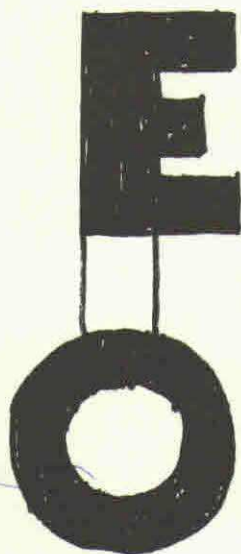


Peckham Centre P157

education
otherwise



APRIL 1989

Newsletter No. 65

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NEXT EDITOR

YVETTE HAINES

172 DONCASTOR ROAD,,
SANDYFORD,
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE,
NE2 1RB

Deadline 1st may 1989

:has no telephone if necessary contact publishing secretary
(no:inside back cover)

NEXT SUPPLEMENT EDITOR(SCIENCE)

JANE MCKIE
84,WIGGINTON ROAD ,
YORK, YO3 7JQ

Deadline 1st may 1989

CHILDRENS PAGES EDITOR

Ken Beagley

"Oranges"

St,Clements Terrace.

Harbeton,

Totnes

DEVON TQ9 5SN

Deadline 1st may 1989

Contributions for the next addition should be sent to the editor by the deadline date and all material intended as such,should be clearly marked 'for publication'.Contributors are asked to ensure their name and address.

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

Education Otherwise is a company limited by guarantee and is a charitable trust. Charity No.292029."

EDITORIAL

To start with I've never typed before, and then I get one of the newest type-writers on the market, with more buttons on it than in Concorde, half of which are still a mystery to me. But despite that I've enjoyed editing this newsletter and will properly volunteer to do so again.

I hope I won't offend anyone if I haven't included their letter, but I was overrun with contributions, and just couldn't fit every thing in. As you will notice I've skipped religion, after all that's not what EO's about.

Contrary to what a lot of 'officials' think about children educated at home we're not a load of 'looney's who belong in the nearest psychiatric ward', because I was educated at home and I'm sane.....I think!

We, that's all of us, being mum and dad and five children (Mark, David, Tammy, Joshua, Samuel) moved up here 19 months ago and have found it totally different to life 'down there' (Northamptonshire) the local 'language' took some getting used to, we can understand the natives now, at first it was just a matter of a polite yes and no (hoping it was in the right place).

When we thought about coming to Scotland after inquiring about the education side of things we heard nothing but praise about how easy it was to home educate, it made our minds up to come. When the LEA found out about us, it was a different story altogether, it was anything but easy, they sent harassing letters, then it was a hearing at the Sherrifs court but with the help of the Wallaces, they backed down and are leaving us alone for the meanwhile at least.

On page 9, there is an ad asking for adults who were home educated to help some researchers, to compile a survey. I'm not quite sure what to think about it, but I thought it was interesting. I'm still a bit suspicious about any thing along those lines.

Well, the place we are living in is a big old farmhouse, with more than its quota of spiders and centipedes both of which are horrid, but the beach makes up for that. As with a lot of the beaches along the East coast they are deserted most of the time, much different than the south coast, but its quite a few degrees cooler.

We recently acquired a couple of geese and ducks, after going to a market, I went with no intentions of buying anything.....but have a duck quack at you and I swear it was a very unhappy quack that was it I was the owner (and a very proud one at that) of two ducks, that turned out to be male and female, the female flew away a couple of days later being a muscovy, I found out later, that's what they do. I've now got two more females to keep the male one happy and they're laying so it turned out a good buy after all. The geese are more complex for a start its anybody's guess whether they are male or female (any one know how to tell?) and then they decided not to eat, we tried the chicken food, that was not to their liking, they didn't know what to do with grass, the ducks showed them that it was to eat, thank goodness. Now all we're waiting for is eggs, that's if they are female.

That's all, I hope you enjoy the newsletter, as much as I've enjoyed editing it, Oh heck I've just touched a button and the stupid thing's bleeping at me, and I've no idea what for!!!!

By the way, I thoroughly recommend being taught at home, there is just no other way especially if you hated school so much it made you ill. School Phobia was no joke until I was taken out of that supposedly 'normal' environment of school. Just because you don't fit in doesn't make you some freak of nature infact I think it does the opposite, your not as narrow minded as the rest. You realise that parents have the right to carry on teaching their children after 5, not hand over to a stranger who hasn't the foggiest idea how your child ticks.

I will stop now after all that's why your reading this.

Thanks to every one who sent in contributions.
bye for now

Tichelle
BRANKANENTHAM FARMHOUSE, SANDEND, PORTSOY, BANFF, AB4 2LD.

I

THE JOYS OF EDITING: Kevin Fleisch

Like "The Perils of Pauline", the joys of editing are a series of fascinating crises, with survival and the good life always just one step ahead.

At face value, it is a simple task. All copy is in by the first of the month. This gives you a choice: a thin magazine (about 4 pages); write 44 pages yourself; or assume that it will all arrive late. It does.

By the 8th, you will have - if lucky, about half the magazine, a stack of half typed articles, a nervous breakdown, a worn out bottle of tippex or word processor, and a promise of 'marvelous 8 page articles' about to come. They usually arrive just after publication, with a note saying 'hope its not too late- all topical stuff.'

You post your final version-48 pages of white paper covered in print, drawings, glue, cats paws and whatever- off on the 15th. As material is still arriving on the 13th (and later), the final format of the mag may not take shape until posting day-scissors and prittstick are vital tools here.

I've only read EO from cover to cover twice- when I edited it- and find that I have missed all sorts of fascinating bits over the years by ignoring the "unappealing" parts.

All sorts of help is available to edit it: past editors will normally pass on advice/tranquilisers/late articles; a travelling typewriter is available if you haven't got one; and letaset for headings etc is usually posted around.

Costs of phone calls (to Samaritans, contributors etc), postage, replacements for bitten fingernails etc can all be recouped-my first 'bash' was when I was unemployed with a child being educated at home, on a portable typewriter, and needed two bottles of typing eraser. Payment was prompt and needed.

There are guidelines on what to do and when, to make sure that the magazine looks as wonderful as ever and at least fits in with the printers requirements. Bottles of whiskey unfortunately are not chargeable, but usually the fun side more than compensates for this.

It is a good way of making yourself more aware of the vast range of activities of EOers, and gives you an interest in a whole set of ideas and activities which you probably would otherwise ignore: you can have some fascinating chats over the phone, and read some interesting articles- editorial discretion as to what to print/leave out is usually more for 'passing on' to the next editor through lack of space than omissions likely to lead to spycatcher or watergate scandals.

Do the kids enjoy it? Well, my artists have been my son, who can show the pictures off to his friends, or 'inmates', who couldn't be identified (they weren't allowe to do it without permission, which can take months),so...praps if you become editor you can write about 'eo editors account of life in jail'.The Perils of Pauline pale into the distance....and yes, I'm foolish enough to be doing it again,as soon as I get out of this white jacket .



PAYING FOR LOCAL COORDINATORS

What do you get for your subscription? Six newsletters and a contact list is the obvious answer. But this isn't the whole story; among the other miscellaneous bills which arrive through the treasurer's letter box from time to time are claims from local coordinators for expenses they have incurred on behalf of EO.

So what do these coordinators do? There are as many answers to this as there are coordinators. What's more, many of them are kind enough to support EO by meeting their expenses out of their own pockets. But EO doesn't aim to penalise people for the work they do, particularly as much of it is done by people with limited finances. It therefore undertakes to reimburse coordinators for work done as an essential part of the job. Coordinating is essentially about putting people in touch with each other, so that means letters and phone calls.

If we claim expenses as coordinators, it's your money we're spending, so we're expected to put it to the best possible use. This means:

- * using second class post for all non-urgent letters;
- * keeping phone calls brief, and making them at cheap rates whenever possible;
- * using letters instead of long distance calls when possible.

You can also do your bit to save the money of other members by:

- * sending a stamped addressed envelope with your letter when you expect a reply; and
- * phoning your coordinator instead of waiting to be phoned when there's something to communicate.

Some coordinators do other things like organising workshops or meetings. EO can't normally reimburse them for hiring halls, etc, or for the cost of producing and sending out notices to the entire local membership. This is why, if you go to a local meeting, you may be asked for a small contribution, and also why local events tend to be advertised in the newsletter. (As these announcements have to be sent in long in advance, it's a good idea to check by phone a day or two before you intend to go to anything.)

Some coordinators may agree to come and support you if you have an appointment for an LEA visit or meeting. Alternatively, they may be able to arrange for another experienced member to come instead. If you can afford it, an offer to pay travelling expenses will often be greatly appreciated. EO will pay travel expenses, though, if this is really necessary. In the same way, coordinators can claim travel expenses for attending national meetings, but they are encouraged to meet their own costs if they can afford to. (Non-coordinators can also claim for this, once they have begun to play an active part in running EO - in the opinion of the treasurer!)

Coordinators do occasionally claim expenses for other things. But apart from the obviously trivial, special expenses for a particular purpose always have to be agreed in advance. Coordinators are also expected to keep careful records of those expenses they intend to claim for.

Of course, EO is essentially a voluntary self-help group. Nobody who works for it gets any payment for their services as such, so none of your subscription is used to pay anyone for working.

By the time you read this, a new set of guidelines on incurring and claiming expenses should have been sent out to coordinators. They include most of the above, in slightly greater detail, together with further advice on what sort of records to keep and how to claim. If you would like a copy, ask your coordinator. But don't forget to send a SAE and 30p to cover the cost of copying!

Rob Wade (West London)



EO PUBLICITY OFFICER

On 1st February I was surprised to learn that I was to take over from Joseph O'Connor as Publicity Officer. I made a tentative enquiry about Joe's job back in January, although thought many others in EO would be more suitable and forthcoming. The response was minimal, apparently, and I feel I don't want to let EO down. Unless those of us who benefitted from having known about EO when we deschooled our children carry on supporting the organisation, and publicising it, then there will continue to be many unhappy families in Britain still struggling within the School system, unaware of their rights and possible alternatives.

I would like to thank Joe O'Connor, Janet Everdell and Jennie White for their advice and offers of support. I would also like to ask for help from any EO members who become aware of irregularities and wrong assumptions made by the press and media at large as to the legalities of home education. I try to keep up with current issues on Education in the press but I can neither afford to subscribe to, or have time to read, everything that may hit the newsagents counters. Let me know if you read something outrageous. Let me know if a TV programme is planned on education issues. I will do my best to put EO on Page three - or even Page one if page three is already full of something else!

I am being given a list of members who are happy to be interviewed by the media regionally, but if you haven't heard of this and would be pleased to add your name to the list then drop me a line, with brief details of your family or any particular circumstances that may be useful to know.

If your Regional EO Group is planning a march on the DES, let me know! If you have brilliant ideas on publicity then tell me about them. The more information I get, the more informed I will be. So please, help me to do the job as well as possible. Your reward may be that one day there are less questions asked of you and your children in shops, swimming pools, museums during school hours. We should be able to reach a situation where when asked: "Are the children off school today?" we can answer, "No, they're home educated." and receive the reply, "Oh yes, I've heard about that. How interesting!"

instead of the usual interrogation we presently face from the majority of the population.

My name is Jo Rust (I am female!)

My number is 0767 50032 (But letter preferred, then I can digest it with my breakfast.)

My address: Dutter Cottage, B Church End, Gamlingay, Sandy, Beds. SG19 3EP



A DREAM COME TRUE



You have made the Oaktree dream come true by giving many different kinds of help - and above all time and care. On 6th September the great day finally came when 15 boys and girls began full-time secondary education at Oaktree House. Children, parents, staff and some friends of Oaktree shared in the first assembly. Brother Ligouri Gillespie spoke eloquently and left us much to meditate on.

There are two full-time tutors, Marie Fillingham and Madeleine Hair. They are assisted by 6 volunteer teachers, so that a wide-ranging curriculum is offered.

Carla Morgan and Matilda Ajagbe, paid by MSC until December, have been running the office and now that school has begun prepare the lunches for children and staff. Soon we hope to involve the children in this. Sally Annett, a volunteer, has been helping with administration and fundraising.

