And now for something completely different.....

That article was written by Margaret Gilbert (South London)....
... and so was this!

OUR USE OF TV.

The careful use of television plays an important part in our home education. Molly has been watching schools broadcasts since the age of two - when we started on 'Words and Pictures' (BBC 2). She is now eight and viewing such programmes as 'How we used to Live' (ITV), and 'Junior Maths' (ITV).

We always write off to the broadcasting authorities for their Annual Programme of Schools Broadcasts so that we can purchase the teacher's and pupils booklets that accompany the programmes. These greatly enhance the educational value of our viewing, and give many ideas for follow-up work that can easily be done in a home situation.

Now that Kitty is 4½ years old she enjoys the programmes Molly has outgrown - 'Words and Pictures' and 'Look and Read' (BBC 2) being the perennial favourites. Because Kitty has Down's Syndrome, the use of a video to allow repeated viewing of her programmes really helps her to make the most of their teaching potential. We often like to play the role of the presenters: I'm 'Vicky' and she's 'Charlie'! During this role play, she is able to quote very long sentences from actual scripts she has listened to, despite the fact that her own language development has not reached such a level in everyday speech.

In the coming Autumn term we will be following six programmes for Molly and six for Kitty. This may seem a lot, but apart from the fact that we really enjoy them, they always stimulate me to fresh ideas which I can pass on to the girls. We always view together for the first showing so that we can immediately discuss what we have seen.

In the last couple of years these broadcasts have lead us into projects on North American Indians, Space, Trees, Eskimoes, Captain Cook, the Tudors, the Romans, the Normans, Fairgrounds, and Ancient Egypt - to name a few. We have also done follow-up work on shadows, teeth, senses, growth, circles, badgers, eggs, holes, footwear, etc. etc....

Another spin-off from our viewing is that when school-going friends visit us and see our project work, posters and displays on the theme of a recent broadcast, they take delight in telling us they are doing the same thing at school. This helps Molly feel she is not missing out, and is the same as them.

With teacher's notes costing around 80p or so a copy, I think it is definitely money well spent.

Our baby, Letty (1½ years old), already shows great interest in some things we watch. She went right up to the screen and pointed to "Charlie" on 'Words and Pictures' last week.

This is just a brief account of our viewing. I hope it has given you something to 'Thinkabout' (BBC 2!) So it's "Goodbye from Vicky" and "Goodbye from Charlie"... Happy Viewing!

PS: I haven't even mentioned Radio. That is another article in itself! (programmes are in the BBC Annual Programme.)

Happy Listening!

The Annual Programmes for 1987-88 are available from the following addresses:

BBC Education Information
London W1A 1AA

Telephone: 01 991 8031 (24 hour service)

I.B.A.
70 Brompton Rd.,
London SW3 1EY

(Better still - Phone or write to
your local ITV Company (address in
directory))

E N G L A N D

Bedfordshire

DUNNE Miss Debbie; ** REBECCA ** 10/81;
 13 Malakand Road, Kempston, BEDFORD, MK42 8AL
 RUST Jo & Graham; Moved to Cams. 05/87.
 STANTON Dave & Therese; ** DANIEL ** 11/74; ** JUSTIN ** 05/76; ** DAVEY ** 10/78;
 ** ROSS ** 02/81;
 Parker's Farm, East Hatley, SANDY, SG19 3HX; (0767) 50200
 WILLIAMS Paul & Karen; Reuben 12/82; Ruth 04/86; Lf(beginners) Ic Juggling
 9 East Square, Shortstown, BEDFORD, MK42 0UH; (0234) 740633

Berkshire

CROOK Heather; ** NAOMI COURTENAY ** 09/74;
 10 Hazeldene East Lane, Chieveley, NEAR NEWBURY; (063 521) 533
 LEACH Carole & David; ** ANDREW ** 05/81; Christopher 07/84; James 10/86;
 Cac(model making), Motorcycle, Campaigning
 5B Welbeck, Great Hollands, BRACKNELL, RG12 4UH; (0344) 421256

Buckinghamshire

CABATIT HUNTE Mrs N; ** JUNALYN HUNTE ** 06/77; Paul Hunte 07/73; Gr(nurse) Cdk Wt
 11 Creslow Court, Galley Hill, Stony Stratford, MILTON KEYNES, MK11 1NN; (0908) 568808
 CARVILL Roger & Francesca; Resigned 05/87.
 CHRISTINI Helen & Steve; ** MARIA ** 02/82; Adam 03/85;
 6 Browning Crescent, Bletchley, MILTON KEYNES, MK3 5AU; (0908) 74281
 CROCKER Elizabeth; PETER William; Rosamond 05/71; Harriet 04/75; ** ALARIC PETER ** 10/77;
 QT2aeh
 Tudor House, 49 High Street, Whitchurch, NR AYLESBURY, HP22 4JA; (0296) 641276
 EWAN George & Jackie; Debbie 01/86;
 17 Layters Green Lane, Chalfont St. Peter, GERRARDS CROSS, SL9 9JB; (0753) 886924
 PAGE Jeremy & Carole; ** NATALIE ** 02/77; ** HOLLIE ** 06/79; Victoria 10/85;
 7 Mynchen End, Knotty Green, BEACONSFIELD, HP9 2AT
 PALMER Mr Alan; ** ANDREW ** 08/79; ** ZOE ** 05/74; Naomi 06/86; Ce
 38 Huntsman Grove, Blakelands, MILTON KEYNES, MK14 5HS; (0908) 615981
 SMITH Liz; ** TABITHA ** 12/81; C(small w'kshop- wood, paint, clay, etc)
 30 Waterside, Peartree Bridge, MILTON KEYNES, MK6 3DG
 WALMSLEY Mr & Mrs L; ** ADRIAN ** 11/77; Susan 02/72; Rm
 8 Belsize Avenue, Springfield, MILTON KEYNES
 ZEIN Mrs Merylin; ** TOBY ** 02/80; Ginn Reading Scheme, BBC ed. software
 1 Ramsay Close, Bradwell Village, MILTON KEYNES, MK13 9HN; (0908) 322956

Cambridgeshire

EDWARDS Susan & Alan; Rachel 02/71; Sarah 08/73; Michael 12/77; Lfg Cks
 29 Victoria Street, ELY, CB6 1LU; (0353) 67276
 HANDLEY Paul & Fiona; Thomas 12/84; Eleanor 01/87; Tbe Lf
 The Community, Little Gidding, HUNTINGDON; (083 23) 507
 HYAM Paul & Teresa; Lucy 04/83; Sarah 05/86;
 10 Thomas Road, Fulbourne, CAMBRIDGE
 MILLER John & Catherine; Moved to Lincs. 05/87.
 RUST Jo & Graham; ** WILLIAM ** 03/76; ** THOMAS ** 04/81;
 8 + 10 Church End, Gamlingay, NR SANDY, Bedfordshire, SG19 3EP; (0767) 50032
 TURPIN-WEST Paul & Bev; Moved to Herefords. 06/87.

Cornwall

HUGGETT Stephen & Anne; Clare 07/85;
'Little Keasts', Draynes, LISKEARD
HYAM Paul & Teresa; Moved to Cambs. 06/87.

Tm Sp

Cumbria

BAXTER Martin & Geraldine; Catherine 07/78; Thomas Lewis 03/81; Beatrice 06/83; Felicity 09/86;
BT12g Ac Fgpr
The Oaks, Gilcrux, CARLISLE, CA5 2QX
CLARK Joan & Ron; Resigned 05/87.
PENNEFATHER Heather & Philip; ** KAREEN ** 06/77; ** PATRICK ** 06/79; Matthew 11/82; Xd
Hill House, Middle Bayles, ALSTON, CA9 3BS; (0498) 81620
REED Mr Trevor & Mrs Lily; ** ALISON ** 01/73; ** MICHAEL ** 04/71;
30 Croft Terrace, ASPATRIA, CA5 2AN

Derbyshire

HART Jeanette & Allen; Benjamin 10/83;
'Bryn Brith', 233 Birchover Way, Allestree, DERBY, DE3 2RS; (0332) 556030

Devon

CHADWICK Ruth & Toby; ** JESSICA ** 08/80; Alice 04/84;
73 High Street, Clovelly, BIDEFORD, EX39 5TQ
HODGES Rob & Anne; ** ZOE ** 01/78; Samuel 02/83;
52 Peverell Terrace, Peverell, PLYMOUTH, PL3 4NJ; (0752) 269737
ROTH Strawberry; ** SOLI ** 11/76; ** THEKLA ** 10/78; ** KEIRA ** 06/82;
Handloom Weaver of Silk, Csp,wy(dyeing)
6 Bittaford Terrace, Bittaford, NEAR IVYBRIDGE, PL21 0DX; (0752) 895044
SANDERS Sandra; ** TOM ** 09/79; Jessie 02/83; Ta2 F (animal husbandry)
Jolly Lane Cot, Hexworthy, YELVERTON, PL20 6SD
TEDDER Bob & Gwen; ** BETHANY ** 08/80;
Flat 2, 7 Dolbeare Road, Ashburton, NEWTON ABBOT, TQ13 7AS; (0364) 52088
UHRENHOLT Anastasia; ** JANET ** 03/73;
1 Sunny Bank, Abbotskerswell, NEWTON ABBOT, TQ12 5NS; (0626) 60073

Dorset Co-ordinator Susan Kaplan is now at:-
7 Lorne Road, DORCHESTER, DT1 2LQ;
(0305) 62355

MILLER Mrs J E; ** MATTHEW ** 02/72;
'The Heights', Sunnyside Road, West Lulworth, WAREHAM; (092 941) 338
NORMAN Linda; LOVETT Andrew; Sean Norman 07/84; Liberty Norman 03/87; Ross Lovett 09/77;
Mr (Treble&Descant)
82 Easton Street, PORTLAND, DT5 1BT
RUDD Mr Steve & Mrs Betty; ** JASON ** 10/72; ** BEN ** 04/77; Maria 11/86;
Td(speech & mime); new games
45 Church Road, Parkstone, POOLE, BH14 0NN; (0202) 742309
TYSON Paul & Kathryn; Eleanor 07/80; Matthew 06/82; Edward 02/85;
50 Upton Way, BROADSTONE, BH18 9LZ; (0202) 603381

Co. Durham

DEIMEL Margaret & Richard; Resigned 06/87
GARDNER Tony & Anne; Resigned 06/87
URWIN Mr John & Mrs Sybil; Resigned 05/87

Essex Co-ordinators Sandie & Brian Cottee have a new 'phone no.:
Wickford (0268) 733259

FREIGHT Raymond; Vicky 04/82; Te
4 Southside, Breach Barns, WALTHAM ABBEY
GRIMWOOD Ted; David 01/73; I (snooker coaching)
67 Chelmsford Avenue, Collier Row, ROMFORD, RM5 3UX; (0708) 28186
SCHULZ Mrs Y; Gemma 03/83; TO (P.P.A. cert.)
55 Leamington Road, SOUTHEND-ON-SEA, SS1 2SW; (0702) 619315
SMITH Alex & Janet; Moved to Lancs. 06/87.
VIRDEE Kit; James 01/77; Mark 05/80; Portsmouth Project L'guage thru Reading
18 Sycamore Way, Brantham, NEAR MANNINGTREE, CO11 1TL; Colchester (0206) 391289
WEBB Kathleen & Michael; ** JENNY ** 12/71;
2 St Francis Way, CHADWELL ST. MARY, RM16 4PD; (037 52) 77241

Gloucestershire

PACE Marie-Claude; Now under Hereford.