We aim to meet the children where they are and work out ways of facilitating their involvement in the learning process, and to provide an environment which brings out the best in them. We are working towards an holistic approach. This term's central theme is prehistory and beginnings.

During the first month our beginning here facing Sefton Park has involved a photography session in the Park and an exploration of the whole neighbourhood based on our needs (e.g. Bus stops, Library, Community Centre, Local bookshop, Shops.) The huge garden, especially the large overgrown vegetable area, has provided hours of challenge. We started clearing the vegetable patch of weeds under the leadership of Simon and Darren with only basic tools to experience what our prehistoric ancestors had to face. We were all amazed at what we achieved after one session, then the boys (mainly) continued during dinner and break. Animal traps were dug when the clearing was finished (now using forks and spades). However, these traps were soon turned into an archaeological dig when really interesting chunks of pottery were discovered. (Our architect is contacting a friend of hers who is an archaeologist for some expert input, if he is free and willing to come).

The fruit we picked from our elderberry trees is now becoming elderberry wine, port and cordial, all processed by the children with the guidance of Madeleine. The elderberry dye which they also made, was used on half an old sheet and is now a "Welcome to Oaktree" Batik hanging on the wall.

In Biology the children have learnt and practised how to take cuttings and re-pot them and also what a bulb is. They are now busy planting the hundreds of daffodil bulbs Lily Furlong gave them after thinning the daffodils in her own garden. Then they are going to do a plan of the trees at Oaktree and watch them through the different seasons, recording changes.

The Drama session with Carolyn Davies, who teaches at Sandown College, is a tremendous community-building experience, developing communication skills. So far we have each chosen a new name for ourselves in preparation for becoming Stone Age settlers with things to negotiate with each other.

The Maths has been based on ancient number systems and is heading towards individual projects under the guidance of Dr. Brian Williamson, who is a self-employed Maths Tutor, working voluntarily with us at present. Andrew Rock (Physical Science) has done some work on timelines, hexagons, angles etc. Michael Halligan comes once a week for P.E., using the Park when it is dry and

the local Community Centre gym or the Christian Brothers games room in Parr Street, if it is wet. Michael is a Spanish and French teacher.

Ted Burn's Art lessons started with us each choosing a shop in Lark Lane, memorising it, coming back and drawing it. Some of the work we've done with Ted on colour will be picked up by Andrew in Physical Science later.

Our daily programme is flexible to some extent - the general outline being:

- Assembly 9.10
- Group lesson 9.30 - 10.30
- Break 10.30 - 11 (Children free to continue what they are doing if they choose to.)
- Individual work and options 11 - 12.
- 1.15 Reading or storytime
- 1.45 Afternoon session (e.g. Art, Drama, P.E.)
- 3.00 Cleaning
- 3.30 Home

We have a tutorial system. Each child has a session with his/her tutor each fortnight (at the child's request, unless a reminder is needed). During this, general progress is assessed and the area of work or behaviour that needs to be concentrated on is pinpointed. Through this system we are aiming at the child taking more and more responsibility for his/her own learning.

Fundraising continues to be a challenge! We have received a grant which secures one teacher's salary for three years. Further generous donations from religious orders have recently been received. Give As You Earn forms and Covenant Forms are available from Sally for anyone who wants to make a regular donation. (no amount is too small!)

The lower ground floor has been transformed into a superb kitchen. When the kitchen/dining area is operational, the present kitchen will become an office. These renovated areas are in need of cleaning and decorating, so we will be looking for volunteers!

From a wealth of different experiences during the first half of the term, we want to finish by sharing a written comment by a parent and some inspired thoughts from the children:-

"He has become much more tolerant, helpful and willing. He is more mature in his thinking and is benefiting greatly from having the pressure removed from him, that he experienced in the 'conventional' system."

"Treat them the way you would like to be treated." (A quiet comment to a friend who was in a dispute over the sharing of garden tools).

"I'd like to be born somewhere where there was peace and no hate and no wars and fights, where people did not hate people of another colour. That's where I'd like to live."

OAKTREE EDUCATION TRUST,
24, HIGBURTH DRIVE LIVERPOOL, L17 4JH.

VI

Notices



CAMPING IN THE PEAK ON THE BORDERS OF DERBYSHIRE AND STAFFORDSHIRE

WEDNESDAY JUNE 14th-----SUNDAY JUNE 18th

If four nights is too many come for less. The site is at Barracks farm in Beresford Dale, and was used as an E.O site most successfully last year. The site owners are pleasant and the surroundings peaceful. Plenty of pitches are available at... Adults 60p.. Children 40p.. Car (Per Night) .40p.. Clean toilets and showers. Laundry room with wringer and sinks, slot meter for hot water, no washer or dryer. The nearest village is Hartington approx 4 miles away. Bring your own equipment and food, although milk is available at the farm and someone will be going to Hartington most days if you need extras. Book by writing or phoning us. We will book a pitch for you but you pay on arrival at the farm. If you need more details please contact.... **BEN and SHIRLEY KELK 63 NOTTINGHAM RD CHADDESDEN DERBY DE2 6RU. TEL 675535 (M.O.T. the V.W. Maggie)**

ACOMODATION AVAILABLE

...suit two or at a pinch three people own room plus share our quite large home near olympia WEST LONDON. We have a lot of visitors already and would welcome the influence of other E.O.er's. We are Elizabeth, John and Alice you can contact us at ...3Sterndale road, LONDON W14 OHT. TEL, 01-603-7401.

CHOOSING A SCHOOL

All children must be educated between the ages of 5 and 16 .Its is your responsibility to see that this happens. A few people decide to educate their child at home, although it may be difficult to do so successfully.....

(Our Changing Schools)

KAREN Kay

TRAVELLING COMPANION(S) for Europe WANTED this summer-Interrail ticket for 1 or 2 months envisaged.

RONNIE BARTRAM (18), 61, MUMFORD RD, WEST BERGHOLT, COLCHESTER, ESSEX.
(Please get in touch soon!)

TRAVELLER'S SCHOOL CHARITY A.C.M.

OPEN DAY 2-6 pm 15-4-89

at Canon FROME. Court off A417 nr Ledbury

8-12.00 evening benefit for the SKOOL BUS with
Indian Classical music, ANOTHER GREEN WORLD
(KEYBOARDS & SAX) and the SKO/Ragga of the Rhythm trer
£3.00, Bar + FOOD.

VII

RESEARCH ON **Yoga** IN EDUCATION

The aim of this organisation is to introduce simple yoga techniques into the daily life of the "educational system". It is not suggested that a yoga lesson be introduced but that the techniques to be used as an aid to learning in the existing study programme. The techniques will be taught at a workshop held by David Dredge (R.Y.E. Director) on

SATURDAY 6th May from 10.30-4.00

The cost of the day is £8.00 and includes a booklet. No previous experience of yoga or teaching is necessary for this introductory session.

The workshop will be held in Birmingham and for more details write to David Dredge, 32 New Street, Wordsley, West Midlands. DY8 5RX or phone him on 0384 293716 (expect an ansaphone)

Don't leave your application to the last minute as David will book the venue in mid April to match the response.

THE WALLACES.

In each of the past 4 years we, being Bruce, Christine, Kirsty, Calum and Ruari, have held an 'EO Week' at our home in Diabaig in north west Scotland. We all want to say that while we can't have a 'week' this year, we still have 'open house' as before and would welcome visits from any EO family that is in the north, whether touring or looking for a place to stay for a few days. We have plenty of space for camping, plus quite a bit of spare room in our house. Do give us a ring to be sure we're not out on some ploy or other - we lead busy lives!

Love and peace, from B.C.K.C.&R. Wallace.

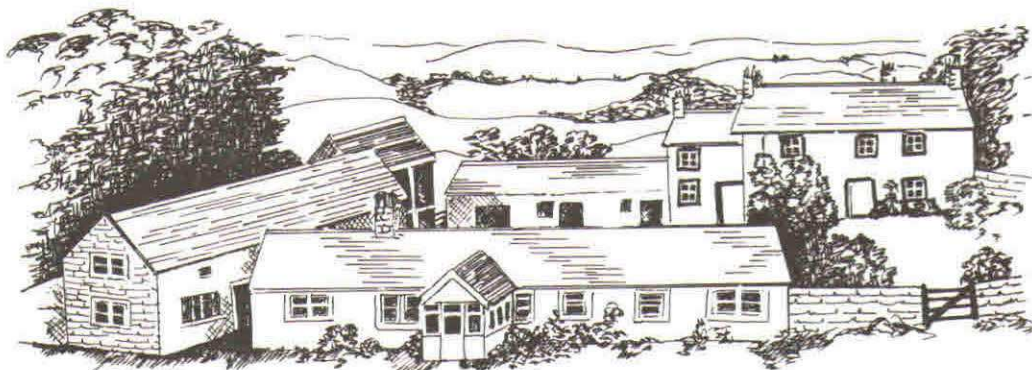
JANET EVERDELL.

Janet has been active in EO, to a major degree, for a long time. She has been 'Enquiries Secretary' for 7 years and 'head office/central address' for 6. Over this time she has had a very heavy burden of work, both administrative and advisory. She has talked at length, on the telephone, to countless distraught parents. Anyone who, like Christine and I, has had the occasional call of this nature can appreciate the emotional strain of having done this vital work for such a long time. The sheer drudgery of Central Address paperwork was grim!

Janet has now retired from 'active' work for EO and we want to publically express our thanks and appreciation for everything that she has done for us and everyone else within EO over the years. Janet continues to allow EO to us her home as 'Registered Office', posting on enquiries to the various regional people who have taken on her work. The EO 'HELPLINE' answerphone is still to be at her home. So, we are glad that Janet is still with us, and glad that she has been relieved of her burden!

Bruce & Christine Wallace.





ALLERGARTH

a small farm in North Cumbria
which welcomes individuals,
families or small groups

We are two families living and working cooperatively on a 12-acre small-holding. Are there any EO families who would like to visit us for a week or a weekend and join in our daily activities, which include gardening, caring for animals, milking (goats and cows), making cheese and yoghurt, repairing old buildings, carpentry, working in woodland?

We can offer simple accommodation, either self-contained or in one of the family homes, charges negotiable according to means.

We are having a dairying weekend in May (19th-21st), covering handmilking to making yoghurt and cheese. But most other dates are possible for us at any time of the year.

We have six children between us, four of them under school age (Joseph, Beth, Amy and Rachel), while Esther (8) and Elsie (5) currently go to the local small school. We would welcome closer contact with people who have experience of home schooling or are considering it.

Ruth and Mike Downham
or

If you are interested in visiting us, please contact: Ruth and David Clark

Allergarth, Rowelton, Carlisle CA6 6JU Tel: Roadhead(06978) 214

Two University of Utah researchers are seeking home educated adults for a national survey on home schooling. The survey will assess characteristics, views, and attitudes of adults who were educated at home for the duration at least two years.

If you are interested in completing a survey, or if you know of an adult who would be willing to participate, please contact J. Gary Knowles or Jeannie Goodman, Department of Educational Studies, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112, or phone (801) 581-8175. Your assistance will further research on home schooling.

IX


THE
UNIVERSITY
OF UTAH

THE TRAVELLERS' SCHOOL CHARITY: Reg. No. 327731

PRESENTS

AN

OUT-OF-SCHOOL

CHILDREN'S CAMP

12th-19th
MAY

AT

£5^{per}
1989

CRANMORE TOWER,
(SOMERSET) FOR STATE

FOR FAMILIES WHO DON'T SUBSCRIBE TO SCHOOLS

HOME SCHOOLERS, NEW AGE TRAVELLERS & THOSE INTERESTED IN ALTERNATIVES

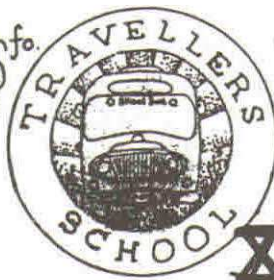
to gather on this small, secluded, beech wood site near Shepton Mallet for a cheap, self-help camping event for a whole week of activities almost exclusively for the children. This is the first such gathering which we are encouraging you to help create by bringing your skills, knowledge and enthusiasm to share with others in simple / practical activities and to begin finding out what WE can do for ourselves.

THE TRAVELLERS' SCHOOL CHARITY has been established to help parents provide the kind of education they feel is appropriate and best for their children. We aim to promote new models for learning, new culture - friendly resources and the creation of co-operative projects.

THE SKOOL BUS is an independent mobile educational resource centre, set up by and for New Age Travellers as a self - help initiative. It will be at the camp, with its play - dome and we will provide basic toilet, water and wood facilities for camping, a cafe will be available too but the rest is up to you & you & ALL of US.

We hope to learn from this event to go on to make future camps provide a more supportive environment with better facilities and offer a structure for practical workshop programmes to be offered.

For more info.
Tel. (0432)
352133



Contact: Richie,
24 Clive Street
Hereford,
HR1 2SB

NOTICES CONT.- -

could the person who advertised RUBBER COIN STAMPS and GINN MATHS BOOKS for sale ,please accept my apologies ,forfor not including their name and address in the last newsletter .You will be able to contact

Joy Lambeth ,221, Jesmond rd,Jesmond ,Newcastle-Upon-Tyne.As she was the first one to respond to the ad ,thinking that Brenda Morley was the person advertising them....sent in by Judy Allan,36 Thornley Park Drive

----- Paisley.PA2 7RP. -----

ADDRESS RE-USE LABLES

To the woman who has written to me twice, and paid for some lables-I am very sorry for the delay and the mix up,but I now have a supply of lables but have lost your address -please write again and I will send them straight away.--Valerie Gomman ,19 New Rd, Castlethorpe ,Milton Keynes.MK19 7EH.

BRING AND BUY SALE in aid of E.O.

Tuesday ,18th April,1989. 11am--2am

Bill,Mary ,&Danny Edwards 1,Frairs Way, Acton London W3 6QF
We plan to provide a buffet lunch so it would be a great help if you could let us know you are coming . 01-992-8549.

Julian,Emma ,Martha(7), Reuben(5), Agnes(1½) Orbach,have moved to Wales (WEst) near Cardigan .We have 17acres ,one mile from the sea ,plenty of space for camping &2 holiday flats .We would welcome any E.O families who would like a cheap holiday. Also we have a large family house empty soon and would like to meet any homeschoolers who would interested injoining our small community (presently 2 families,4 children) INTERESTS include woodturning ,Spinning, Wearing, Organic Market Gardening,Meditation, Folk Music . Craftspeople/musicians especially welcome.

A change of name

Dyfed oc-ordinators Margarat and Alastair Bonham-Noyle wish to make it knowed that in future they will be.....

MERERID and AILENI CALONYDDAEAR

Calonyddaeear means Heart,or Love ,of the earth.

GLASTONBURY CND FESTIVAL

We will be doing an E.O. stall as usual in the Green Field at Glastonbury CND festival (16-18 June).The person organising the Green Field would like to have abig exhibition about E.O. and also would like to hear from anyone wno would be prepared to do a talk or workshop on E.O. We will be to busy with the stall to do any of these extra things. If you may be able to help with any of this,please contact NICK HARRISON,THE COBBLES 7,ANGEL HILL, TIVERTON ,DEVON. phone 0884.258134. you would not need to sell E.O.publications but could direct people to our stall if they wanted to buy newsletters S.I.N.C.,John Holt etc.
Vicki Willow ,37 Merton place, Littlebury ,Saffron Walden,ESSEX,CB11 4TH.

HOLIDAY HOUSE(SWAP OR SIMILAR)

Would any E.O.family be interested in staying in our cottage for a week or two and looking after our animals so that we are able to take a family holiday .We live more or less equidistance from Gloucester,Hereford and Worcester, about 10minuites drive from The Malvern Hills and about 45 mins drive into Wales or to The Cotswolds.The cottage is not large but detached very informal and cosy With a good sized untidy garden.Please contact us if you are interested(We would prefer to arrange some time out of school holiday time but this is not essential)

The Hall Daveys Judgement Cottage,LEDDINGTON,Dymok.GLos.GL18 2DZ.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

KENT (Please come!)

APRIL 14th---Rochester castle and cathedral ,Meet in car park at 12 noon

MAY 10th-----Dungeness Nuclear Power station ,meet at main entrance.

JUNE 18th----Walmer castle and grounds. Meet in car park opposite at 12 noon weather permitting ,for a picnic on the beach or 2pm to visit castle.

JULY 13th---Bowl water reservoir ,Lamberhurst .Meet in car park at 12 noon. more details next newsletter.

////////////////////

Please write to PAM STEVENSON. 25 WYNDHAM ROAD, DOVER .KENT or ring Lois Cook on HERNE BAY 367059. to confirm you are coming, otherwise just turn up. If anyone would like to open their home for an informal get-together or arrange a day out please let one of us know. Three months notice would be needed to allow us to advertize in the newsletter, in advance.

SOUTH LONDON

SUN 30thAPRIL--1pm-5pm at Norwood children's centre, ST,Lukes Chambers 2-8 Norwood high street,SE27.....Nick Vidal-Hall(E.O.member and trainee homeopath) will talk about homeopathic ideas on the treatment and immunisation of children.

SATURDAY 27th MAY---11am-3pm at the child and parent centre,The Albany, Douglas Way SE8. There may be a dancing sessions for the children-this has not yet been confirmed.

SUNDAY 25th JUNE---1pm--5pm at Norwood children's Centre. Maggie Newlands (E.O.member and musician) will do a short music session with the children followed by a talk in which she will share some of her ideas and experiences about introducing young children to music.

////////////////////

Everyone welcome .Please bring food/drink to share
For more details phone Rachel 582 3949 orDorothy 469 0413

NORTH LONDON

We are meeting at SWISS COTTAGE COMUNITY CENTRE ,19Winchester road NW3 close to Swiss Cottage T ube ,on the first Sunday of every month.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
Sun 2 APRIL	11.30am-2.30pm	First Aid
Sun 7 MAY	"	Electronics
Sun 4JUNE	"	Country Dancing
Sun 2 JULY	NO MEETING- the swiss cottage Festival will be held on sat and sun 1 and 2 July, and the whole site will be used for that.	

plus:Bring and buy Sale

EO membersfrom all areas,or anyone else with an interest in otherwise education,are welcome at these meetings. Please bring food and drink to share for lunch. There is a charge of 50p per family to help cover the cost of hiring the premises(except on 2 april,when we must charge £1 per family, to include a (rather nominal)payment for the Red Cross instructor who is running the workshop).

Generally we try to gear activities so as to offer something of interest to all ages ,from the very youngest up to adults,though here again theres one exception this time :Micheal Thompson tells us that May workshop ,a practical demonstration of the woodboard electronics

featured in the electronics corner of the recent newsletters",will be suitable for adults and older children. Please note that there willalso be a bring and buy sale on that date :bring along anything your family has grown out of ,and buy a bargain; all prices very low!

For futher info on N.London activities contact...JEFFREY BENGE 883-7906 or ANDREA GRANVILLE 328-4138.



LONDON CONT

MAY 10th----GEFFRYE museum .Atalk on the Elizebethian /Tudor room.
ring TONY 249-0945 for further information.

WEST YORKSHIRE

MAY15th: Halifax Pauline Woodhead 0422-247320.

Leave Halifax on the keighley Road then you will see a Morrison's supermarket on the left. 200yrds futher you will see the talbot Inn. Turn left into Raw Lane ,just before the inn. Bear right round a sharp right-handed bend and "COBBLEBANK"illingworth, is 200yrds on the left

If you have reached two semi"s on the right you have missed it.The entrance is not very clear but drive in between two posts.

JULY 10th:Bradford Sue Lyon 0274-638337

RAINBOW CHALET ,6 PARKCLIFFE RD,BRADFORD .Follow the ring road signs and we are on the ring road between Harrogate rd and Canal rd to Shipley near peelpark. Phone if necessary.

]]
september 18th Sarah Cooke 41 ST George Avenue LEEDS7, 0532-629557

NOVEMBER 13th Alison Tribe 4Penistone rd, BIRDS EDGE ,HUDDERSFIED
0422-606618.

FAMILY GATHERINGS

APRIL 25th---Roundhay park,Leeds.Butterfly House,Insect world etc,
Meet at 11a.m. Bring picnic lunch.No charge

MAY 25th---Temple Newsam,Leeds Home Farm and a Jacobian Mansion.Meet
at 11a.m.Bring a picnic lunch.

JUNE 13th Kirkstall Abbey and museum. Reconstructed Victorian street
Adults 75p ..Children 35p..(free with Blue Peter badge).

Meet at museum at 11am. Bring picnic lunch.

JUNE 27th---Lunch at Jenny Clark's 40 Haslingden Drive,Heaton, BRADFORD
0274-492268 Bring a contribution. 12 noon

AUGUST 20th---Possibility of a stall at Huddersfield Green Fair.Anyone
interested phone Alison Tribe please.

GLAMORGAN AREA

We meet mid month, every month.Phone 0433 227912 for details or send
an S.A.E to KATE POWELL,1 EDITH VILLAS. LLANTRISANT. MID-GLAM. CF7 8ET

C A M E O

Hope every one in Cambs had a great Christmas-gosh,it's April already!
How time flies when your EOing.By now you should have had time to study
the letter I sent you in Feb,about possible events, and ideas for a
CAMEO Directory. To those of you who have responded,many thanks.
It's really difficult for me to write this for the April edition,since at
time of writing it's only February! I expect the tulips are blooming,and
the sun is getting warmer.I really envy those regions who can write about
picnics on May 1st,trip to Tower of London on June 5th etc.. At the
moment I can think no further than Valentine's Day or Easter at most!
So much depends of course on to my letter about what you expect from EO
at a regional level.Perhaps by the time you read this we will have
organised some thing already!

Welcome to all new Cambs members who have finally made it
into the new contact list.

Thanks to Sharon Blaukopf for her continued support of EO
members with 'authority' problems.

What else can I say?

Happy May Day.

Jo JO RUST

XIII

LEICESTERSHIRE

We have recently established some sort of dialogue with Leicestershire Education Authority which has led to a shift in policy with regard to E.O.. In future the norm will be that families will automatically be given a copy of reports made about them and the suitability of the education they are providing for their children. We also requested that a change be made in the booklet "Information for Parents" that the L.E.A. publishes so that it would no longer state that by law, children of five and over must attend school. This has now been implemented and although it does not mention the homeschooling option it is at least factually correct! The other thing that they have done is improve the letter that is sent to parents when they first notify the L.E.A. of their intention to homeschool, by the alteration of just one word! Now the letter does not insist that the child remain at school until such a time that the proposed educational programme is deemed suitable, - but merely suggests that he/she does! All in all perhaps no great achievement, however at least we have a reasonably friendly contact within the L.E.A. with whom we feel able to discuss things as they arise...Other areas take heart - it is possible to nudge them a little in our direction!

An increase in active members means that we have been meeting more frequently than ever before and doing more interesting things. We have recently been: Brass Rubbing, to the theatre to see The Hobbit, The Snowman, Ballet Rambert and The Nutcracker Suite, to a small privately owned Steam Railway, and have had a drama workshop.

We would appreciate ideas and "input" from other homeschoolers and would be happy to see visiting members and "E.O.ers" from neighbouring areas at our get-togethers ...they are usually pretty informal.

Wed. April 12th.

...And the second Wednesday of every month - meet Beaumont Leys pool (Leicester) for a swim. 12 noon onwards (bring picnic lunch). This pool has a wave machine and water chute as well as training pools, small slides etc.

Sat. April 15th.

Trampoline and either Badminton or Table Tennis at Hood Park leisure centre, Ashby de la Zouch. Meet at Malcolm and Jill Hornsby's house any time after 12.30pm if desired, or go straight to leisure centre for 2.30pm. Telephone Malcolm and Jill for directions/details Ashby (0530) 416734.

Visit to Bosworth Battlefield

- ring Lesley Cooper / Pierre Vettori for details...Market Bosworth 291784.

Cycle Ride.