Hampshire

ROZIER Jackie & Derek; ** MATTHEW ** 03/80; ** ASHLEY ** 10/81; Rv (large garden)
'Beaconsfield', Firgrove Road, WHITEHILL, GU35 9DT; Bordon (042 03) 2733
WILSON Linda; ** FRAN ** 08/72; Luke 10/76; Ch Rd
6 Chelsea Road, SOUTHSEA, PO5 1NJ; Portsmouth (0705) 816286

Hereford & Worcs.

HAYHOW Rosemarie & David; Liam 12/79; Joe 01/83;
Colwall Court, Walwyn Road, Colwall, NR. MALVERN, Worcestershire, WR13 6QE; (0684) 40429
PACE Marie-Claude; WHITMORE Tim; ** KAHLIL ** 07/76; ** DANIEL ** 11/79; ** LOIC ** 02/81;
H QT23 (Steiner) Lfg Raetv Av M Cw Fr
'Bramble Cottage', Eldersfield Marsh, GLOUCESTER, Gloucestershire, GL19 4PQ; (0452 84) 556
TURPIN-WEST Paul & Bev; Poppy 04/86;
1 Cranwell Drive, CREDENHILL

Humberside

FARRAR Mrs June; Emily 06/74; Daniel 07/77;
'Orchard House', Banby, BRIGG, South Humberside
FRANCIS Christine;
70 Jame Street, GRIMSBY, South Humberside, DN31 2JE; (0472) 53488

Isle of Man Co-ordinator Jill Gillings is now at:
Ballaglonney Farm, Quayles Orchard, RONAGUE;
(0624) 824275

Isle of Wight

KIRBY Pearl & Michael; ** LISA ** 11/83; ** EMMA ** 05/86;
142 Brambles Chine, Monks Lane, FRESHWATER, PO40 9SU; (0983) 752432

Lancashire

ROTH Strawberry; Moved to Devon 06/87;
SMITH Alex & Janet; ** ALEXANDRA ** 03/78; ** NICHOLAS ** 12/79; Naomi 05/86;
11 Queens Park Road, BURNLEY, BB10 3LB

Lincolnshire

MILLER John & Catherine; Christopher 03/82; Alasdair 06/85;
4 Green Walk, MARKET DEEPING

London - East

OLUSANYA Ms Loretta; Ciaran 04/82; QT01 Rc Teach Word Processing
2 Sutton Square, off Urswick Road, HACKNEY, E9 6EQ; 01-985 4678
PELLING Dr M J; ** SUZY ** 09/80; QT would to teach another with daughter
3 Avenue Road, FOREST GATE, E7 0LA; 01-555 8425

London - North and Enfield

HAYHOW Rosemarie & David; Moved to Worcs. 06/87;
IVORY George & Anne; Patricia 12/81; Laura 08/83;
20 Waterlow Road, N19; 01-263 3302
MUCKLE Malcolm & Yvonne; Gemma 01/78; ** YOLANDA ** 05/79; Cherry 03/85;
10 Warner Road, N8
NORMAN Miss Linda; Moved to Dorset 06/87.
PINNEY Rachel; Resigned 06/87.
WILLIAMS Claire & Nick; Resigned 05/87.

London - South

BROWN Mr R T; Resigned 05/87.
COOMBE Graham & Fiona; Moved to Surrey 05/87.
GLADWELL Christopher; Drew 10/81; Zoe 10/83; Latevi 04/85; Kwanele Tuakli 12/86;
8 Mackie House, Mackie Road, TULSE HILL, SW2 2EA
HALL Ms B; ** LISA ** 06/73; Kerry 12/75;
22 Stamford House, Longfield Estate, SE1 5PP; 01-231 0806
SIME Ms K; Jenna Sime-Blease 05/86;
38 Appleshaw House, Champion Hill, SE5 8DW; 01-326 5379
BT Sb(zooology)

London - West and Middlesex

COLLINS Angela & Alan; Gabriel 02/83; Grace 09/85;
4 Holbrook Court, 33 Golden Manor, W7 3EH
COX Philip & Alison; Moved to Warcs. 06/87.
CUPIT Susan; ** MARIANNE STILES ** 05/79;
25 Campbell Close, RUISLIP, Middlesex, HA4 8EJ
EDWARDS William & Mary; Danny 11/80;
1 Friars Way, ACTON, W3 6QF; 01-992 8549
GRAVES Mrs Jennifer; Resigned 05/87.
HARVEY Mr Paul & Mrs Janet; ** MARTINE ** 09/74;
16 Sherbourne Gardens, EALING, W13 8AS; 01-997 0894
HODSON Donald S; Professional Tuition Services
15 Hawtrey Drive, RUISLIP, Middlesex, HA4 8QW; (0895) 633505
LITTLE Hilary; ** JESSICA ** 02/73; Jack Spencer 04/82;
58 Chepstow Villas, W11 2BX
OXLEY Mr W H M; WOOD-ROBINSON Miss Sally; Matthew 02/85; Helen 11/86;
'Coppings', The Island, Wraysbury, STAINES, Middlesex, TW19 5AS; (078 481) 3362
SOLOMAN Mrs Carole; ** MICHAEL ** 05/74;
17 Wembley Road, HAMPTON, Middlesex, TW12 2BE; 01-941 3211
WILLIAMS Mr O L & Mrs J B; ** RACHEL ** 08/71; Michael 09/73;
117 Church Road, HANWELL, W7 3BJ; 01-579 4473

Str. Manchester

WALSH Janice; Richard 07/77; Stuart 09/79;
13 Brantwood Road, Heaton Chapel, STOCKPORT, Cheshire, SK4 2RL
WARDLE Mr & Mrs; Resigned 05/87.

Merseyside

BONNETT Susan & Paul; Karak Burns 11/79;
1 Larchwood Close, Pensby, WIRRAL, L61 6YH; 051-342 8694
WILLIAMSON Dr Brian; QTMn-Professional Tutor but advice free.
46 Wellington Road, NEW BRIGHTON, L45 2NG; 051-639 8744

Norfolk

CARPENTER Alison & Derek; Gone Away 05/87.

Nottinghamshire

BOWYER Geoff & Elaine; Moved to Suffolk 05/87.
BRETTELL Mrs D; ** ANN ** 01/73; Xd
19 Sheldon Close, Rise Park, NOTTINGHAM
COULSON Ronald & Avril; Jonathan 07/74; Benjamin 08/76;
50 Lancaster Road, HUCKNALL, NG15 6FN
PARKINSON Andrew & Dawn; Luke 01/84;
31 Ratcliffe Street, Eastwood, NOTTINGHAM, NG16 3BN

Oxfordshire

GIBBS Graham; Emma 05/79; Josie 07/82;
Mill Cottage, Drayton, BANBURY, OX15 6EH
KAINES Mr A; KHAN-RAINES Mrs A;
'Hollydene', 106 Bath Road, BANBURY, OX16 0TR; (0295) 3599

Shropshire

HORNE Ray & Isabel; Jamie 09/86; 6T1
6 Bryn-y-Castell, off School Lane, GOBOWEN, Shropshire, SY11 3LE; (0691) 662123

Somerset

ROWLANDSON Anthony & Josseline; ** DAVID ** 04/80; Catherine 08/86; Lf
1 Little Bridge, Stoke Trister, WINCANTON, BA9 9PP; (0963) 32768
STOOLLEY William & Susan; ** WILLIAM ** 01/72;
3 The Firs, Lottisham, GLASTONBURY, BA6 8PE; Wheathill (096 324) 257

Staffordshire

NELSON Ralph & Jennifer; Nathan 05/81; Aaron 07/82;
19 Henley Close, Perrycrofts, TAMWORTH, B79 8TQ; (0827) 51568

Suffolk

BARTRAM Mr Harold & Mrs Paula; ** WAYNE ** 12/78;
'Hill Farm', Hill Road, WANGFORD; (050 278) 277

BOWYER Rev Geoff & Mrs Elaine; Peter 12/83; Christopher 01/86; @ Tm Sp
27 Treetops, FELIXTOWE, IP11 9ER

BRUNSTELL Heather; EVANS Alexander; ** JUSTIN ** 06/72; ** GUDRUN ** 12/74; Jude 09/76; H
Curdie 12/82;
1 Kitchener Road, LEISTON, IP16 4EY; (0728) 831012

EAST Adam; CANKWELL Jacqui; Daisy 04/85; Ceara 10/86; @T 1(Art/Craft, Sv)
10 Dunwich Road, BLYTHBURGH, IP19 9LT; (050 270) 281

GOODSWIN Bridget & Peter; Tamar 05/ 3; Sheena 05/83;
15 Alston Crescen , Stanstead, NEAR SUDBURY, CO10 9AN; (0787) 281838

REEN Robert & Cheryl; John 12/75; Katherine 08/77; Thomas 03/80; @Tm
4 Forties Close, HAVERHILL, CB9 0LX; (0440) 61916

HARTLEY Yvonne & Dylan; Claire 12/80; Thomas 06/83; Paul 09/85;
Environmental benefits of living on a farm
The Cottage, Hawstead Place Farm, Hawstead, BURY ST EDMONDS, IP29 4AB;
Horringer (028 488) 678

HUNT Peter & Jane; Michelle 12/72; ** STEVEN ** 11/74;
Church Farm Cottage, Shadingfield, BECCLES, NR34 8DE; Brampton (050 279) 318

JEFFORD Isobel & Andy; Victoria 11/71; Sam 03/83; Ben 03/85; Joe 12/86;
19 Mill Hill Drive, HALESWORTH, IP19 8DB; (098 67) 2063

PUTTOCK Arthur & Judith; ** JONATHAN ** 04/73;
24 Warren Close, BRANDON, IP27 0EE; Thetford (0842) 811718

RAPSEY F & G; Resource Unit - if users reliable
Hillcroft School, Walnut Tree Manor, Haughley Green, STOWMARKET, IP14 3RQ;
(0449) 612991/612102

WANT Mrs Lynn; Catherine 09/75; Anna 05/79; @T2e(Examiner for 'O' level)
71 Station Road, Corton, LOWESTOFT, NR32 5HQ; (0502) 730007

Surrey

COOMBE Graham & Fiona; ** LACHLAN ** 02/76; Alexandra 04/80;
'The Khourys', 15 Ince Road, Burwood Park, WALTON-ON-THAMES, KT12 5BJ

COOPER Mr Michael & Mrs Margaret; ** JONATHAN BLYFORD ** 07/72;
Db(+aviation), Tgh, widely travelled
'Holmbury', Edwin Road, WEST HORSLEY, KT24 6LN; East Horsley (048 65) 2771

GORDON Robert & Eva; ** HEIDI ** 03/78; ** LISA ** 01/81;
'Jakdou', Brentmoor Road, West End, WOKING, GU24 9NN

MANNION Gabriel & Val; Kneace 09/84; Ac(Counselling for Feeding/Weaning)
250 Chipstead Way, BANSTEAD, SM7 3LQ; Downland (073 75) 54640

SANDERS Sandra; Moved to Devon 05/87.

Sussex - East

PILGRIM Linda; Gone Away 06/87.

WATSON Peter & Kate; ** VICTORIA ** 11/71; James 06/73; Sp
'Appletrees', Gilham Lane, FOREST ROW, RH18 5AH; (034 282) 3278

Sussex - West

ARMSTRONG Mick & Pat; Ian 05/76;
40 Church Hill, Slindon, ARUNDEL, BN18 ORD; (024 365) 396

FURLONG Mrs Gillian; ** JOANNA ** 01/76; ** MELANIE ** 09/77;
22 Mornington Crescent, Felpham, BOGNOR REGIS

HEDLEY Thelma & John; Resigned 05/87.

PIKE Rebecca & David; Jacob 10/81;
New England Farm, Redbridge Lane, BALCOMBE

WARTON Heidrun & Richard; Resigned 06/87.