Date to be arranged. Either at Clumber Park near Mansfield or at Rutland Water near Oakham. Both places have bike hire facilities (about £1.50 per bike). Phone Gordon and Liz Ramsay for details. (We hope to be able to arrange lifts if needed) ...East Leake 856604.(Please note new number!)

NEW CO-ORDINATOR:CO DURHAM

We are hoping to organise a few more events based in Co.Durham- anyone interested get in touch with me.Specifically considered are a visit to Preston Park(museum,period street, river walks, bird enclosures,and large play are,all free) Hamsterly Forest,Bowes museum, and the sea side Two offers of hospitality for aparents evening have been made,dates not fixed yet,but Wednesday evening seems most likely.

I have found an excellent venue for a weekend get to-gether, its cheap and centrally heated.There will be at least one barbeque(weather permiting) and there are contry walks near-by.I willbook the hall-which is a few miles from Barnard Castle- if enough people are interested. Most likely dates are the 2nd or 3rd weekend in July. Minimum number of people is 15 per night. maximum beds 25.Floors are O.K to sleep on,and I will check on camping if anyone wants.Cost is £2 per night,so with food £10 seems a reasonable amount to aim for(per adult). Anyone who likes to arrange menus and food buying is more than welcome to contact me.

JULIE TURNBULL, COCKFIELD HOUSE,48,FRONT STREET,COCKFIELD, BISHOPS AUCKLAND, CO.DURHAM DL13 5DS.Phone..0388 710 308

HIGHLAND REGION.

If any Highland members would fancy meeting up in Inverness Museum sometime, do get in touch to arrange a suitable day. Any members are always very welcome to visit to meet us and chat! If anybody would like to take over as co-ordinators we'd enjoy some fresh ideas and input. It's difficult to arrange meetings because of the distances involved. Bruce and Christine Wallace.



NEW PECKHAM EDUCATION PROJECT

To grow out of Kirkdale Free School (offering children self-regulation and a close-knit community of families rather like the old Peckham Centre; also offering part-time involvement).

Come to a drop-in type Open Meeting on Saturday 22 April at The Thomas Calton Community Education Centre Alpha Street, Peckham, London SE15

Open 10.30 am to 6.30 pm: main focus from about 2.30 onwards...

Hear about (and contribute to)

- * Plans for the new Peckham Centre or School
- * Meet families from Kirkdale School

Sponsored by the Human Scale Education Movement (London Branch)

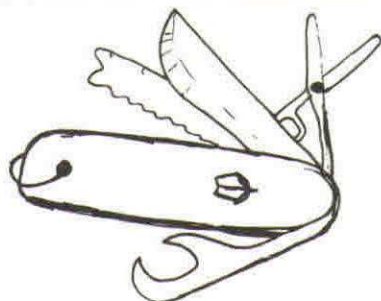
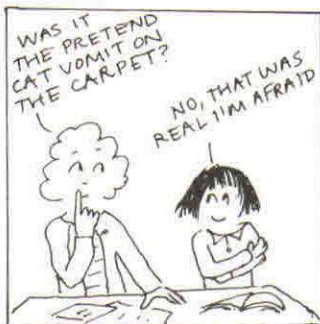
Contact for more precise information nearer the time and about Kirkdale School and the Human Scale Education Movement

Ruth Goffe 01-675 4388 (answering machine available) or write to 11 Veronica Road, London SW17 8QL.

EDUCATING ARCHIE ♦ April Fools ♦

SEG

4/83



ON PENKNIVES AND PENNY WHISTLES.

Being of the penknife-toting mentality we've found the most practical, from many points of view, to be an Opinel. These have no sneaky spring to trap unwary or inexperienced fingers; they have a simple locking ring at the base of the blade so it cannot snap shut at inappropriate moments; being steel they are straightforward to sharpen; and they are cheap, prices varying according to length of blade - £4. buys a good size. We have overcome the disadvantage of not being able to tie the knife to it's owner by drilling a hole through the end of the handle (it's wood) and twisting on a loop of wire to attach to lanyard and belt.

Finding the noise a descant recorder makes a little hard to live with, we introduced our family to penny whistles. They sound good very quickly (a great advantage in a household with more than one possible beginner), the fingering is very straightforward simply going up and down and blow harder for the higher notes, and they are cheap - even in expensive Inverness we can buy one for about £2.

Christine Wallace.

EO WEEKEND AT UNSTONE GRANGE : 16-19 June 1989

<u>We are:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Age (if under 16)</u>	<u>Sex (M or F)</u>
-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----

We would like to stay for (please tick):

FRIDAY NIGHT [] SATURDAY NIGHT [] SUNDAY NIGHT []

We would like to be accommodated:

	<u>no. of adults</u>		<u>no. of children</u>
in beds	-----	@ £4.75	----- @ £3.75
on the floor	-----	@ £2.75	----- @ £1.25
camping in tent or van	-----	@ £1.50	----- @ £1.00

Payment

Charge per night (i.e. total for everyone)	£	-----	<u>Please send me a map</u>
Multiplied by number of nights		x -----	[]
Total for weekend	£	-----	
Plus booking fee		-----	(tick)
		5 0 p	
TOTAL PAYABLE	£	-----	

I enclose a cheque/postal order for the above amount, payable to Education Otherwise Ltd, together with a stamped addressed envelope.

We are new to EO gatherings [] (tick as appropriate)

We would be happy to show people around []

Signature ----- Telephone -----

Address -----

[See elsewhere for booking address and details]

SUSSEX NEWS

Meet 1st Monday of every month at Drusilla's Zoo, Alfriston. 11.30, Outside glass cage at entrance, or 1.00pm in adventure playground. Our meetings are thriving - we had a lovely sunny day in March with 9 families meeting and great fun was had by all. We are looking into the possibility of using the schools facilities - use of classroom, possibility of children helping out looking after animals, and perhaps a guided tour.

A group with children who are just school age are meeting regularly in Lewes and looking into the possibility of hiring a hall, so anyone interested should get in touch with ERICA RICHARDSON.

Would anyone be interested in meeting in Uckfield for swimming, please get in touch. LINDA TYRRELL has gallantly taken on the running of the Sussex newsletter - contributions from adults and children welcome.

LONDON OUTINGS

Tues May 9th....The London Diamond Centre 11.15 £3.50 for adults and children only ten places booked so get in touch if you want to come.

Mon May 22nd....Meet in Science Museum foyer at 11.15 or picnic area at 12.30

Tues June 13th....Trip round London Fire Station. Ring for details nearer the time-limited numbers.

Mon June 26th....Museum as above.

Tues July 11th National theatre tour 12.30 limited numbers properly £1.30 each.

Mon 24th July....Museum as above

Ring Sue PETSZAFT or Anne Wade in case of any query.

Sue Petszaft tel 0892 661319

Re:- advert on page 10 (I could't fit it in anywhere else)

Dear Members

EO is considering an affiliated membership for our charity to act as a go between EO and travellers/mobile home educators, also the possibility of tutoring some of us to act as legal advisors in what begins to feel like the Traveller wing of EO!! (We need a stock of publications). Or is it a much broader cultural movement, called "Hippies", The alternative as a recognisable oppressed indigenous minority.

Things are going very well for the skool bus and for the positive energy of the Traveller/Alternative scene. I think this first childrens camp will be something of a milestone in the developing alternative Education scene. It feels important and we want to give home educators the chance of

taking part. Richie 2, CLIVE STREET, HEREFORD, HRI 2SB. TEL: 0432 352133



EO WEEKEND AT UNSTONE GRANGE : 16-19 June 1989

Unstone Grange is a large country house set in spacious grounds near Unstone village, between Sheffield and Chesterfield (map ref. 381776). This year we will be getting together there again, but slightly later than usual. The weekend will be self catering. Milk will be available for sale and there will be communal supplies of tea and coffee. Beds have pillows, blankets and eiderdowns. Bring sheets, or sleeping bags, and pillow cases. Arrival time is from 4.30 on Friday.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Some local trains stop at Dronfield; otherwise the nearest railway stations are Sheffield and Chesterfield. Buses between Sheffield and Chesterfield (not Sun.) stop at the end of Crow Lane. It's a good half mile uphill, signposted Apperknowle. The house payphone is Dronfield 415103.

BOOKING: A form appears elsewhere in this newsletter. ^{< PAGE 17} Note that Sunday night will only be available if enough people book for it in good time. Volunteers are urgently required for workshops and activities, so please let us know when booking if you can help. Please send booking with SAE and payment as soon as possible, and in any case not later than 15 May, to:

June & Ian Grant, 25 Chipperfield Road, The Manor, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, Herts. HP3 0AH. Tel. Hemel Hempstead (0442) 64020.

DAY VISITORS: You don't need to book, but you will be charged £1 per adult per day on arrival, children free. Please bring a picnic.

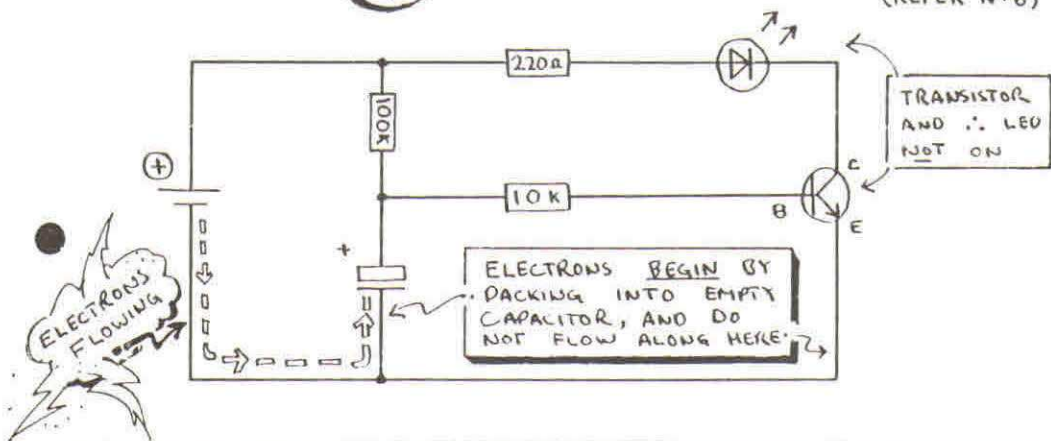
ELECTRONICS CORNER..

FILE + COLLECT

NUMBER 7 IN A SERIES

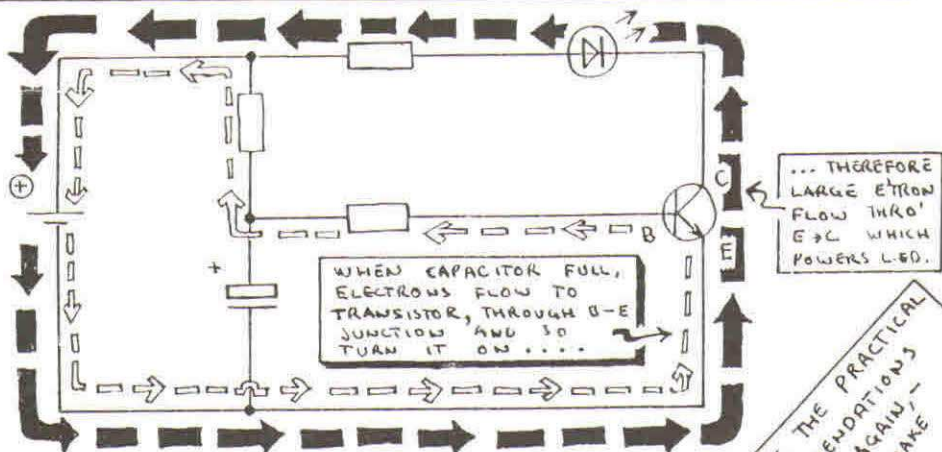
HOW THE TIME DELAY WORKS...

(REFER N°6)



'ELECTRON FLOW' v. 'CURRENT FLOW'! PART (2b) ILLUSTRATED

TRANSISTOR FUNCTION IN TERMS OF THE POPULAR IDEA OF 'ELECTRIC CURRENT' ($\oplus \rightarrow \ominus$). IN FACT THIS IS NOT SO, - 'ELECTRONS' FLOW FROM $\ominus \rightarrow \oplus$ AS SHOWN.