Warwickshire

BONSER Kevin & Nina; Stuart 02/76; Gavin 04/77; ** KRISTEN ** 01/82; Tammi 05/83;
3 Kings Lane, Newton Regis, TAMWORTH, Staffordshire, B79 0NN; (0827) 830085
COX Philip & Alison; ** RICHARD ** 03/82; Jonathan 04/84;
7 Penelope Close, Harbury, LEAMINGTON SPA, CV33 9JD
JACKSON Paul & Brenda; James 05/82; Oliver 07/86;
94 New Brook Street, LEAMINGTON SPA, CV32 5AT; (0926) 34504

Tbgh Avw

West Midlands

IVORY Jim & Jill; Sam 04/83; Jessica 06/86;
240 Heeley Road, Selly Oak, BIRMINGHAM, B29 6EN; 021-472 7986

Wiltshire

FREEMAN Mrs G; Alice 10/81;
37 Burden Close, SWINDON, SN3 4HE; (0793) 826095
MAURER Susannah; Marie 07/82;
26 Hillmorton Avenue, Penhill, SWINDON, SN2 5HH; (0793) 724118
MILLWARD Roland Brian & Annette; Resigned 05/87.

Av

Yorkshire - North

DIMNIK Jane & Stani; Paul 05/76; Seb 04/83; Pascal 07/85;
54 Ambrose Street, YORK, YO1 4DR; (0904) 52829
McKIE Jane; MILLS Paul; China 08/84;
80 Wigginton Road, YORK, YO3 7JQ; (0904) 58738
WALKER Eve & David; ** ORNUMAH ** 12/74; ** CHRISTOPHER ** 12/75; ** TIMOTHY ** 09/78;
** SHAHDA ** 04/79; ** SOPHIE ** 01/80; ** ABIGAIL ** 06/82;
Newton House, Field Studies Centre, Falling Foss, WHITBY, YO22 5JD; (0947) 810673

Qt3 Sc

Qt T3

Yorkshire - South

LYONS Julie; ** TOBY ** 08/74; QtTeh+ef dealt with LEA, DES, etc
56 Newtown Avenue, Royston, BARNSELY, S71 4HB
SHOOSMITH Alan & Terri; ** JONATHAN ** 12/79; ** GRAHAM ** 12/81; Ae Sn Fatgardening Ck
Lower Stainborough Fold Cottage, Hood Green, BARNSELY, S75 3HQ; (0226) 791071
TARGETT Angie; BENNETT Ian; Kia Bennett 11/83; Rowanne Bennett 03/87; Mg Human Biology/Health
79 Wellcast Road, Woodseats, SHEFFIELD, S8 8QP; (0742) 749156

Yorkshire - West

BOYD Alan & Lianne; Resigned 05/87.
CHAMBERLAIN Martin & Carol; David 01/84; John 12/85;
48 Croftlands, Hanging Heaton, BATLEY, WF17 6DH; Dewsbury (0924) 450060
DICKENSON Dr & Mrs M J; Rachel 10/76; Eleanor 05/79;
22 Templenewsam Road, Halton, LEEDS, LS15 0DX; (0532) 645857

Qt2h L1

SCOTLAND

Central

PATTERSON Jim & Elma; Moved to Tayside 06/87.

Highland

CHAFF Richard & Fiona; Tamsin 07/85; Rm-Children In Same Age Group
 Stourl, LOCHERD, Shetland
 FOSSETT Wendy & Harry; ** JASON ** 04/75; ** HARRIETT ** 07/80; Tara 02/85;
 The Pottery, Uiginish, BY DUNVEGAN, Isle of Skye; (047 022) 442
 HUGGAN Mrs K; ** JAY-THOMAS ** 09/79;
 34 Burnside Avenue, AVIEMORE, Inverness-shire, SCOTLAND; (0479) 811266

Strathclyde

FINCH Nikki; HOLLAND Ian; ** ANGELA ** 10/76; Td(elem. ballet) Sn(+fossils) Os Poetry
 20 Todholme Road, Hawkhead, PAISLEY, PA7; 041-887 2618
 HIBBERT Margot; Resigned 05/87.
 SPRINGTHORPE Philip & Valerie; ** CAMERON ** 11/76; ** RORY ** 07/79; Bonnie 07/85; Ch Ah Rah H
 Ardlarach, Ardfarn, ARGYLL; (085 25) 614

Tayside

PATTERSON Jim & Elma; ** ELAINE ** 06/70; ** LISA ** 10/71; ** JOANNE ** 11/74; Gemma 02/84;
 Natalie 01/85;
 141 King Street, CRIEFF, Perthshire

W A L E S

Clwyd

CHAFF Richard & Fiona; Moved to Highlands 06/87.
 MULLEN Pauline; Niall 12/77; Orna 08/80; Rv - use of house for meetings
 Bryntirion Cottage, Llanfair D.C., RUTHIN

Dyfed

PIKE Rebecca & David; Moved to West Sussex 06/87.

Gwynedd

KIMMIS Helen & Jim; ** AWEN ** 09/79; Te Csp,wy Ri
 34 Caernarfon Road, Y FELINHELI, LL56 4RZ
 PARKES Adam & Pam; Nathan 05/87;
 Ynys Ferw Bach, Gaerwen, YNYS MON, LL60 6NW; (024 877) 899

O V E R S E A S

EKLUND Bernard & Jaqueline; ** EMILY ** 09/82; Db
 5346 Mosquito Lake Road, DEMING, WA 98244 - 9304, U.S.A.; (206) 592-5552 (messages only)
 GUILLARD Mr & Mrs Alain; ** JASMINE ** 10/82; M
 Rue de la Gare, 50490 ST SAUVEUR LENDELIN MANCHE, FRANCE; 33 07 62 73
 MANN David & Liz; ** SARAH ** 03/79; ** JULIA ** 12/80; Charlotte 11/83; Nicholas 12/85;
 256 Lyttleton Street, CHRISTCHURCH 2, NEW ZEALAND
 PUGH Lyndon; TORII Sachiko; Gytar 10/83; Iree 06/87;
 Apt. 302, 10680-1 Komagane, NAGANO-KEN, JAPAN 399-41; 0265 83 3103
 PUJO Martine & Jaques; Josselin 01/79; Ulysse 12/84; Re-for several months, learn way of life
 27 rue Saint Blaise, 75020 PARIS, FRANCE; (1) 43 56 02 47
 VAN HEE Mr Gerald & Mrs Janice; Katherine 07/84; Elizabeth 02/87;
 Bjornbarvagen 3, Straningstorp, 691 47 KARLSKOGA, SWEDEN

A Day in the Life of The Gilberts.

MONDAY is a relatively free day so we do as much project work, and catching up on Maths, English and writing as we can. I try to spend an equal amount of time doing things with Molly (8) and Kitty (4½ - with Down's Syndrome) while the baby Letty (1½) plays on the floor around us or breastfeeds. When Molly is able to work unsupervised on something it allows me time to concentrate on Kitty. I help her with basic skills, including reading, writing, counting, telling the time, using money and measuring (length and weight) etc - using the Nuffield Maths. Teacher's Handbooks for ideas.

TUESDAY is spent at the house of another family, where we are joined by two more EO families. In the morning the older children work together on projects, and after lunch we all do music together, following the radio 'Time and Tune' programmes. This sometimes culminates in a performance. Last Christmas we put on a production of 'The Golden Goose' - and we also went to see the Child Education concert of the same musical at Central Hall, Westminster. We stood out as the only group in the audience not wearing school uniform!

On the way home we drop Molly off for her ballet lesson.

WEDNESDAY: On Wednesday mornings we are having ice-skating lessons at Streat-ham. We have booked in as a group, and can use the rink before and after the twenty-minute lesson. There are only a few other schoolage children there, and towards the end we have the rink to ourselves! Kitty goes on the ice but does not take part in the lesson. She can shuffle round the rink quite well now! The baby spends the morning with Granny and Grandad.

In the afternoon Kitty has her ballet lesson at the same dance studio Molly attends, and after that, energy permitting, we go swimming at the local pool.

THURSDAY begins with Molly's Suzuki piano lesson at 8am. (The teacher comes to our house - thankfully!) The rest of the day is spent at an I.L.E.A. A.E.I. workshop (for families) held in a local school. My Mother is the Craft tutor and my sister is the child tutor, so it really is a 'family' workshop! The class is greatly under-used by local people so about 10 EO families go along regularly. Our children range from about 1 year to 9 years old. When the Adult Institute Inspector came to see the workshop last term, she was rather surprised to see so many children over 5 - and actually asked one or two of them their age - but nothing has been said since.

Thursday evening is Woodcraft Folk night for Molly. Kitty will join when she is six.

FRIDAY: We often visit the library and do local shopping at the same time. We also do more reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic. In the evening we attend another LL.E.A. family workshop, where we are able to use the school gymnasium and swimming pool. It's the one event in the week when Mike can actually join in too, because he's at work the rest of the time.

Of course, this is only the skeleton of our week - which is padded out with friends coming, playing, reading, talking, relaxing, cooking, outings, TV, music and much more. All very exhausting - but very rewarding. Since Kitty is not yet five, our primary school inspector was only concerned with Molly on her last (and only) visit. But I'm sure she will be quite satisfied with the provision we are making for Kitty, and with Kitty's progress, particularly her reading, which is excellent. We now look forward to seeing her again.

* The Nuffield Maths Scheme is published by Longmans.

** 'Child Education' is a monthly magazine for teachers of 3 - 8 year olds. Write to: Scholastic Publications Ltd. Westfield Rd., Southam, Leamington Spa. Warwickshire CV35 9NR.

Heartfelt thanks to Margaret for those contributions....(I swear I didn't lay a finger on her! I shall, however, be claiming the train fare to London as expenses against this supplement.....)

The second of those articles was written by Margaret because I explained that (not content with subjecting myself and my long suffering family to the peculiar mental state known as 'Editor's depression' which arises from producing regular 'Special Needs' supplements) I have agreed to edit a supplement on the USE OF RADIO AND TV for April 1988. (Note the careful use of the word 'edit' rather than 'write' - the subtle difference being that you, dear readers, provide articles for me to arrange prettily!)

I decided to use her article now rather than later so as to fill you all with enthusiasm - for both the broadcasts and the writing of articles about them! Also because the new schools broadcasting year starts in September, and if you were not aware of the value of watching and/or listening with your 'special' children, you have still time to write or phone for details and try it for yourself!

I found a leaflet at the local health centre, headed: "Problems In Speaking, Reading and Writing?". The charity VOCAL lists a large number of member organisations - some of which I must admit I have not heard of... Apart from the obvious organisations such as AFASIC, Down's Association, National Deaf Children's Society, I see some interesting ones such as BLISSYMBOLICS COMMUNICATION RESOURCE CENTRE (UK), INTERNATIONAL PROJECT ON COMMUNICATION AIDS FOR THE SPEECH IMPAIRED, and KINGDON-WARD SPEECH THERAPY TRUST.

If you want to know more, contact VOCAL, 336 Brixton Rd., London SW9 Telephone: 01 274 4029.

One of the organisations listed by VOCAL is the National Library for the Handicapped Child. Coincidentally, Kit Virdee (Essex) has just sent me the literature about this, and says that their librarian/Information officer "gave a smashing talk and her enthusiasm for books for all children was inspiring. She welcomes all enquiries..." Unfortunately, they are in the process of moving so the library will be closed until August 14th - reopening on Monday August 17th at :

London University Institute of Education,
Dixon Gallery, 20, Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL.
(Open 10 am to 5pm.)

Their telephone number is 01 636 1500.

The National Library for the Handicapped Child "was established in 1985 to help all those who have responsibility for children whose handicap affects their ability to read. Such children sometimes need specially prepared materials, but often minor changes to ordinary books are all that is needed to make them acceptable."

Their brochure goes on to say that they believe all children have a right to read, regardless of a reading disability - so they display picture books for young and older children, fiction for all levels of understanding and reading experience, non-fiction, large print books, and books on tape, video, filmstrip and slides. For adults there is a wide range of reference materials....computer equipment....special toys and reading aids designed to help the child's ability to communicate.

I'm sorry I've only been able to produce a 4 page supplement this time - especially to Lynne Chaundy, whose book-list I intended to publish. I'll do so next time - with an up-dated version of mine.

Next 'Special Needs' supplement will be in June 1988. Quite a long gap this time I'm afraid. However, it gives you lots of time to write.....to... SYLVIA JEFFS, 16, ST. BERNARDS RD. SOLIHULL
WEST MIDLANDS B92 7BB.021 706 6460

SEARCHING FOR THE UNSEEN AND A DEEPLY SATISFYING LIFE

Most people still believe and most scientists still believe that what is visible is real and what is invisible is illusion, except for certain forces such as magnetism. Now, however, the most advanced scientists are coming much closer to the doctrines of certain religions which teach that there is life in everything. These scientists are now saying that matter, far from being dead, acts in an intelligent and connected way and that consciousness is not confined to humans only or only to humans and animals. In my daughter's Catholic school the children were taught to classify things into "alive", "once alive" but now dead, and "never alive" things. This belief has allowed people to feel that as the earth was "never alive" there is nothing wrong in digging dangerous substances out of Her (or "it" as they would say) concentrating them and then threatening to destroy the earth if they cannot get their own way.

The aim of most messengers and teachers of religion has been to reawaken the consciousness of human beings of the unseen world and how they relate to it. They did this by telling stories and using symbols and rituals. Sad to say, in nearly every religion, the unseen was forgotten and the stories, symbols and rituals became the whole of religion. In this way, religion became not an aid, but a bar to the understanding of unseen things.

Most religions also teach that the visible and invisible worlds were once in harmony, but that owing to an act of rebellion against the Unseen, the connection was broken. In my view, the restoration of that lost connection, by any ethical means, is essential for the survival of the planet and the restoration of harmony on earth. This is easier said than done as there are forces which are constantly working to prevent this reconnection.

If this is a problem which adults find difficult to comprehend and even more difficult to solve, then what has this got to do with children?

In my view, children, including the handicapped ones, are highly evolved spiritual beings. They are, to begin with, not infected with obsessions about getting and spending and having things in order to gain prestige with their peers. To begin with, they are in tune with the unseen world around them.

As Wordsworth expressed it, "not in utter nakedness, But trailing clouds of glory do we come, from God, who is our home".

The task of the parent is to nurture the relationship of the child to the unseen world. Often this can better be done by educating the child at home than by sending the child to school. Then the parents must themselves nourish their relationship with the unseen world. They must believe that the unseen world controls the visible world, and that the visible world is built on the unseen world. I believe that human beings must learn to co-operate with the unseen world if they are to evolve. This is what religious aspiration is for - so that we can learn to live harmoniously in the universe.

If we cannot learn this, or do not see it as something we need to learn, then society degenerates into brutish and hellish conditions such as one finds in vivisection laboratories, torture chambers, prisons, and, dare I say it, some schools. Without the search for the unseen, society degenerates into tyranny or chaos. Religion was designated to keep society aware of the unseen world and so keep it healthy. So precious is it that people have been prepared to harass, torture, and even kill to try and force others to accept the outer shell of their beliefs about the unseen. Of course this is self-defeating and shows ignorance about the nature of unseen things, so cutting religion off at its roots.

Most religions have been and still are being betrayed and their power to convey the truth about the unseen has been greatly weakened or negated, so there is need for constant vigilance combined with restoration and renewal.

The tendency of the schools' hidden curriculum, even in schools which are founded by religious groups, is to ignore the unseen and teach children only about visible things. If they teach religious education, it is usually only about the outer forms of religions and not about their inner understandings. These inner teachings cannot be taught in the same way as French or Maths, because the brain cannot understand them. They can only be understood by the soul. As the soul is part of the unseen world, it is invisible and it seems to the brain that it does not exist. The schools cannot possibly teach, e-duc-ate (lead out) the soul, unless they are very unusual. Most often they become the places where the soul is imprisoned and where it loses its sense of direction. As friend Wordsworth writes

"Shades of the prison house begin to close upon the growing boy."

I believe that this loss of spiritual light is one of the main reasons why so many young people today are despairing and even suicidal. Even the most materially successful crave for a more balanced and enlightened philosophy and lifestyle. They feel trapped in the "rat-race" and often lose all consciousness of unseen things, of spiritual light.

"At length the Man perceives it die away, and fade into the light of common day."

(Quotes from "Intimations of Immortality" by Wordsworth)

What children need is parents who have a coherent religion or philosophy which explains some of the problems of life. They can use this as a jumping off point, a firm foundation to build on, question, or rebel against. They cannot be satisfied with bare materialism. They need folk around them who will be able to interpret for them the 'whys' of life. Their understanding can only grow as their experience grows, and they are able to ask questions. Parents can help by providing a child with as much variety of experience as possible. Parents also need to build up their own understanding. There can be no pre-planned course of instruction in religion. None of us has knowledge which is more than partial.

Here are a few sources of enlightenment which I have come across, other than mainstream Christianity which is comparatively well catered for:

The Teaching of John Todd Ferrier, published by the Order of the Cross, 70 de Vere Gardens, Kensington, London W2, and Interpretations of Todd Ferrier by Antony Bates, 365 Sandycombe Road, Kew Gardens, Surrey TW9 3PR tel 01 948 2315.

I have written a book based on this teaching suitable for anyone aged eight upwards, called Naomi's Brother. It is about the visit of the child who

became known as Jesus Christ, to the Temple in Jerusalem. It is £1.20 from Renaissance Press, Loughrigg Holme, Ambleside, Cumbria.

The White Eagle Lodge, Liss, Hampshire, publishes some excellent spiritual teachings for children from babyhood upwards. Also magazines and newsletters. They interpret the inner meanings of several religions.

The Hare Krishna people publish several books for children which I have not used, so I cannot say if they are good or not. Hare Krishna is a modern offshoot of Hinduism. Publications are obtainable from Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, Croome House, Sandown Road, Watford, Herts WD2 4XA.

The Bahais have several books for children. One I have is Clementine's Cage about a canary. The Bahais are at 27 Rutland Gate, London SW7.

The Transcendental Meditation movement has worked out a method of meditation for children which does not involve sitting still, keeping ones eyes shut, or spending more than ten minutes twice a day. They can be contacted at any of their centres, one of which is Mentmore Towers, Buckinghamshire. Children can be taught at little or no cost to parents, if parents are unable to pay.

Paganism - local groups may be contacted through The House of the Goddess, 33 Oldridge Road, London SW12 tel 01 673 6370. They cater for many kinds of interests. A good book on Paganism is Chick Pea, or Her Bak: The Living Face of Ancient Egypt. You may read how the impudent, irrepressible and lovable boy Chick Pea learns, through many life experiences, the inner meanings of the Egyptian religion as taught about 3,000 years ago. It was written by Mme Isha Schwaller de Lubicz, a woman with vast experience of comparative religion and deep knowledge of ancient Egypt. This book can be read to children aged eight upwards. Pagan polytheistic religions do not teach there are many contradictory, anarchistic and warring gods, but rather that each god or goddess is an aspect of the one living god or goddess who is in each human being.

For those with vegetarian and vegan interests, there is a new magazine for children: The View from Raspberry Corners written in the form of letters from animals - \$1.50 for a sample copy, or \$15.00 for eleven monthly issues. You have to buy a cheque in US dollars and post it to Raspberry Corners, 25-C Anton Road, Storrs, CT06268, USA.

The Buddhist Society runs a magazine for children called The Rainbow obtainable from 55 Eccleston Square, London SW1.

The Steiner education movement produces an excellent home education course for children aged 4 to 9 at about £50.00 a year from Box G OJAI, CA93023, USA. Find out how all subjects, even maths, can be taught in a non-materialistic way. Contact Avatar and Colin Smith, 5 Spenlow Road, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, for more details.

The American Vegan Society, Suncrest, Malaga, New Jersey 08328, USA, has several children's books in stock. See also Naomi's Brother mentioned above.

I look forward to hearing from more members of EO with their ideas of good books or activities or experiences which would help children to understand more of the unseen world, and lead them to a deeply satisfying life.

Frances Howard
38 Hampden Road, Hitchin, Herts.

EDUCATION THROUGH THE PRESS

Monitored by Sarah Guthrie,
Chris Shute, Janice Owen, and
Jackie Fearnley

Grange Hill - guarded approval

"Both Grange Hill and Greyfriars are far more than mere fiction. Like all the best examples of popular culture, they select from and reflect contemporary society and ideology. They validate and mythify characters, attitudes and assumptions. They organise everyday experience into a pattern underpinned by sets of values and beliefs.

It is probably that Grange Hill exercises influence upon its audience, acting as one of a group of opinion formers, conduct validators and role model providers.

It is, for instance, reported that teenagers in certain parts of the country...find that a cockney accent is de riger for 'street credibility'. What is striking about Grange Hill is the total lack of interest in lessons shown by all the characters...there is too often an air of discourtesy and disorderliness, truculence and loutishness."

Daily Telegraph 23.03.87

Top of the Form - a great loss

"Sadly symptomatic of the downgrading of knowledge is the BBC's deplorable decision to scrap its lively general knowledge quiz Top of the Form and replace it with the absurd and trivial Pop of the Form."

Not attributed (Ed)

Instrumental learning - a means of improving intelligence?

"An Israeli teaching method can turn school failures into powerful thinkers.

The method, known as 'instrumental enrichment', has been under scrutiny at Bridgwater schools for three years.. Where the method was properly applied children made startling leaps in their ratings on key intelligence tests.

The method's creator, Prof Reuven Feuerstein...has fought for a lifetime against the idea that intelligence is fixed by heredity... In his Jerusalem Institute, Feuerstein shows records of former pupils once officially described as imbeciles and then produces copies of their PhD certificates. However, there are drawbacks to the method...It requires 200-300 hours' teaching over 2 years and many Headteachers are unwilling to bend school timetables for an abstract, thinking-skills subject."

Sunday Times 10.05.87

Self-made men - Graduates of the University of Life

Sir Clive Sinclair threw out a challenge in an after-dinner speech to a room crowded with the Great and Good: Name six successful British entrepreneurs who had University degrees...The embarrassed lull was surprising. The list of names of self-made tycoons is long: Richard Branson, Sir James Goldsmith, Lord Forte, Paul Hamlyn, Lord Hanson, Bernard Matthews, Robert Maxwell, Alan Sagar, and many others. None went to College but together they are worth millions.

Sunday Times 10.05.87

A-levels - "not key to degree"

Students entering polytechnics and colleges without the standard qualifications of two or more A-levels, on average, obtain better degrees than their rivals. A report commissioned by the CNAAs shows that 39% 'non-standard' entrants gained first or upper-second class degrees, compared with 34.9% of those admitted with at least two A-levels. 'Non-standard' is defined as possessing City and Guilds certificates, just one A-level, O-levels only, or no formal qualification at all. 12% of graduates in 1983 came from these categories.

Daily Telegraph 02.04.87



Department of the Totally Obvious - Homework

Inspectors have concluded that "Homework must be sensibly thought out for it to be beneficial to pupils. Youngsters themselves had widely divergent views about homework, ranging from 'It gives you something to do at nights and weekends' to 'We have to work all day; why should we have to work at night too?'"

Daily Telegraph 25.03.87

More staff needed to help victims of child abuse

"The NUT is calling for an urgent expansion of in-service training to enable teachers to recognise victims of child abuse."