TRY THE PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN (6) AGAIN - IT WILL MAKE SENSE.

NO ROOM FOR RESISTOR COLOUR-CODE, - NEXT TIME..

CHILD BENEFIT UPDATE

Until 1986, the Child Benefit Act, (which replaced the Family Allowance Act in 1975) ruled that a child who was not attending a school was not entitled to Child Benefit after the 16th birthday. After a battle, which began five years ago, the Act was changed in July 1986 and the situation now is that a child who began full-time (12 hours per week in term time) education at home BEFORE the 16th birthday is entitled to Child Benefit up to the 19th birthday. If your child's 16th birthday fell after July 1986 and the LEA knew that that child was home educated before the 16th birthday then you are entitled to claim Child Benefit for as long as your child is home educated up to its 19th birthday.

Sometime during your child's sixteenth year you will be sent a form, by the DHSS, requesting information on the child's education after it is sixteen, on which you should put that your child is/will be home educated. It might help to emphasize this by saying that this child is and will be educated in accordance with the provisions of the Social Security Act, 1986 and Section 36 of the Education Act 1944. For any family who has missed out on their Child Benefit but who are in fact entitled then it would be advisable to send a letter to the DHSS stating that:

Dear Sir,

Since (date of last attendance at school) my daughter (full name) whose date of birth is (d.o.b.) has been educated full-time at home in accordance with the provisions of the Social Security Act, 1986 and Section 36 of the Education Act, 1944.

I, therefore, intend to continue to claim and draw Child Benefit for my child up to their 19th birthday (date) or until they cease full-time home-based education, whichever is the sooner.

I should be most grateful if you will confirm receipt of this letter and the information contained in it.

Yours sincerely

It is advisable to post such a letter by recorded letter and keep the receipt and a copy of the letter.



Animals ¹ in Education

No matter how we rear our children there will come a time when they will make up their own minds about the way that they wish to lead their lives. Along the way however it is surely our responsibility to make accessible many different thoughts and ideas, facts and fictions so that they have a good basis on which to form their own opinions about the world and what goes on in it.

I have included alot of extracts from information leaflets (mainly R.S.P.C.A. and Vegan Soc.)-and they make for some uncomfortable reading. I felt that it was relevant to include them as they affect us all so directly in one way or another. I for one have been very moved by what I've read and am even now seeking to make some changes in my life with regard to what I eat and wear in the future.

We already considered ourselves to be an 'ecology conscious' family, and are long standing vegetarians. However the facts about intensive dairy farming in particular, stopped me in my tracks, and we have now substituted our 'doorstep' pintas for soya milk.

We do keep animals - hens, ducks, horses, a cat and some stick insects. We feed and water and care for them, but is this enough and is it right that we have them atall?

With these thoughts in mind I havn't found it within me to write positively about the keeping of animals as pets/companions.

It is a fact that far too many pets are aquired without considering the long term implications eg. expense, longevity of life, what to do in holidays etc. Many are left to breed indiscriminately and many end up in animal rescue homes where they are ultimately destroyed if a new and more caring home cannot be found. There has also been extensive research into the problem of the Toxocara worm which is carried by cats and dogs and appears to be present in most of the parks in this country and can in extreme cases cause blindness in children

There are however many ways we can enjoy the beauty, diversity and mystery of animals in the world without feeling the need to 'own' one. There is an immense feeling of pleasure and excitement when observing even the smallest of animals in its natural environment.

We can also encourage some of our native wildlife to our own gardens by creating suitable environments for their needs (See RSPCA leaflets-Hedgehogs and Frogs and Toads)-and thereby observe wildlife at close hand everyday.

By the way, if you only have one postage stamp left I recommend that you use it to write to the RSPCA. They have a very comprehensive range of leaflets dealing with all sorts of animal issues(many only 5p each) aswell as guides for the caring of various animals and even a free video lending service. If you have two stamps left and you feel as moved as I did then use it to write to The Vegan Society!

There obviously isn't enough room in one supplement - put together with the obvious bias of one person- to say all that needs to be said about 'animals in education'.

I leave it to you to fill in the gaps in future newsletters.

I hope that this supplement will provoke thought and discussion about the animal-human relationship, and not offend those of you who have animals and feel happy with them.

Animals in Childrens Books

Until it was pointed out to me for this supplement I hadn't really carefully considered the way that animals of all kinds are 'used' and 'abused' in many of our childrens books and stories. Apart from the obvious - idyllic scenes of happy looking animals in farmyards, zoos and circuses - wolves almost always portrayed as the villain of the piece, there are many, many more once one starts looking through ones book shelves.

Naomi Lewis, Childrens Books Editor for The Observer, has written a thought provoking article exploring the assumptions underlying the portrayal of animals in childrens books and a copy of this aswell as a list of her recommended childrens books can be obtained by writing to The Vegan Society.

(Please enclose a contribution towards photocopying and postage.)

hisa Hall Davey

Animals – Friends – ?

Animals share our world. Without them our planet could not exist as we know it. We use them in lots of ways. Some work for us and many are our companions and friends.

Helping Animals

Unfortunately, animals are often badly treated. This can be because we don't think, or don't even care what we are doing to them.

Animals give us a lot; it's up to us to make sure we give them something in return.

Foxes have been hunted for sport in Britain throughout the past 250 years. As people have become increasingly concerned about animal welfare over the past century, so hunt followers have given various reasons for their pursuit, besides the fact that they enjoy it.

Today, when pressed to justify their actions, most hunt supporters explain that killing foxes by hunting them with hounds is necessary to protect poultry and livestock, and makes a positive contribution to conservation. They say that the fox is a pest whose numbers have to be controlled.

Despite all the changes there have been in agriculture, in the environment and in our knowledge of fox biology, the hunt supporters' arguments have remained the same.

The RSPCA rejects those arguments. We say that:

- Fox hunting is NOT necessary for the protection of livestock
- Fox hunting is NOT necessary for conservation
- As research has shown, the fox is NOT a significant pest.

But our main objection is that **CONSIDERABLE SUFFERING** is inflicted on foxes chased and killed by dogs for 'sport'.

AFTER 250 YEARS, IT IS TIME FOR FOX HUNTING TO STOP.

What you can do

- When travelling abroad, avoid entertainment such as bullfights or being photographed with monkeys and gifts such as fur, souvenirs or coral products.

Back in ancient times humans discovered that, once tamed, animals could be put to many uses. They could be reared and eaten, used as transport and put to work; they also made entertaining companions. And humans have been busy breeding and modifying the 'pet species' ever since. Our cats and dogs are descendants of those first wolves and wild cats who learnt to put their trust in human kind.

With over half the households in Britain owning a pet we are certainly a nation of 'animal keepers', but do we deserve our reputation as 'animal lovers'?

PETS OR PRISONERS

Many people keep animals like rabbits, birds and fish in cages and tanks. Some of these animals are captured from the wild. Even if they are well cared for what about their natural instincts to burrow, live in groups, forage or even fly?



THE CIRCUS IS NO PLACE FOR ANIMALS

The RSPCA believes that it is impossible that the activities of circus animals can ever achieve any worthwhile goals in either education, research or conservation.

They must always rely on a show of man's dominance over the animal and will inevitably always present a distorted view of wildlife. Therein lies their futility.

IT'S YOUR CHOICE

We have no excuse

The first curious spectators at early circus shows can't be condemned for condoning cruelty. They knew nothing about exotic wild animals.

We have no such excuse. Education, travel and television have given us all easy access to the natural habitats of nearly every wild animal. We recognise that they are in our care and our concern for them is heightened by the fact that so many of them are now faced with extinction as a result of human exploitation. How, with the knowledge that we have of them, can we possibly justify their role as 'entertainers'?

Avoid zoos and circuses with animals. If you want your children to see wild animals, much better to hire films showing them in their natural environment.

SAYING NO TO FUR

Every year millions of fur-bearing animals are killed for their skins. Some are trapped in the wild and suffer a slow and painful death. Others are farmed in conditions that many people find abhorrent. Anybody who buys a fur is contributing to this exploitation.



INTENSIVE FARMING

That's the name of today's agricultural game, supposedly in the cause of 'efficient' food production. But, ironically, the truth is that our dependence on animal products represents an appalling waste of resources: farm animals compete with us for land, food, water, buildings and fuel, and their waste-matter constitutes a major source of water pollution.

THREATENED WILDLIFE

Many people care about the disappearance of wildlife habitats and about pollution, but how many realise that their own eating habits are contributing to these problems?

What protection is there for farm animals?

Under the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968, it is an offence to cause unnecessary pain to animals kept commercially on agricultural land, or to allow them to suffer unnecessary stress.

The Government's Farm Animal Welfare Council exists to advise the Minister of Agriculture on the welfare of farm animals, and has produced many Welfare Codes. It is obvious, however, that the degree to which these can be implemented in intensive systems is open to serious question, and consideration is now being given to making some parts of the Codes mandatory.

These proposed regulations will be considered in relation to Article 3 of the *European Convention for the Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purposes*, which states: 'Animals shall be housed and provided with food, water and care in a manner which - having regard to their species and to their degree of development, adaptation and domestication - is appropriate to their physiological and ethological needs in accordance with established experience and scientific knowledge.'

The Slaughter of Food Animals

FACTS ABOUT FOOD ANIMALS

Did you know that:

- Each year we slaughter for human food more than 33 million cattle, calves, sheep and pigs and about 470 million poultry
- On average in the United Kingdom each man, woman and child eats about 1 kg (2.2 lb) of meat every week
- Bad handling of livestock during transport and slaughter causes acute suffering to the animals while they are alive, and results in damaged carcasses and inferior quality meat after their death
- Meat from animals killed in religious slaughter is regularly sold to the general public
- The Government appointed Farm Animal Welfare Council has expressed considerable concern about the welfare of animals at slaughter, and in a report published in 1984 made 117 recommendations which the Government has yet to implement

Most of the farm animals reared to supply food for man have been domesticated for several thousand years. But whereas cattle, pigs and chickens were once kept in smaller social groups, and allowed to follow most of their natural behaviour patterns until the time for slaughter, today the majority are farmed intensively to meet the commercial demands of the livestock industry and the consumer. Only sheep have so far escaped intensive systems, though experiments have begun to see if they, too, can be farmed efficiently under intensive conditions.

FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE

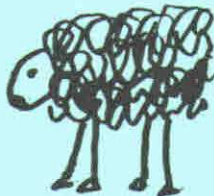
Over half the world's grain is fed to animals whilst 2 children die from starvation every second. More than 30 million acres of third world land are devoted to producing animal feed for European livestock and yet it takes 10lbs of grain to produce just 1lb of beef. Animal farming means human famine.

FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Efforts to overcome the basic inefficiency of livestock farming have led to environmental damage through intensive practices causing water pollution, loss of wildlife and of 150,000 miles of hedgerow. Tropical rainforest produces most of the oxygen we breathe yet every month an area of forest the size of Wales is felled to make way for cattle ranching. **One hectare will produce enough meat to make just 1600 hamburgers: each costing half a tonne of rainforest.**

THE LONG-SUFFERING DAIRY COW IS BEING PUSHED TO HER LIMITS. EACH YEAR OVER 20% ARE CULLED FROM THE NATIONAL HERD DUE TO INFERTILITY, DISEASE OR POOR YIELD. AFTER 4-5 CALVES HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM HER SHE WILL END UP BETWEEN TWO BITS OF BREAD OR WRAPPED IN TIN, SO MUCH FOR THE PICTURES OF CONTENTMENT.

Most leather goods are by-products of the slaughterhouse. Synthetic alternatives can be found for shoes, bags and wallets, etc (see *The Vegan Shoppers Guide*).



Of the 47 million egg-laying hens in Britain, 96 per cent are kept in battery cages measuring 46 x 51 cms (18 x 20ins). With four or more birds to one cage, there is no room for them to pursue any natural activities like perching, dust-bathing, or stretching their wings.

WHAT IS ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION?

Animal experimentation involves the use of living animals for an enormously wide range of scientific and other purposes. Many sorts of animals are used: rats, mice, birds, fish, frogs, dogs, cats, monkeys and others. Some of them are bred specially for laboratories but others, such as monkeys, are trapped in the wild and imported causing considerable distress and suffering.