The Independent 12.06.87

Poor readers "not helped at school"

"Of more than 6 million adults in the UK with severe difficulty in reading, writing, and doing simple maths, 40% received no special help from their schools."

The Independent 03.06.87

Children affected by low-level lead exposure

"Evidence that children exposed even to low levels of lead suffer from impaired ability has been revealed by a survey of nearly 900 children aged between six and nine years. Those with high levels of lead were significantly worse at ability tests. The author of the study, Dr Mary Fulton, an epidemiologist at Edinburgh University...called on

politicians to act on the survey."

Daily Telegraph 29.05.87

Low IQ, not adventure, kills on roads

"Boys under 10 years are twice as likely to be killed on the roads as girls of the same age because they have a lower intelligence rating... Mr George Rawcliffe, a children's road safety expert, dismissed Government claims that boys were more at risk because they were more adventurous. 'It is about time the Government came clean and explained that, at that age, boys have a lower IQ than girls,' he said. 'I believe parents should be told. Then they could take more care of their boys and many young lives would be saved.' He suggested that girls grew up faster because they learned from their mothers and women teachers, whereas boys saw less of their fathers and rarely had male teachers in the first years at school.

'The Government is not going to give these facts to parents because it would have to change the whole concept of lower education where female teaching has always ruled,' he claimed

Daily Telegraph 04.05.87

(Red rag stuff this. But it is so illogical as to be not worth taking seriously. Since the influences are the same, why should boys not, on that basis, grow up as fast? Ed)

Naturalist educated by nature and Gavin Maxwell

From the age of 11, naturalist Terry Nutkins lived in the Hebrides with Gavin Maxwell helping to look after his otters.

"'I never went to school again,' he says. 'Gavin got permission (sic) to teach me, and I learnt from nature as well...There were dolphins and seals in the bay, and buzzards and eagles flying overhead.'"

Radio Times 6-12 June 1987

Another naturalist educated by
'Britannica'

"David Bellamy says, 'At first I learnt little at school, but then my parents bought me a set of Britannica. It not only offered all the knowledge I could possibly need, but it taught me that learning can be fun.'"

Britannica advertisement



MORE BOOK REVIEWS...

New from Floris Books

Floris Books have just produced two board books for young children costing £1.99 each.

A NEW DAY by Ronald Heuninck, shows events in the day of a little girl. The colours are softer and more subtle than is usual in books for this age group. Although the illustrations of people are not perfect, it is a relief to get away from caricatures or portrayals which are too abstract.

ON THE FARM by Frantisek Chochola is a very popular book with my younger daughter (age 15 months) as it affords plenty of scope for animal noises. Again, the illustrations have more life in them and are more sympathetic than the reproduced photographs that are often used in these type of books. The presence of people gives scope for little stories to accompany the pictures.

PAINTING WITH CHILDREN - Brunhild Muller
Price £3.95

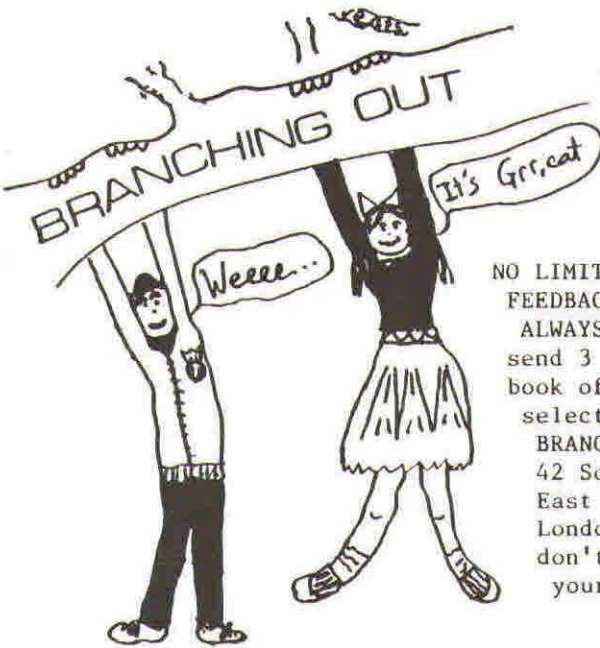
This is a useful guide for parents showing how to use the primary watercolours on damp paper so that children can experience the colours and how they meet each other and create new ones.

There are suggestions for poems and stories which help the children really to live in the colours: "For the child the activity of painting becomes much more important than the resulting picture.... The rhymes and stories are woven into his colour experience and they live on in his memory. This stimulates a mental mobility, which can lead to richer and more versatile concepts and feelings."

There is an introduction on the moral effect of colour based on Goethe's Theory of Colours, sections on painting through the seasons and with different moods of nature, interspersed with paintings from children aged 3 to 11, followed by further poems to stimulate painting.

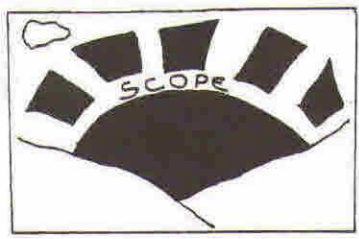
Floris Books, 21 Napier Street, Edinburgh.

Jackie Fearnley
Howe House
Egton
Whitby



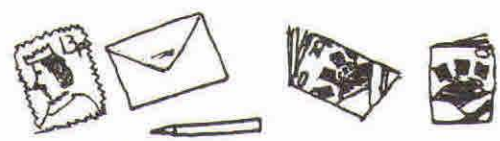
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 And adults to.....

" I particularly liked the bubble speck poem in no.2, the conservation stuff in no.1 and the big photo of you and your freinds on the witches hat swing thing. Mostly though (as an adult) I'm inspired,impressed and wish to encourage your endeavours - GO FOR IT-print and be merry."



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TRAVELLER EDUCATION - AN OVERVIEW

A Traveller Education movement began in the Sixties with the setting-up of charitable and voluntary mobile provision for Gypsy families and by the mid-Seventies there were as many as 30 caravan classrooms in Britain. Taken on by local education authorities and funded through the 'No Area Pool', they have gradually been phased out in recent years in line with a policy of integration.

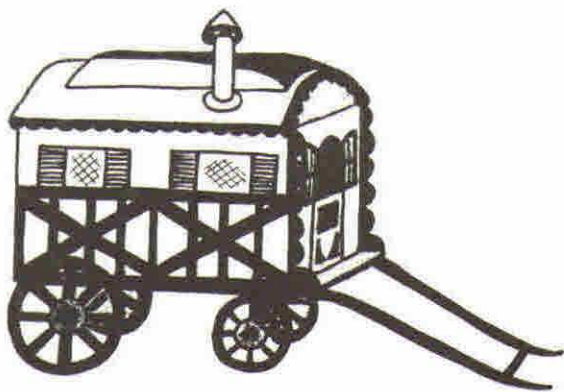
Facing great economic and social changes in view of the loss of many traditional sites and of jobs through mechanisation of agriculture, access to education for the children is increasingly seen as essential to their survival. But what may be viewed by the planners as 'integration' may be looked upon as absorption into an alien culture by Traditional Travellers themselves.

In addition, there are the New Travellers, or New-Age Hippy Convoy, who have consciously rejected the state system but want an appropriate education for their children, in which they may plan an active and responsible role.

An application is currently being made to the Charity Commission to set up The Travellers' School as an Educational Trust. The first project for the new Trust would be to co-ordinate a mobile school to be known as The Skool Bus, for which a vehicle has been purchased and is being converted.

It is hoped that this would be the first of many mobile schools which would bring state school resources to Traveller children.

Richie Cotterill would be glad to provide further information and may be contacted at 24 Clive Street, Hereford HR1 2SB.



NOTICES

ARE YOU A SQUIRREL? Can you dig out an article? If your store of backnumbers is accessible, Linda Hamilton-Ross would appreciate a copy of an incompletely-remembered article. It is on "Learning Languages the 'Natural' way" and appeared in the newsletter a while ago. Linda would gladly pay postage and copying costs, and can be contacted c/o 18 Town Street Gildersome, Morley, LEEDS LS27 7AA tel Leeds (0532) 532549

KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT SCIENCE? Your comments are asked for on doing science with over eleven year olds. Physics and Chemistry please, rather than Biology, "because they do not seem to get much attention". A request from A Kamenka, 62 Guthrum Place, AYCLIFFE, Co Durham DL5 4QD

CATHERINE WOULD LIKE A PEN-PAL. And she is only 4½! She likes making models and drawing. She has some fish. Write to her at 96 Blackmead, Orton Malborne, PETERBOROUGH PE2 0PY.

ATTENTION GROWING WITHOUT SCHOOLING SUBSCRIBERS! Robert and Jill Gillings have moved to Ballaglonney Farm, Quayle's Orchard, Ronague, ISLE OF MAN.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE BASED IN LONDON FOR A WEEK? Close to the Underground? Rena Laslett is planning to be away during August and September, leaving empty a 3 bedrooomed idiosyncratic terraced house with 2 double beds, 2 high single beds, 1 cot, one very friendly Welsh Terrier, one cat. £20.00 per week plus feed/walk dog. Get in touch with Rena at 42 Southend Road, East Ham, LONDON E6 2AA tel 01 552 3297

HAVE YOU HEARD OF LIBERTARIAN EDUCATION? Asks Poppy Green. "It is a magazine which states its purpose as follows:
'This magazine is against authority. Libertarian Education sees education as liberation. The learner, young or old, is the best judge of what he/she should learn next. In our struggle to make sense out of life, the things we need most to learn are the things we most want to learn. The liberated learner controls the process - no longer the victim! We do not pretend to have all the answers. LIB ED magazine is a forum for everyone who is interested in the liberation of learning.'
LIB ED, The Cottage, The Green, Leire, LUTTERWORTH LE17 5HL
Subscription: £5.00 a year.

SARAH DELCOURT is "looking for a loving, relaxed person to join our homeschool family and help out when mother is away. Someone eager to learn with and share with 3 lively children (10, 7, 4). Mother British, father French, living near Chicago. Must drive. Start in September or later, if necessary. Phone 0425 617328 before August 7th, or write after to Sarah Delcourt, 27 Wychwood Lane, Sth. Barrington, IL 60010, USA.

BOUNCY BEN WAS LEFT BEHIND AT UNSTONE GRANGE. So was Dippy Duck, Uppy Umbrella, Kissing Cousins (X), Mr I the Ice Cream Man, Fireman Fred (unfinished), Quarrelsome Queen, Yogo Man, Good Girl, Sammy Snake, Oscar Orange's Bothersome Brother, and Vase of Violets. They are all puppets with no homes. Some of them were paid for. Please send a sae to Frances Howard if you want one: 38 Hampden Road, HITCHIN, Herts.

NO NEWS FROM LYNETTE CAMERON ABOUT CHILD BENEFIT. At the time of writing Lynette was waiting for a date for the five appeals before the Commissioners. She writes, "I expect everyone is heartily sick of the words 'Child Benefit', but we fight on."