Procedures involved include:

- Giving electric shocks to animals
- Stressing them in other ways
- Infecting them with diseases
- Feeding them with poisonous substances
- Dropping irritant chemicals into their eyes
- Performing surgery on them
- Subjecting them to radiation
- Implanting tumours in their bodies
- And many, many more.

Such experimentation is by no means exclusively medical. A substantial proportion of the consumer products which load our supermarket shelves have, in one way or another, been safety-tested on animals. These tests are often painful.

COSMETICS AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Everyone uses something in the "cosmetics and toiletries" group, even if it is only toilet soap. But not everyone realises that many of these products contain animal-derived ingredients, and that the products or their ingredients have been tested on laboratory animals. Those who do may well buy products that have been developed without inflicting suffering on animals – hence the term "cruelty-free".

WHICH ANIMALS ARE USED AND WHICH TESTS ARE DONE?

In 1986, 15,652 animals were used for the development and testing of cosmetics and toiletries in Britain. The animals used were mice (590), rats (3,146), guinea pigs (8,531) and rabbits (3,385).

4,643 animals were used for acute toxicity tests (skin and eye irritation, oral, dermal and inhalation toxicity)

1,885 for subacute or chronic toxicity tests

150 for teratology tests (effects on the developing foetus)

8,974 for other types of tests.

Many animal tests are carried out to ensure the safety of various substances that we use in our daily lives. These include fertilizers, pesticides, preservatives and food additives. We can try to reduce the pressures to produce more of these products by buying organically grown and fresh foodstuffs and by keeping to older, well-known products which have proved safe to both consumers and the environment through many years of usage

All commercial drugs go through animal tests. Hideous diseases are inflicted upon healthy animals and then drugs tried out on them. In the words of The Lancet, "It is notoriously dangerous to apply experimental results from animals to the treatment of human beings."

DEATH SCIENCE

In 1974 it was estimated that nearly 200,000 rats, dogfish, and frogs were supplied as "preserved specimens", with thousands more "freshly killed", in schools. Other species used include gerbils, hamsters, mice, stick insects, locusts, and cockroaches. Methods of killing include drowning, suffocation, ether, blows to the back of the neck, carbon dioxide gas poisoning, freezing and boiling.

Dissection can hardly be considered essential since many examining bodies no longer make it compulsory and some universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, accept students for biology without biology A-level. For those students who go on to practise dissection at university, any dissection learnt at school would simply be repeated anyway.

ABOUT 3 MILLION EXPERIMENTAL ANIMALS ARE NOW USED IN BRITAIN EACH YEAR.

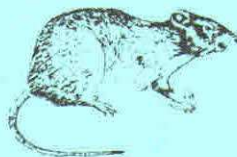
Many more are used for other, non-experimental purposes, for example in the production of vaccines.

ARE SOME EXPERIMENTS JUSTIFIED?

We cannot evade the fact that some drugs, vaccines and surgical procedures do save human and animal lives. Whether this justifies the animal research that went before poses the age-old question: "Can the ends justify the means?"

In a supposedly civilised society, we must ask ourselves the deeper moral question of whether we should continue to inflict pain and suffering on laboratory animals for the benefit of humans and their domestic animals.

The proportion of experiments in which such a dilemma arises is relatively small. Most experiments are not directly related to combating life-threatening or debilitating disease.



4 Gloucester Rd. Ross-on-Wye, HR9 5BU



The National Anti-Vivisection Society
51 Harley Street, London W1N 1DD
Tel: 01-580 4034

BRITISH HERBERTUM PRESERVATION SOCIETY,
Knowbury House,
Knowbury,
Ladford,
Shropshire



The Dodo Club for Young People
Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust,
Trinity,
Jersey. (Tel:0534 61949)



WWF World Wide Fund For Nature

Panda House, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1XR
Telephone No. (0483) 426444

YPPES
Young Peoples Trust for Endangered Species,
19 Quarry Street, Guildford, Surrey.
GU1 3EH (Tel:0483 39600)

(HSA)

Hunt Saboteurs Association
PO Box 87, Exeter EX4 3TX.

THE
Vegan
SOCIETY

The Vegan Society Ltd, 33-35 George Street, Oxford OX1 2AY
Registered in England No. 1468880 Registered Charity No. 279228

WSPA

World Society for the Protection of Animals
106 Jermy Street, London-SW1Y 6EE

THE RSPCA
ACTING FOR ANIMALS BY
ALL LAWFUL MEANS

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP DEPT
RSPCA, CAUSEWAY,
HORSHAM, SUSSEX
RH12 1HG



RSPB
YOC, RSPB,
The Lodge, Sandy,
Bedfordshire SG19 2DL.
Telephone: 0767 80551

Butterfly Conservation Society
Hudor House,
Quorn,
Leics.
LE12 8AD

ANIMAL
AID

7 Castle Street · Tonbridge · Kent · TN9 1BH · Telephone: (0732) 364546

Nature Reserves &
Leisure Areas -
free pub. from:
Pat McNally,
Electricity Pubs.
PO Box 2,
Feltham,
Middlesex,
TW14 0TG

to The Editor,
The Young Batworker,
5 Manor Rd.,
Tankerton,
Whitstable,
Kent.
CT15 2JL

Young Batworker
45 S.A.S. to

Zoo Check, Cherry Tree Cottage,
Coldharbour, Dorking, Surrey
RH5 6HA.

RSSNC Watch Groups, Royal Society of Nature Conservation, The Green, Nettleham, Lincolnshire, LN2 2NR

SVP Scottish Wildlife Trust, 25 Johnstone Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2NH
MCS Marine Conservation Society,

Woodland Trust,
Autumn Park,
Grantham,
Lincolnshire,
NG31 6LL

GREENPEACE 30-31 ISLINGTON GREEN, LONDON N1 8XE

It is difficult to imagine education without animals for they seem to be in so many subjects; natural history, biology, environmental studies, science, art, geography, history, sociology, economics, etc. Man's past and present is dependent on animals for so much; food, clothes, transport, power, sport, entertainment, companionship, worship, are a few that immediately come to mind.

Many cultures and life styles are based on man's relationship with animals, e.g. Laplanders and reindeer, Massai and domestic herds, India and sacred cows, Arabs and camel trains, Eskimos and fish and fur.

Many countries are or have been dependent on animals for their income be it fishing, stock farming or tourist safari's. One could write pages on such subjects as the destruction of tropical forests to provide burgers and pet food for the western world, the importance of genetic diversity in rare farm breeds, the arguments about battery hens, veal calves, hunting, shooting, fishing, bull fighting, the horrors of the illegal horn and fur industries, the battle against malaria and bilharzia, the unwanted cats and dogs abandoned after Christmas, the reasons for being a vegetarian, the pros and cons of zoos, the importance of protecting wild species and their habitats, etc, etc. Animals in education, in one short supplement ?!

Anyway here is a list of things that we enjoy doing, belonging to and reading.

Books. A visit to any book shop or library will show the large store of animal books available, both fact and fiction. Some of our favourite authors are : Joyce Kilmer, Joy Adamson, BB, Ernest Thompson Seton, Richard Adams. books we have found useful for reference and illustration .

The Living Planet and Life on Earth By David Attenborough
Pub. Collins

The Grand Design by Sally Poy and Oxford Scientific Films
Pub. Dent

Encyclopaedia of the Environment Edited by Colin Tudge
Pub. Christopher Helm

Encyclopaedia of the Animal World Edited by David Burn
Pub. Octopus

Octopus also do Guides to Animals, Plants, Birds, Woodland

Sunday Times Countryside Companion. Geoffrey Young
Pub. Country Life

The Amateur Naturalist by Gerald Durrell
Pub. Hemish Hamilton

Usborne Publishing do a wide range of books about animals both wild and domestic, including spotter's guides, Nature trails, pet care. Catalogue from 20 Garrick St London

WC2E 9BJ

Magazines.

- *BBC Wildlife Magazine, complements and expands programmes (our one regret at not having a television is missing the nature programmes)

National Geographic (PO Box 19 Guilford Surrey) often has animal features and anyway is a easy way to learn geography.

Associations to subscribe to

World Wide Fund for Nature, Panda House Godalming Surrey
An interesting magazine about WWF's conservation projects, and an Education magazine, Life lines, plus books, tapes, posters, etc for conservation and environmental studies.

WATCH The junior branch of The Royal Society for Nature Conservation 22 The Green Nettleham Lincoln

Produces a good magazine with lots of things to do and look out for at various times of the year and fun days for children in conjunction with the County Nature Trusts and Urban Wildlife Groups. There are badges to work for culminating in a Gold award presented by David Bellamy.

Wildfowl Trust, have head quarters at Slimbridge Gloucestershire and six other centres in the country with the most amazing variety of geese, ducks and swans in natural surroundings.

They have good education centres with quiz sheets, videos, press rubbings etc.

Field Studies Council, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury, do holidays for adults and children in several centres in the country, in delightful surroundings, covering a wide variety of natural subjects.

County Council Walks. Many councils do guided walks that enable you to see parks, nature reserves, farms, reservoirs etc not normally accessible to the public. and the guides point out many animal signs that you might not notice.

Last but not least we get great pleasure from watching the garden bird table, dipping in the local pond and streams, walking in the woods and round the reservoir.

Kate J. Wilson
Manor Cottage,
Walgrave,
Northants.

- * RE. BBC Wildlife Magazine

I printed in the December issue of the EO newsletter that EO families were able to get a reduced subscription for this publication. Apparently some people have had problems. It seems that the easiest way around this is to swallow hard and class yourself as a 'school' on the application for subscription form. Sup. Ed.

Recently, thanks to Hazel Lennox and Peter Sample, we visited Pets and Exotics Library, with E.O. as part of a group from at least three regions. For a group fee of £25 (about £2 per family for our group) we had three hours of sheer enjoyment. There was a short talk at the beginning, each animal being shown to us - how to hold it, where it comes from and how to feed it. Then a drink each, and the fun really started. We touched and held many animals we had not been near before, rats snakes lizards and many more.

A few people bore home new pets - we now have two baby garter snakes - and several more were toying with the idea of hiring one of the animals. This is where the 'Library' part of their title comes in. Delivery Monday morning, collection Friday afternoon, bedding and food provided, and a 24 hour back-up service make this a very acceptable way of having an exotic pet. Aimed chiefly at schools this is one of the few educational services that EOers can use on equal terms.

This venture has only been going for 3-4 months, but is growing, albeit slowly (LEAs are ever cautious about new ideas). They deserve to succeed.

I urge anyone who can to organise a group visit, it really is worth it. We hope to be going again in the autumn, to see ~~the~~ the latest additions. If you cannot manage that you can go to the Library - to look round only - on certain open days during the school holidays, 50p adults - 30p children, 'phone to check times.

If you are not sure of the benefits of such a visit Robert has also written about the trip. He spent an entire morning writing, correcting, re-writing, and finally typing his piece. As a hyperactive dyslexic this was quite some achievement, and the Pets and Exotics library must have been quite an inspiration.
Julie Turnbull.

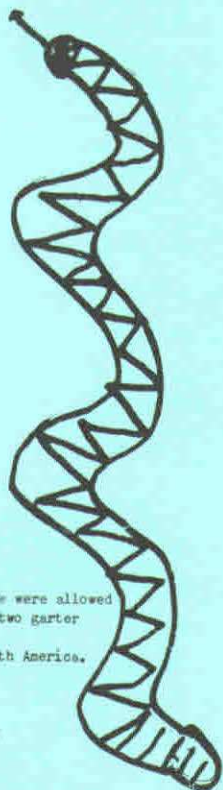
Pets and Exotics Library,
Unit 7,
Blackhall Industrial Estate,
Blackhall Colliery,
Hartlepool,
Cleveland.
TS24 4EL.
Phone 091 586 6885

I went to a place called Pets and Exotics Library. It was very good. We were allowed to hold rare animals. You could borrow or buy these animals. I bought two garter snakes.....
Rule 1. Garter snakes must be put in a warm place - they come from North America.
Rule 2. They eat whitebait, cut it into pieces.
Rule 3. They like to be in a tank with sand and stones and sticks.