DEBORAH CARTER is a third year student currently undertaking a Bachelor of Education degree at the West London Institute of Higher Education. As part of the course, she is required to submit an extensive report on an aspect of education that interests her. She has chosen to research home based schooling, and would be grateful to hear from anyone: child or parent who has strong views on the subject. Any information or accounts of individual experiences would be welcomed, but she would really like to interview an EOer. Deborah adds, "I must stress that I am fully in favour of home education and support the right of parents to withdraw their children from school." Any responses to Deborah Carter, 133 Lower Richmond Road, Mortlake, London SW14 7HX. Tel 01 876 4949

LESLEY-ANN WOULD LIKE A PEN-PAL. "I am 9 and I enjoy reading, drawing, and letter writing." Lesley-Ann Banner, 151 Jervoise Road, Wesley Castle, Birmingham B29 5QT

BY US - FOR US...NEW EDUCATION DIRECTORY. Poppy Green thanks those EOers who contacted her about her proposed directory. She is now receiving some financial help from The Bridge Education Trust, and it is hoped the first edition will be ready by the beginning of September to coincide with the Human Scale Education Conference. She asks that any further information that should be included be sent to her as soon as possible. "Thanking you all in advance." Poppy Green, 42 St Marks Road, London W10 6NR tel 01 960 5797

FREEDOM AND EDUCATION. There will be a one day conference on Saturday 3 October 1987 at Countesthorpe College, Countesthorpe, near Leicester, from 10.00 to 6.00 pm plus evening entertainment. The organisers, Lib-Ed Magazine, are offering workshops which will be as practically based as possible. While they will be introduced by an invited contributor, they will be open to all participants, facilitated by a member of the collective. All day creche will be provided. The fee is £7.00 (£6.00 if booked in advance), £4.00 if unwaged (£3.00 if booked in advance), free if you are a student or under 18. Lunch is included. Further details, booking, and how to get there from Lib-Ed, The Cottage, The Green, Leire LB17 5HL.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HELPING TO FORM A RURAL HORTICULTURAL CO-OWNERSHIP? SW England. £15000+ per person. Starting target 1988. Horticultural experience needed. EOers especially welcome. Ron Skinner, Rose Cottage, Ramsbury, Marlborough, Wilts. SN8 2QH. Tel 0672 20020



NEW VILLAGES, CONTACTS AND NETWORKS. The emergence of New Village groups and proposed projects, in this country and abroad, is offering a new perspective on education to families already involved in home education, and those seeking alternatives to existing systems, and those wishing to re-think the purpose of education. Poppy Green hopes members will find the following contacts useful:

Village Newsletter, c/o Roger Lindsay, Grove Cottage, Chapel Hill, Tintern, Gwent tel 02918 564
Making Contacts, Lauren McElroy, 3543 East Bellevue, Tucson, Arizona, USA
Solar Village, David Stephens, Old School House, Bancffosfelen, Pontyberem, Dyfed SA15 5DR tel 0269 871 014
Hazlewood Village, Rod Friend, Curtisknowle House, Diptford, near Totnes, S Devon TQ9 7JX tel 054882 224
Greentown (proposed site N Oxford) David Olivier, The Limes, 15b Bradwell Road, Bradville, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK13 7AX tel 0908 314381
New Village Association, Cleeve Prior, Evesham, Worcs.
Tomorrows Village, Andrew Page, Dartington Institute of Community Studies, Dartington Hall Trust, Totnes, Devon TQ9 6JE
Andrew Page also instigated Children talking across the world,
1a Castle Street, Totnes TQ9 5NO tel 0803 865852

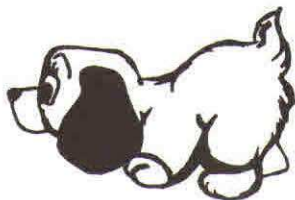
HUMAN SCALE EDUCATION IS HOLDING ITS FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE AT OXFORD POLYTECH ON 4 to 6 SEPTEMBER. Planned to investigate themes of concern to many people in EO, such as the parent-professional divide, claims of society versus the individual, core and experiential curricula. EO is involved as a resource for this Conference, along with PNEU, Steiner Waldorf, Montessori, Froebel, Family Activities Centres, U3A, Parent Network, and other organisations.

In order to practise what it preaches - that 'learning is based on relationships and the sharing of experience' - Conference participants will be in small 'base' groups whose 5 sessions will be interspersed with larger-scale talks and discussions on such topics as minischooling, flexischooling, and Resource Centres.

Places are limited to 200. The fee is £15.00. Cheques (payable to the Schumacher Society) and requests for further information should be addressed to Philip Toogood, Harton Manor Cottage, Hartland, Devon EX39 6BL tel 02374 640

DID YOU ATTEND THE MEETING IN DONCASTER ON 27 JUNE? Have you mislaid a pale blue jacket with a blue, white and green lining? It is to be found at the home of Pip Rupik, 17 Westmorland Street, Balby, Doncaster. Tel 0302 856700

LYNETTE CAMERON would be interested to hear of EOers who are allowed by their lea to home-educate foster children. Tel 0734 661656



THE LEA IN ESSEX

For the benefit of any Essex families who are in the process of withdrawing a child from school, or approaching the LEA for the first time, may I elaborate a little on a point made in the last newsletter by Jan Smith ('Jump in with both feet!'). This especially applies to any members who have not spoken to me about this procedure.

The general attitude of the Essex LEA would seem to be one of co-operation and understanding. However, one can not be too complacent, and the initial approach to a lea is often the most important.

When there was a handful of families educating at home, the LEA used to send out an informal (almost friendly) letter asking for details of how you proposed to educate at home. As more and more families joined EO, I imagine the LEA decided it was time to respond in a more structured manner, and now all families receive a standard letter in reply to their initial contact.

Here are some extracts:

As the Authority has to be satisfied with the education provided, having regard to the child's age, aptitude and abilities, any arrangements should be notified in detail to us at the address given above with account taken of the following:

a Curriculum

i a balanced programme, including basic skills, should be arranged.

ii compensation should exist for the lack of opportunities for social contact with other children.

b Time must relate to a normal school's calendar, ie 190 days minimum per year; each day a minimum of 3 hours secular instruction for children under 8 years of age, and 4 hours secular instruction for children of 8 years of age and over, divided into 2 sessions.

c Accommodation must provide the child with the opportunity to work undisturbed.

d Visits during 'school' sessions. Visits are made by a County Inspector who, in addition to considering the above, expects to see written schemes of work, records of progress, and examples of work being undertaken.

I shall also need to know the name or names of your child's tutors, together with their qualifications, if appropriate. On receipt of this information, I will arrange for a County Inspector to visit your home by appointment, to monitor the standard and range of the provision...

Now, some members of EO might feel intimidated on receiving this letter from the LEA, and understandably so. It usually arrives at a time a family feels most vulnerable and in need of moral support.

However, despite the tone of the letter, the general attitude of the Essex LEA is one of acceptance, and in some cases is even helpful. Some families educate at home for a number of years without hearing another word from the LEA. Others might receive an informal home visit perhaps once a year or so; this would seem to depend on the Inspector covering that particular area. As the LEA generally seem so liberal minded, they have never been

approached regarding the tone/contents of their letter. I believe in mutual co-operation where possible, and, so long as the LEA make no unnecessary demands, I see no reason to change our present policy. Members who call me regarding the LEA letter are advised to reply in whatever manner they wish (formally or otherwise) and to ignore those parts of the letter, if they choose, over which the LEA has no legal entitlement.

Most families send brief, informal details of their plans for home education and up to now, the LEA has not pursued the matter. All members of EO are advised to read SINC and to contact their local co-ordinator (preferably before writing to the lea, or withdrawing a child from school). Leas vary widely in their attitude to EO and it is always advisable to seek further guidance - what are your legal rights/unfair demands/the usual procedure for a particular lea/etc.

Any Essex members who are about to contact the LEA for the first time, or who are considering home education, are welcome to call me to discuss this matter further.

Sandie Cottee
17 South View Road
Rettendon Common
Chelmsford Essex
tel Wickford (0268) 733259

INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTRE

tel 0270 664060

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

An information/order form list is available. The list contains used and recommended books and materials and can be used as a guide to assist those seeking suitable educational material for children of all ages.

Members are offered the use of the Resource Centre - 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 do not know we will try to find out. Please feel free to use us.

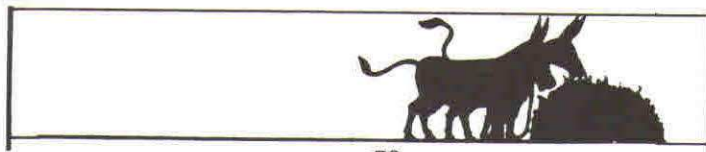
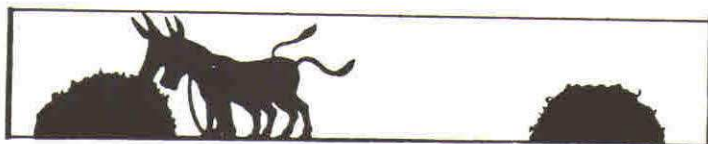
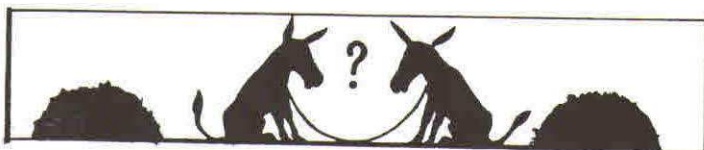
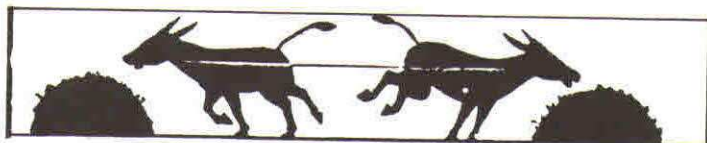
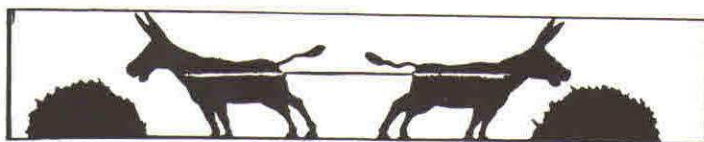
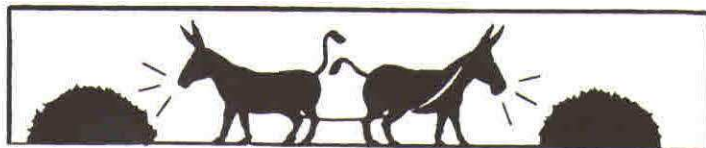
As we get no funding from any source, would you please ALWAYS include a SAE for reply.

When recommending anything, please give as much information as possible, and when recommending a book, etc, please give title, author, publisher, and price, if known, and a rough idea of the age group it would be useful for.

PEACEFUL CONFLICT SOLVING

Two Donkeys: Cut out the six shapes in the cartoon opposite and get couples to put them in order. Make up a story about them. Mime it with sounds and then act out with words. Try it again pretending they are dogs, cows, pigs. Mime it with sounds.

Quaker Peace & Service



Learning with Joy

This is the title of a series of weekend workshops focussing on nurturing the spirit of the child with love and understanding, developing the child's inner perception & discovering the seeds of greatness within.

Under the umbrella of the World is our Classroom the Workshops are designed for parents, teachers and other interested people and have the overall aim of constructing a learning programme for children up to 12. They will be led by Rainbow Rosenbloom, an American Waldorf teacher who has been designing and running his own home-school programme.

The Workshops are to be held at three venues:-

Halsecombe, Porlock, North Devon.
28 - 31 August
£85 including meals & accommodation.

14 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1.
5 - 6 September
£60 including tea and biscuits.

90 Banbury Road, Oxford.
12 - 13 September
£55 including tea and biscuits.

For further information and booking please contact:-

Jan Cunnington
6 Freeland Cottages
Stanton St. John,
Oxford, OX9 1HG.
Tele: 086 735891.

→ PEACEFUL CONFLICT SOLVING

This exercise and illustration are taken from Let's Co-operate by Mildred Mashedor and published by The Peace Education Project (£2.95 plus 55p p & p). Workshops along these lines are run by the author for parents, teachers and children. Information from Portland Lodge, 75 Belsize Lane, London NW3 5AU tel 01 435 2182

FREEDOM AND EDUCATION '87

• A DAY CONFERENCE •



SATURDAY, 3RD OCTOBER

**COUNTSTHORPE COLLEGE
COUNTSTHORPE, near LEICESTER
FROM 10-6 PLUS EVENING ENTERTAINMENT**

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Lib Ed magazine, The Cottage, The Green, Leire, LE17 5HL.