By Robert Turnbull, aged nearly 9.

48 FRONT STREET
COCKFIELD
BISHOP AUCKLAND
Co. DURHAM
DL13 5DS

27/2/89



My son is aged five and being home educated. He has a great love of animals and his request for two guinea-pigs of his own has led to an interesting and educational experience for us both. During the last two years we have progressed from two cross-bred guinea-pigs to eight, all unrelated and including two pedigree. We are now regularly breeding and selling babies as well as having fun and learning what fascinating complex creatures they are.

It is my son's aim to make his guinea-pigs a "project" in the official sense in due course. He is already photographing them and mentally noting many facts about them. They are not only lovely pets but great characters too.

Well, it is not much but I hope you can draw something from it. We are certainly richer for the experience of having guinea-pigs.

Best wishes

from

Ann Hasler

6 Sanross Close
Mill Head
Fareham
Hants
PO14 3NH

For those children starting home education AFTER their 16th birthday the old ruling still stands which is quite obviously a nonsense as it is quite possible that a child of such an age may choose to study for A levels, further GCSEs etc. at home. The fight for the right of any 16 year old to choose at this point to begin home education continues and any further developments will be reported in the newsletter.

Submitted by Meg Roberton, The Old Thatched House, Midford Lane,
Limpley Stoke, Bath BA3 6JP Tel: 022 122 3266
Courtesy of Childrens Rights in Education Fund

E.O.s FINANCES (update)

We have had a generous response from members to the appeal in the December newsletter
My thanks to the following:-

P M Sains; Rena; J Everdell; Candice Litsey; Barbara Callow; Paul Hodgkin; Val Common; Rachel Torrance; Roland Meighan; Jill Holmes; Ken Beagley; J D Illingworth; JS Hart; Jill Gillings; John Daly; Hazel Clawley; R F Hadley; A J Illingworth; Vicki Willow; Jennie White; L Barson; Andrea Granville; Sylvia Goldstein; Bev Rice; John Lundesten; R Gossett; Ann Hasler; B & C Wallace; Irene Baker-Hunt Khwaja family; Wades; Liz & Gorden Ramsey; M Edmonds; J Lutton; anat kamenka; C E Brett; Sue Lyon & W.Yorks group; Martin Spinler; M Challen; J R Jenkins; A & K Meek; R & T Emmett; Steve Lowden; P Knox; Mary Edwards; Marie Knowles; Sue Roebuck; Clare Winchester; J Tulloch; PR Morley; Bird family; Snook family; H Poole; Jennie White; Jane Woolfe; Rachel Sanger; Jacky McGeoch R Charles; L Wildash; Peter Darling & Steph Fatcher; Lorna Brown; K & D Bebb; Fiona Dix; G Mitchell-Bennet; J&G Ford; Emma Planterose Sue Petszaft; Dick Kitto; Faye Barndon; MT Boulding; SJ Gough; Crafts family; Alexander family; CRJ Westendorp; R Robertson; M&L Bramwell; Wiseman family; Mortimer family; Gutteridge family P Vettori; Foster family; Craig family;

who have between them donated £820, in sums from 50p up, towards the impending bill from the VAT office. This bill is less than originally feared. The total, to bring us up to date, is approximately £2,000. I would like to ask those who havn't got around to donating to spare a thought for your worried treasurer, and get a cheque in the post!

Contrary to rumours, however, EO is NOT on the verge of bankruptcy. Our 'cash-flow' is improving with the new prices and membership conditions (see Dec N/L) If the VAT bill can be met from donations (we're nearly half way there) I am sure that we can keep the subscription at £12-50 for at least 2 years and hopefully 3 or even 4. A great improvement on the £15 or £20 sub. that it was feared would be necessary

I would like to urge co-ordinators and officers to keep this situation in mind, especially when it comes to the telephone. Please ONLY phone on EOs behalf when absolutely necessary, and then at evening and weekend rate, if at all possible. A letter costs 14p, a phone call can soon add up to pounds. After all, it is other peoples money we use to run EO, and not some 'perk' to be squandered.

Many thanks for reading this, and hopefully taking notice, Bruce Wallace.



SAFTY IN THE CLASSROOM!!!!!!

Health and safty workers have uncovered a neglected danger to pupils involving the dissection of animals in schools. The London Hazards Centre a watchdog body funded by local authorities in and around London, revealed that in at least one school **carcinogenic** (cancer inducing) fumes have been released into the biology classroom regularly, by the method used to soften rats' brains for pupils to dissect. The heads of rats are preserved in formalin and then soaked in dilute hydrochlic acid. The resulting chemical mixture produces and releases BCME, **Bischloromethylether**, a category 1 carcinogen, which has been banned in industry for years.

Guidlines dealing with chemical hazards at school state that formalin should be kept separete from hydrochloric acid and stored in a fume cupboard. Rory O'Neill of the London Hazard centre has expressed concern that schools are not keeping up with present-day chemical knowledge. "Chemicals banned ages ago in industry are stored in schools for disaster in these classrooms", he warned. From the Teacher 11.5.87.

It is every pupils legal right to refuse to dissect animals. Some have been refusing for moral reasons. Others may now choose to refuse for health reasons. Futher information is available from: **ANIMAL AID, 7, CASTLE STREET, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN9 1BH. Tele 0732 364546**

including their campaign for all examining boards to no longer have dissection constituting a proportion of the exam pass mark.
SUE LEWIS 13, PORDEN ROAD, LONDON SW2 5SA

THEATRE WORKSHOPS

If your (upper secondary age) children are interested in acting and the theatre, there are some good educational activities coming up at the National Theatre on the South Bank in London:

Dialogue 3rd May 5.30pm Olivier Theatre
Richard Eyre, director of *Hamlet*, discusses the current production and answers questions.

Hamlet in Action 5th May 2.30pm Olivier Theatre
Costumes, Set design, Props and Lighting, with the costume and set designers of the current production.

Stage Fighting 8th May 3.30-5pm Olivier Theatre
A practical demonstration with the Fight Director

Movement Workshop 6th May 10.30am Cottesloe Theatre
Practical workshop based on the Spanish and Renaissance movement and dance in the current production of Lope de Vega's *Fuente Ovejuna*, with the NT company movement coach.

Ring NT Education on 01-261 9808 for more details/booking

Although the current ones are all for the older age-group, they do have activities for all ages at different times.



CHAIRWOMANS REPORT ON THE MEETING AT BEAUMONT HALL LEICESTER

JANUARY 28TH

At the above meeting and at the mitigation of several members , it was agreed to experiment with the minutes . It was felt that they where to long and wasted valuable space which could be given to ,e.g. the childrens pages . the full minutes are available of course, to any-one who wants a copy and sends a large S.A.E. to **Julie Lyons 56 ,Newtown Ave, ROYSTON Barnsley,S71 4HB.**

Twenty-one of us meet for our first winter meeting without kids and very strange it felt .However it did mean that buisness was conducted much more speedily, which was appriciated by all concerned Jude Ashley -Walker suggested that creche type facilites should be available at meetings to ensure that children are taken care of when meetings are in progress--- any offers?.....

REGULATIONS & ROTATION OF OFFICERS

David Bettie ,June Grant and Joe O'Conner resigned as counsil members. Peter Edwards ,Steph Futchter,Jude Ashley-Walker and Liz & Gorden Ramsey were co-opted onto council. Peter Edwards of Edinburgh was elected vice -chair man and Jo Rust was nominated for publicity- officer.....
....(see article elsewhere in nws letter.)

Janet Ever dale resigned from steering committee and Liz Ramsey was elected in her place.Steering committee now comprises of
..Liz (Liecestershire) , Bruce Wallace (Ross-shire) ,Jennie White.....
..(Yorkshire).

COUNTERPOINT

Mick White gave details of the counterpoint consultancy service plus how they can help E.O. (SEE ARTICLE FOR FURTHER DETAILS) A lively discussion followed and it was agreed to go ahead with the proposals as long as we can get the funding.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The finance are looking reasonable although nothing to get complacent about yet. The V.A.T. office have accepted Bruce & Christines figures + to date we are £1900 back + current V.A.T. However the V.A.T. appeal has raised £750 so far -**keep sending the cheques to Bruce**-organise a local fund -raise- it's wonderful to have such support.

It was decided we need to have much tighter guidelines for claiming expenses.Bruce & Ann & Rob Wade agreed to sort out such and June Grant will distribute to all co-ordinators(see article).

Subscriptions have been revised by the steering committee following the decision taken at the A.G.M. After discussion with the V.A.T. officer

and with agreement of the majority of the core group , a lower rate of £2.50 was set with publications sold to new members at £2.50 each .We agreed that members not increasing their subs(apart from those arranging a reduction) would receive a reduced number of newsletters.

Our printer ,Mr,Jones has had to pay £2,000 V.A.T. on E.O's behalf -having failed to charge for this .As he has always been cheap helpful & obliging it was agreed that Bruce should negotiate with the V.A.T. officer to seek an arrangement whereby we can refund the money to Mr.Jones & reclaim it from the V.A.T. office.

MEMBERSHIP & ENQUIRIES.

Our membership stands at 2,144 families and Janet Everdale reported enquiries in the in the last three month's of '88 were 50% of the figures on the figures for the same period in '87 . the enthusiasm of our new publicity officer should see our numbers , profile and income grow. Our enquires secretary ,Janet propped that her work load be shared out, no, the postal enquiries (about 50 per week) will be sent in turn to the regional enquiries secretaries. Janet has worked long and hard for E.O. and needs & deserves a break from her heavy duties-many thanks Janet.

PUBLICATION

Newsletters editors are coming forward but we still need volunteers for supplement-all offers to Lesley Kilbride, Publishing Secretary. We agree d to a childrens section %Lisa Hall- Davey of Gloucestershire has offered to co-ordinate it. Julie Turnbull of DURHAM has been appointed book reviews editor - all enquiries to her .

MEMBERSHIP CARDS AND G.C.S.E.

Paul Bently from London has been active in looking at possible problems arising from recommendations that G.C.S.E. external candidates status be discontinued. He has also suggested the idea of E.O. membership cards with the possibility of discounts for educational materials and entrance to museums etc.He was asked to look into costings of such a scheme & to contact Bob Emmet who could produce the cards -- any ideas & comments to Paul please.

LEGAL GROUP

The group reported 54 serious problems .Many problems arise because of the standardised letters some L.F.A.'s use which contain inaccurate and unreasonable demands - any info /photo copies of such would be appreciated-contact Jennie White. Julie Lyons, Sue Lyons & Frances Howard all reported on more flexible approaches to education by schools & F.E collages (see Feb newsletter) Such flexibility is to be welcomed & further evidence of such would be of use.

We thanked Liz & Gordon Ramsey for organising the meeting at such sort notice.

//
It feels at the moment E.O is undergoing some welcome changes. We do need some re-organization and rationalisation -especially as regards our legal status re-the charitable trust % the LTD CO. most of which few of which few of us understand & which muddles us enormously. Hopefully counterpoint will help with this .Meanwhile , our general secretary , Jean Lovius, in touch with companies house is helping us on the straight and narrow.

But what is most heartening is that our main resource....ourselves, is still working long ,hard and enthusiastically for E.O. New people are coming in and "doing" things -not just complaining. We are E.O.& its up to us all to make it a good ,caring ,supportive group.

I have had many comments and suggestions ie..can we get through buisness quickly and spend time as a group discussing the real things

of E.O. philosophy ,where to go and how etc etc .I would welcome constructive comments and suggestion from any points mentioned in this report - a good ,vigorous , involved membership is what its all about.

Jennie White Wensley Mill WENSLEY ,Leyburn N.Yorks DL8 4 HR.

E.O THE WAY FORWARD?
COUNTERPOINT

The formal organisation of EOis a bit of a mess.To much time in meetings and out ,is spent in unfruitful arguing and bickering,making and unmaking

decisions and not getting on with our main task of supporting our members in educating their children themselves, at home.