WHERE TO GET WHAT

Current & Old Newsletters, SINC, Early Years and Teach Your Own - all from Membership Secretaries.

Stationery, Introductory Literature, envelope re-use labels (£1.50 per 100) Membership Forms, Posters & Handbills From Co-ordinators Secretary.

Growing Without Schooling - Jill Gillings, Seacrest, Clayhead, Baldrine, Isle of Man

The book is obtainable from The Peace Education Project, 6 Endsleigh Street, London WC1 tel 01 387 5501

Poppy Green
42 St Marks Road
London
W10 6NR

NIRVANA ...

Being the state of having one's child reach the age of sixteen and thereby being free of all worries, hassles, feelings of doom, big brother, the state, L.E.A's and other minor deities.

Rachel was 16 at the end of April. Apart from a brief spell of 5 months when she was 13, she has been entirely educated at home, in the field, forest, garage and workshop.

Now it's officially over I can stop and take a look at the process and make some assessments.

We have been luckier than many in some ways. We are self-employed with a reasonable control over our working lives; we live in a village in the country a mere 50 miles from the big cities of Leeds and Newcastle - and we haven't seen an Inspector or had any visitations since Rachel was eight. This latter was mainly due to Mick's stubborn insistence that the L.E.A. had no right of inspection - an attitude which terrified me at the time! However, we eventually wore them down and they never came back - bliss!!

What is Rachel now? She is an independent, stubborn person of character and free-will. She works extremely hard at things she wants to do and completely ignores anything she doesn't.

She has sat no exams and has no intention of doing any in the near future. Rachel said there was too much happening to her and for her at 15-16 to waste time on exams - she wanted to be out there living and learning - I was appalled - she, as usual, was right.

She has been offered quite a few jobs so far, and works at juggling her time to fit them in. She bought herself a small motorbike at 14 and spent two years practising in the local park, and stripped it down (with help) and put it back together. So now she can get herself to work. Work seems to be fairly free-lance and self-employed. Five week lambing on a local farm, three weeks general dogsbody in a guest house, painting and decorating for a local vet, some candle-making, some catering. Rates of pay are reasonable so far and certainly better than the slave wages of the Y.T.S. There's the prospect of working full time for a local painter and decorator and saving up for a H.G.V. driving licence.

Academically her knowledge is patchy - poor in parts, good in bits - we never concentrated too much on academic education. However, she is very competent at handling herself and life and me and Mick - which takes some doing!!

For her 16th birthday I wanted to present her with a Certificate - like they do at School. Searching for inspiration I came across the tatty bits of printed paper which I had my O and A levels on and my Diploma of Education - all that work and effort and wasted time for such useless scraps.

Rachel's certificate was beautiful - Gothic lettering, fancy titles "Institute of Domiciliary Education", big red seals and fancy ribbon - wonderful!

Does this Home Education work then? Yes! Rachel is an adult, mature person that goes her own way - sometimes listens to advice but always makes up her own mind. She takes responsibility for herself and for others when needed. She is usually happy and cheerful and willing to tackle almost anything. She's free and not trapped by exams and worries and pleasing others. She is her own person.

I know a lot of friends and relatives would have liked her to have a string of O and A levels and gone to University - then they would have said B.O. worked. At times I thought that way too, but Rachel taught me better - that would have been failure - that would have been "THE SYSTEM".

It's wrong to bury our kids under work/work/work/exams/exams - life is for living and loving.

Thank you Rachel - I've enjoyed it.

Jennie White
Wensley Mill
Wensley, Leyburn, Wensleydale, N Yorkshire

P.S. Mike might have a different story - I'll let him write it.

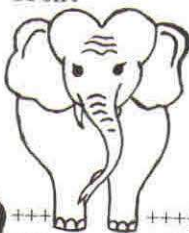


Greetings to
Frith Grace O'Connor
who was delivered on
Tuesday 16 June.

Both Frith and Jill are
thriving. Not to
mention Joseph!



How do you get four elephants in
a mini?
Two in the back and two in the
front



Okay then, how do
you get a
rhinoceros in a
Mini?

Chuck one of the
elephants out, of
course.

+++++
The two little boys met while
paddling in the sea during their
summer holidays.
"Cor!" said the first, "your feet
ain't 'alf dirty!"

"Yes!" agreed the second, "we
didn't come here last year!"

CORE GROUP MEETING OF EDUCATION OTHERWISE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

Sunday 24 May 1987

Unstone Grange, Sheffield

Present: Joan Hoare, Bruce Cox, Christine Wallace, Bruce Wallace, Miryam Bush, Julie Lyons, Rob Wade, Anne Wade, Joseph O'Connor, Jill O'Connor, June Grant, Candida Fawsitt, Val Gommon, Stephanie Fatcher, Peter Darling, Nadine Edwards, Peter Edwards, Anne Clark, Rose Titchiner, Alison Mafham, Richard Hoare, Jean Lovius, Barry Lovius

- 1 Apologies were received from Lesley Kilbride, Andy Anderson, Janet Everdell, Caroline Bitmell and Pat Knox.
- 2 The minutes of the Core Group meeting were approved and signed.
- 3 REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND GROUPS

a Membership Secretaries Christine and Bruce Wallace

Due to the pressure of work on Christine and Bruce, Val and James Gommon are becoming Membership Secretaries for SE England. Membership is increasing and now stands at between 1800-1900. Publications are well in stock and the printing of the new digests of NL's is in hand.

Bruce suggested the typing out of manuscripts and the printing of publications should be done on a commercial basis rather than by relying on volunteer labour, as this expedites matters.

b Enquiries Secretary Janet Everdell

Enquiries dropped dramatically in April. Taking Janet's phone number off the back of the NL has eased her workload, but it is still heavy. She urgently requires a secondary education booklet. She has had no reply from David & Charles about the Alternative Handbook, nor has she heard from Humanscale Education about supplying a speaker at their conference.

Alison Stallibrass has sent EO a copy of her book The Self-Respecting Child, plus some leaflets on the Peckham Experiment which Janet has forwarded to Jennie and Mick White for the EO library. There is a movement to revive Pioneer Health Centres and EO has been approached, but there are no positive plans as yet.

Candida Fawsitt said that EO is being represented at the Humanscale Education Conference. There is also a conference on 'Freedom and Education' organised by the magazine Libertarian Education in October at Countesthorpe, near Leicester.

c Co-ordinators' Secretary Andy Anderson

Andy is looking for a co-ordinator for Gloucestershire and has sent out letters to members in Gloucestershire asking for a volunteer.

d Steering Committee Joan Hoare, Alison Mafham, Janet Everdell

We approved that Lynette Cameron could buy a filing cabinet; that we would underwrite with £200.00 a summer camp being organised by Bruce Cox; that Bruce Cox could spend £20.00 on leaflets about fund-raising; that Rob and Anne Wade could buy some HMSO publications.

e Press Secretary Joseph O'Connor

In February Joe and the Beavis family appeared on Sarah Kennedy's Daytime TV programme. Everyone there was very sympathetic. In the summer issue of Libertarian Education, there is an article about EO plus editorial comments.

Joe would like to hear from members about any publicity they arrange.

He would also like to receive any press cuttings about EO, so that he can make a collection to bring to meetings. There were no problems with his work load.

f Publications Secretary Lesley Kilbride

We elected Lesley to Core Group, Barry Lovius proposing and Nadine Edwards seconding.

Lesley said that there was not always room to include an advertisement for the Independent Resource Centre in the NL. We agreed that the ad should be included when space was available at the discretion of the Publications Secretary.

g Research Group Anne Wade

Barbara Hooley is doing a questionnaire on why people drop out of EO. Pat Knox's book is back from being typed by Felix Polkowski, and is being passed round for comment.

h Legal Group Anne Wade

The Forsyths have finally won their case. A lot of people are coming forward to support fellow EO members who are being harassed by their LEA.

The article on 'Home Education and the Law' by David Deutsch and Kolya Wolf was welcomed. Co-ordinators who would like a copy can obtain one from David and Kolya and claim expenses. David is also looking into the laws on registration. The Legal Group can send copies of 'Home Education and the Law' to LEAs as required.

We suggested that Anne might negotiate with David and Kolya to make the article available to members at a lower cost, and possibly also to be available as part of our introductory literature, when they have recouped their financial outlay.

i Treasurer Alison Mafham

There is £9000 in total in the kitty, ie £7000 with the Charitable Trust Account and £2000 in EO Association Ltd's current account. Since Alison is moving house, we approved that £14.00 should be paid to the Post Office to forward her mail for a year. If anyone else wishes to be treasurer, now would be a good time to change. We agreed to advertise in the NL for an assistant treasurer. The audit date is 30 June and there will be a form in the June NL for people to send in their accounts for expenses as soon as possible for audit purposes.

4 GROWTH OF EO

As EO has grown, officers' jobs have had to be divided so that administrative tasks are not too burdensome. Janet Everdell does over 5 hours voluntary work a week, and Christine and Bruce Wallace do about 20 hours a week. Joe O'Connor volunteered to take some enquiries from press articles for Janet, and will write to the Headquarters of the Citizens' Advice Bureaux in London to arrange for enquiries to go to Regional Enquiries Secretaries instead of Janet. Local co-ordinators should also contact their own local CABs and libraries.

We need to advertise in the NL for 3 or 4 more other people to register new members on a regional basis in parallel with Bruce and Christine.

5 FUND RAISING Bruce Cox

EO often receives requests for money. Bruce reported that there was a possibility of a centre at Dartington School to be run in conjunction with EO, a suggestion supported by the Gulbenkian Foundation and, of

course, Dartington School.

Projects we might work towards are

- a money for examination fees
- b local resource centres
- c Waveney Community School and similar projects
- d subsidising EO activities like camps
- e outright grants for local resource centres
- f individual funding was also needed as home educating families and children have individual and particular needs.

In the discussion that followed, we wondered how EO members would judge each others' projects (and whether this was desirable), for if someone applies for money then the project has to be appraised. It was thought that money needs to go directly to children rather than being channelled through adult decision making. It was also decided that children can write to Betty Brown to suggest projects for Featherstone Castle, which can be funded by EO.

How does EO approach charities for fund raising? It was agreed to use the existing fund raising group (consisting of Joe O'Connor, Bruce Cox, Jean Lovius, and Meg Robertson) to receive and make suggestions about projects we want to support financially and approach charities for money. Bruce Cox has some literature about this.

6 COVENANTS June Grant

June is reading the book on covenanting and will look further into the matter. It seemed a worthwhile source of income.

7 DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCE CENTRES

Anne Clark reported she was waiting for feedback from users of the Norwich Resource Centre. They have received money from the Rolling Fund, and have a place to keep their equipment. They will pass on their experience to new groups. 67 families in Norfolk and Suffolk can use the resources; members nationally can also have access to the resources if they wish. There is a £10.00 membership fee for life.

We agreed with Candida Fawsitt's suggestion that local resource centres could be listed in the Contact List. Chris Wallace will organise this with Bob Emmett.

8 ROLE OF REGIONAL SECRETARIES

The seven Regional Enquiries Secretaries parallel the work of Janet Everdell, the national Enquiries Secretary. They do not have a co-ordinating role, but respond to enquiries only. Regional Membership Secretaries are now also needed to parallel the work of Bruce and Christine Wallace.

Regional Co-ordinators are also needed to supplement the work of local co-ordinators. Anne Wade said that Lynette Cameron was particularly in favour of this, and that Lynette also suggested that regional meetings for co-ordinators were desirable. It would be the job of the regional co-ordinator to organise these meetings. Expenses could be claimable. She or he could not sack or appoint a co-ordinator and would keep in touch with local co-ordinators and Core Group.

Anne also said that she thought Regional Co-ordinators should be carefully chosen. In the ensuing discussion it was decided that this would be too subject to personal whim, as there was no formal channel through which people are appointed to do responsible tasks such as

Regional Co-ordinators. We agreed that Anne should put a message to co-ordinators in the NL to the effect that since EO is growing we need to become more regional, and asking for suggestions from local co-ordinators about the function and purpose of Regional Co-ordinators.

Nadine Edwards reported on complaints that had been received from some members about Peter Williams, the co-ordinator for West Yorkshire. She had been looking into this with Julie Lyons, Jennie White and Miryam Bush. Some members found Peter autocratic and that he made people dependent on him, but others welcomed his approach. However, some people had left EO because they disliked his approach. It was decided that Anne Wade should write to Peter explaining what complaints had been made against him and the ground upon which they had been made, but that some members valued what he was doing. Anne should suggest another co-ordinator with a different approach was also needed as well as he.

It was suggested that articles were needed in the NL from local co-ordinators about their area and what they thought their job was. It was also thought that the local co-ordinators' guidelines need to be updated and revised. It should be made quite clear that local co-ordinators have no power over individual families.

It was further agreed that if a local co-ordinator, or anyone else, wrote a press article about EO, it was as a member of EO and not as a collective representative of EO. If someone wanted to write representing EO, then the article should be approved by Core Group first.

We agreed that at the next meeting we should discuss new local co-ordinators' guidelines, and the respective roles of the proposed Regional Co-ordinators and the existing National Co-ordinator.

9 TEENAGE YEARS AND DIGEST Bruce Cox

Bruce has written the new section about exams and Felix Polkowski put the booklet on his word processor. Bruce is now proof reading it and Peter Darling volunteered to help in this.

It was pointed out that Sarah Guthrie had got Early Years printed in two weeks commercially, costing about £1500 for 3000 copies, without any burden to individual members. Bruce said he would obtain the relevant discs from Felix and get Teenage Years and the new Digest done commercially, as quickly as possible, as these publications were urgently needed.

10 WAVENEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL (WCS) Rose Titchiner

Candida Fawsitt asked if the buildings would be used as a community centre, as well as an educational one. Rose replied that the premises would be available outside school hours. Bruce Cox had been consulted as a legal adviser, and it was envisaged that every child attending the school would be being educated otherwise; it was thought that WCS was not legally a school because it did not offer full time education, and would therefore not come under the auspices of the DES. There was some doubt in the meeting about this.

WCS was asking for £100.00 from EO for expenses in raising funds from charities and for publicity. Jean Lovius was against the request for money as WCS was a school; Christine Wallace was also not in favour as not all children in EO would benefit from the school, although it was proposed to use EO's name in trying to obtain funds.

Alison Mafham proposed that WCS should draw up its application as Norwich had and send it to the Rolling Fund. After much discussion we

finally agreed to Peter Edwards' proposal that part 3 of WCS's request, ie for money for fund raising purposes, be put to the Rolling Fund and that parts 1 and 2 of their request should be discussed at the next meeting, ie WCS should be able to mention our support in publicity and that they could come under our charitable umbrella when applying for funds.

Jean Lovius proposed that there should be a standard format for members applying for funds. We agreed to Bruce Wallace's suggestion that the Rolling Fund should look at her proposal and draw up some new guidelines to present at the next Core Group meeting. The Rolling Fund trustees are Bruce Wallace, Felix Polkowski, Joe O'Connor, Jean Lovius, and Miryam Bush.

11 UPDATE OF CONTACT LIST

Bruce Wallace said this had been done.

12 SILK-SCREENING OF T-SHIRTS

The silk screen needs to be delivered to Jean Lovius and Felix Polkowski by Alison Matham.

13 PUBLIC MEETING ON SCHOOL PHOBIA Pat Knox

Pat wrote in her report that she had been unable to find speakers for the public meeting and so had abandoned it for the time being. She has written two articles about school phobia. Candida Fawsitt agreed to liaise with Anne Wade about sending copies of these articles to the Freedom and Education conference and the Humanscale Education Conference. Pat's manuscript of her book on school phobia is being read by Routledge & Kegan Paul, and Methuan.

4 CHILD BENEFIT Anne Wade for Lynette Cameron

The benefit for 5 children has been cut off on their reaching 16 years of age. They are appealing and expect to lose, but hope to make sure that certain points are clarified on the way. They will then go to the parliamentary ombudsman and to judicial review.

5 AGM IN SEPTEMBER

One third of Core Group should retire every year at the AGM. They are allowed to be re-elected if it is so wished. Joan Hoare, the General Secretary, and Bruce Cox, the Chairman, wished to resign at the AGM. We agreed that Joan should write to Pauline Thomasson to ask for her resignation as Assistant General Secretary since she had been unable to attend Core Group meetings. Jean Lovius, Kenneth Matham, and Anne Wade offered to retire for re-election at the AGM. Jean Lovius and Julie Lyons volunteered to do the General Secretary's job, which offer was gratefully accepted.

6 FUTURE VENUES

Anne Clark said that the winter meeting in Norwich was not possible. Cilla Weber and Jean Lovius will find somewhere for the winter meeting and Val Common will investigate the possibility of the Youth Hostel at Milton Keynes again. We are at Featherstone Castle September 11-18 1987 and we agreed to book Unstone Grange for May 1988.

Stephanie Fletcher reported that she had made contact with a good camp site. The charges were 40p for children, 60p for adults, and 40p per car per night. Showers were available. Stephanie said she would arrange something for June or July 1988 as it was now too late to book anything for this year.

17 AOB

a At Bruce Cox's suggestion we agreed to offer Joy Baker honorary membership of EO. She had written an article in the April 1987 NL after being in contact with Bruce.

b There was a request from Growing Without Schooling for material for their 10th anniversary issue. We decided to send their letter on to Jill Gillings who deals with GWS.

c It was suggested that a package of children's resources be taken round to meetings. Jean Lovius, with some children, agreed to put something together and to organise its storage and transport to meetings.

d Bruce Wallace said that our publications needed insuring for £5000. Joan Hoare agreed to arrange this. She also agreed to contact the Regional Enquiries Secretaries to obtain copies of any local newsletters/newsheets as the insurers wished to see them for the Professional Indemnity Insurance.

e No one wished to sponsor the Rudolf Steiner School's horse and cart ride from East Anglia to Totnes.

f Felix Polkowski is cataloguing the WES books.

18 VOTE OF THANKS

We thanked Ian Grant for doing the bookings for Unstone Grange.

The meeting was closed.

EDUCATION OTHERWISE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

CORE GROUP MEETING

Sunday 12 September 1987 9.30 am

Featherstone Castle, Nr Haltwhistle, Northumberland

Agenda

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Minutes of the last Core Group meeting
- 3 New guidelines for co-ordinators
- 4 Role of Regional Co-ordinators and Co-ordinators' Secretary
- 5 Do we need a formal channel for appointing people to do responsible tasks, such as local co-ordinators?
- 6 Fund raising - Bruce Cox and fund raising group
- 7 Covenants - June Grant
- 8 Teenage Years and Digest - Bruce Cox
- 9 Waveney Community School - Joan Hoare
- 10 Insurance - Joan Hoare
- 11 Future venues
Somewhere for New Year 1988. Someone to do bookings.
Late Spring Bank Holiday 1988 - Unstone Grange, Sheffield. Someone to do bookings.
Somewhere for September 1988.
- 12 AOB
- 13 Votes of thanks

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All are welcome to attend.

Joan Hoare, General Secretary

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF EDUCATION OTHERWISE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

This will take place on Saturday 12 September 1987 at 2.30 pm at Featherstone Castle, near Haltwhistle, Northumberland.

Quorum

At the AGM we need a quorum of 20 signed up members of EO Association Ltd. These are people who have signed a certificate agreeing to a limited liability of £10.00 should EO become bankrupt (unlikely). These people are

Jean Lovius, Andy Anderson, Anne Wade, Rob Wade, Jennifer White, Joseph O'Connor, Miryam Bush, June Grant, Ken Mafham, Joan Hoare, Martyn Chillmaid, Felix Polkowski, Pauline Thomasson, Meg Robertson, Valerie Gommon, Julie Lyons, Liz Ramsey, Frances Howard, Anne Clark, Kay Montfort Bebb, Bruce Cox, Bruce Wallace, Janet Everdell, Caroline Bitmell, Alison Mafham, Lesley Kilbride, Robert Gillings, Barry Lovius, Elizabeth Hemphill, Tony Hill, Jill O'Connor, Patricia Knox, Thomas Kilbride.

Would these people please make every effort to be present at the AGM?

Agenda

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Check that we have a quorum of 20 signed up members of EO Association Ltd.
- 3 Minutes of the last meeting
- 4a Resignation of Chairman, Bruce Cox. Election of new Chairman.
- b Resignation of General Secretary, Joan Hoare. Election of new General Secretary and Assistant General Secretary.
- c Rotation of members of Core Group. Jean Lovius, Ken Mafham, and Anne Wade have offered to stand down, but are standing for re-election.
- 5 Consideration of Accounts for 1986-87 - Alison Mafham.
- 6 Reports of officers and groups
 - a Brief report from retiring Chairman - Bruce Cox.
 - b Membership secretaries - Christine and Bruce Wallace
 - c Enquiries Secretary - Janet Everdell
 - d Co-ordinators' Secretary - Andy Anderson
 - e Steering Committee - Joan Hoare, Janet Everdell, Alison Mafham
 - f Press Secretary - Joseph O'Connor
 - g Publications Secretary - Lesley Kilbride
 - h Research Group - Anne Wade
 - i Legal Group - Anne Wade
 - j Family Support Fund - Peter Gibbs
 - k Rolling Fund - Bruce Wallace
- 7 Any other business
- 8 Vote of thanks

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

Joan Hoare, General Secretary

EO OFFICERS

General Secretary	Joan Hoare 25 Moor Oak Road Sheffield tel 0742 666605
Membership Secretaries	Bruce and Christine Wallace 25 Diablag, Achmasheen, Ross-shire IV22 2HE tel 044581 225
Enquiries Secretary	Janet Everdell 25 Common Lane, Hemingford Abbots, Cambs PE18 9AN Telephone Help Line: 0480 63130
Co-ordinators Secretary	Andy Anderson 95 Derrington Avenue Crewe, Cheshire CW2 7JA tel 0270 664060
Public Relations Officer	Joseph O'Connor 4 Coombe Gardens, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4AA tel 01 942 0286
Publishing Secretary	Lesley Kilbride Fearnmore, By Sheildaig, Strathcarron, Wester Ross IV54 8XX tel 052 05 278
Treasurer	Alison Mafham 3 Park Road West, Curzon Park, Chester CH4 8BQ tel 0244 677452
Subscription Renewals and Membership List	Bob Emmett 12 Taylor Avenue, Dolgarrog, Conway, Gwynedd LL32 8JN tel 049269 355
Reviews Editor	Helen Holland Inholm Farm, Plumpton Green, Near Lewes, Sussex tel 0273 890405

REGIONAL ENQUIRIES SECRETARIES

South West	(Meg Robertson)	022 122 3266
South East	(Jude Ashley-Walker)	0983 78680
East Anglia	(Sandie Gottee)	0268 733259
Midlands	(Hazel Clawley)	021 772 7165
The North	(Mick and Jennie White)	0969 23544
Scotland	(Brenda Holliday)	0786 832042
Wales	(Miryam Bush)	0269 861069
Ireland	(Clare Weber)	Furness, Newport, Co Mayo

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

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Send a 9" x 4" s.a.s. to:
25, COMMON LANE,
Hemingford Abbots,
Cambridgeshire,
PE18 9AN

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