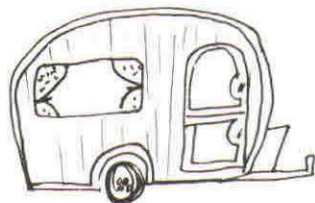
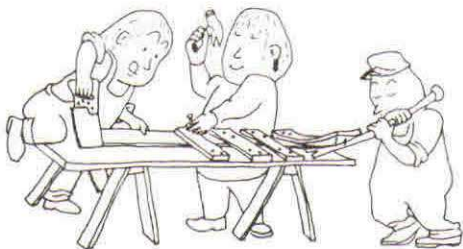
There has been a feeling ,for some time,that we need help,perhaps professional help in setting up amore efficient means of running E.O.

Bearing this in mind, I came across "counterpoint", in Leeds,late last year,whilst looking for places to hold E.O.meetings.Counterpoint is a company with some years experience in helping small self-help organisations,workers co-operativesand the like to order their orgaisation more effciently. I told them breifly of our problems,and with support from active members in EO,three members visited their office earlier this year.Counterpoint listened while we bellyached about the problems as we saw them.Cointerpoint then bought out a "proposed course outline". The procedure would be as follows:counterpoint would observe us more dor a time,including one major meeting(possibly Featherstone) and then some dozen or so members would attend a couple of week-ends at Leeds where we would go through the proposed course outlined,hopefully emerging with a smoother,more effective system of running things.To fund this we are currently applying for a grand from a charitable institute.

Sofar this has costE.O nothing(apart from a few letters and phone calls) in money-(but quite a lot of members time and effort!)

Members comments are invited and will be passed on to counterpoint All corispondance to Mick White,WENSLY MILL, WENSLY,LEYBURN, N.YORKS DL8 4HR

AN E.O MEETING!



4 berth caravan available near Perth.£15.00 per week.We have 2 boys,Rowen 7,and Lyndon 5,both home educated.Goats,Poultry and Bees.

PHONE KINROSSIE(08215)409
ROSALIND VEALE,MILL COTTAGE,BURNELTON,BLAIRGOWRIE.PH13 9PP

XXV

LETTERS

Dear fellow E.O.ers,

Maybe some one out there could help me? I have taught my three ever since I can remember ages now ranging from 11-7 years. We are now thinking of going to live in Portugal, but I am not sure of their laws regarding education. I've managed to find out about their boarding schools, their English speaking schools but nothing about home taught children. Some-one must know something, before I have to get involved in trying to make the Consulate understand. Any-one please any info will help!!! Thanks

TERESA SKEGGS C/O 47 COLVILLE RD, LEYTONSTONE, LON, E11 4EQ.

Dear E.O,

Do people know that external syllabi for G.C.S.E. will be set for the last time in summer 1991? *Nick Smith, head of the supported self study unit at Wolsley Hall, Oxford, wrote in TESat the beginning of December 1988 "from that date there will be no such thing as a private candidate and there will be no escape from course-work".

It appears that external candidates are going to have to pay for a board approved tutor to set a "pre-ordained schedule of assignment", their moderation and marking.

E.O, I'm sure, was not consulted but I cannot be the only one worried about the implications- can I afford this? Will my children be driven into school? Will a tutor, board approved, share my educational aims?- further eagerly sought. yours **CAROLINE BRETT 30 BARNSDALE RD READING.** *I have received permission from N. Smith to quote him and for this to be published.

Dear E.Oers,

I just want to say a big "Thank-You" to all those people who sent me information, booklets etc. in response to my advertisement in December's newsletter, and for the phone calls and letters of support I've had in response to my article in the February Newsletter.

I've been overwhelmed by the number of people who've taken the time to contact me. If anyone doubts that membership in E.O. is worth while, I suggest they place an advert or article in the newsletter and they will be truly amazed at the response. Best Wishes to all,

HELEN GRAHAM, 46 SALTHOUSE RD, BARROW-IN-FURNESS, CUMBRIA. LA14 2AG.

Dear E.O

I am an English guy, thirty odd years old, father of three whom at present after years of home education, are trying a term at a french school.....but that's not what I want to write about.

These last few years I've spent my summers as a cowboy in the Swiss Alps. Sounds romantic?...and in part it is. In more detail...from May to October I live in a wooden chalet on the mountain slopes which I share with a herd of about 50 heifers, a couple of horses, and a handful of goats. For the coming summer I thought it might be interesting to invite any interested E.O. adolescents to come and taste my life style. There will be the possibility to learn the care of cows, horses, and goats; milking and cheese making-activities that take place every day of the season. Also at times, there's lumberjacking and fence stake making, and obviously the chance to "study" the local animal, bird and plant life; hike in the mountains, and speak French for any that are able (my own children speak English and French fluently).

Facilities are minimal in the mountains-no electricity, very cold running water, and cooking on an open fire. There are no armchairs, no carpets, no bedrooms, no bathroom, and plenty of spiders and mice for the squeamish. It's a rough and ready outdoor life, up at dawn and on the go. But it's fun as well. Are there any teenage readers who might like to come and spend a couple of weeks with me? It would entail travelling alone to Switzerland where I can collect you from a local railway station (trains direct from London) and giving me a hand with the daily running of the

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the spelling. Yours sincerely
 NORTHANTS, NN 6 9PH TEL..0604 781497.

LETTERS CONT.....

It can be very difficult to follow a child-centered education and at the same time satisfy the Local Authority Adviser who is used to dealing with education in schools and who finds it hard to believe that a non-structured approach can work.

It is possible to convince L.E.A.'s that reams of writing and structured work are not necessary, and to substitute these with more enjoyable "ways to satisfy" that are in keeping with the ideas of the majority of home educators. We produce a compilation of ideas from home educators called "Some ideas for satisfying the advisor" which we would be pleased to pass on to any one who would like to send 20p plus an S.A.E to: PIP & JOHN RUPNIK, 14, BASIL AVE, ARMTHORPE, DONCASTOR, SOUTH YORKSHIRE. DN3 2AT.

" Anyone interested in starting a SMALL SCHOOL (similar to the one in Hartland, Devon) in stroud for 11-16 year olds, if you are a prospective parent, teacher, administrator, or can help in any way at all please contact: LIZ ABBOTS, WESTLEY FARM, CHALFORD, STROUD, GLOUS.

Our own farm is beautifully hilly and wooded with cows, horses sheep, pigs, chickens, geese. I'd like to hear from anyone locally supporting my aim and any help, advice or information (including pitfalls) available from members who have started or participated in such venture anywhere.

LIZ ABBOTS

Dear B.O,
 We would love to have contact with other families who have sympathy with or have been influenced by the Continuum Concept, especially those with young children. We have one child, Jethro, who is a year old and we are suffering from a lack of communication with like minded people. Please get in touch so we can share experiences.
 SUSAN AND DAVID URCHIN, THE MANOR COTTAGE, CHURCH LANE, YELDEN, BEDS. MK4 1AU, TELE..0933 315660

Our application is barely "hot off the press", & already our youngest, Morgan, 7 yrs, is looking forward to a life in France. My husband & I have bought a smallholding in Lavit, 45 miles (approx) from Toulouse and about 4 hrs drive from the Spanish border. We hope to take in paying guests in order to assist bill paying, but we will obviously give preference to E.O.members at reduced rates.
 We are not out to make money for money's sake, just to offer a family holiday to parents of a child like ours E.O. Yours Sincerely
 SUE SEDGE, 9, BARTON RD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 7BU.. TEL: M'STONE 59511

Couple aged 33 and 37 with 2 home educated children aged 7 and 9 are looking for other home schooling, tolerant people with some capital to set up rural self-supporting unit. We have some ideas, and experience in marketing, crafts and smallholding. If you are a family with similar plans please write to: Alan and Terri Shoosmith, Lower Stainborough Fold Cottage, Hood Green, Barnsley, S753HG.

LETTERS CONT.....

I was forced into E.Oing at short notice by the LEA who said accept their religion or clear-off and,much to their suprise I expect,we did . They claim to be morally superior I think but I've seen better display of moral superiority from a half-starved stray cat,so I'm not falling for that one especially when I know that a superiority complex goes hand in hand with an inferior one and they are BOTH.So I am glad to have read Jan Taylors letter in the Dec issue.What I'm really wanting to say is that I had to spend quite a lot of money on resources right at the start of home-educating.Ihad just expected the LEA here to corrispond to the law and uphold democratic choice of religion. I told them they were breaking the Education act and they said SO WHAT. Isaid that it is criminal and they told me to prove it. I have proved it to their education committee and now its on to the Secretary of State,but I'm running low on funding to for the new educational materials. I am denied by the illegal religious tyranny of the LEA,so propose a resources exchange. In theory I will administrate a second-hand books facility but to keep postage low I will compile a list of the buyers/sellers and what is on offer or wanted and circulate these to anyone interested. I'm interested in the sort of literature that is sold by the letterbox library for example (f,g maybe e,h) but I need some suitable technical drawing material and has anyone got any decent audio French tapes.

R.ROBERTSON. 22 NETHERGATE SOUTH, CRAIL,ANSTRUTHER,FIFE. "the WEST GUILD OF ETHICAL TEACHING".

Dear E.O,

Explaining to EOers why we teach our children out of school would seem to be a pointless exercise.

By the very nature of things,our views are bound to coincide in many respects with those of our fellow members. Even though the list might be as varied as it is long,there would be considerable agreement.

Our needs or otherwise regarding religion would be certain to loom large. I am therefore distressed by items and comments of a prosleytizing nature appearing in the newsletter.The kind of material that makes state administered RE look a model of sweet reason.Even they do not (yet) try to twist every word in the Book to fit the geological record,or use spurious information gleaned from long discredited systems to justify a curious version of the descent of Humankind.

Perhaps we can look forward to a 'count-down' to Armageddon and the New Millenium.

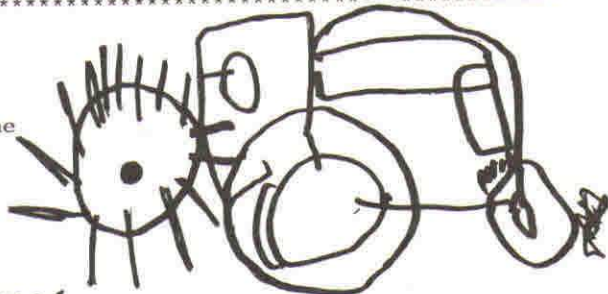
I gather from the text appearing in the newsletter that there is very little consideration for people of other race or persuasion. It would seem we are an organisation for WASPs.

Because I object to this kind of propaganda,I am not going to indulge in special pleading of my own.I have no wish to see the newsletter become an evangelical tract-our concern is home education,its joys and tribulations. Surely there are abundant matters arising there-from to keep any Editor happy

If the subject cries out to be aired-evenly-a Special Issue is the proper place.

Calonyddaer.

Sam's combine
age 3yrs



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LETTERS CONT.....

I read with a lot of interest the suppliment on special needs, especially One persons dyslexia is another's poor reader.

Two of our older children (boys) left school unable to read and write fluently, having wasted precious years in remedial classes bored and sadly learning next to nothing. Many of their reading and writing problems were classic dyslexia but we were ordinary working class family, so they were not given the comfort of a dyslexia prop to lean on. The problem was either ours or theirs but certainly not the schools. We are now blessed with two more children both boys. We are wiser now and educate them at home James is a happy confident 6 1/2 year old who loves reading and does so fluently, his writing is sparse but imagination and it, we are sure will grow in quantity as he gets older. His young brother Samuel age 3 is following in his footsteps but as we are now confident that we can teach our own, the pace for him is more leisurely.

We have noticed that many of the reading errors James made were identical to the reading errors our older boys found to be stumbling blocks, to their reading progress. The difference was that we could deal with James problems before they took root. School teachers did not nip errors in the bud. Although we realise there are exceptions, we believe that the majority of poor readers/dyslexics are those whose problems are allowed to develop into habits and become established in their reading and writing. With so many children for one teacher to deal with, its easy to understand how this happens but inexcusable of the education system to allow it to keep on occurring.

Alright we've only been involved with our own five children (we have a daughter too) and so can't be called experts, but because, unlike teachers in the education system, who have minimum contact with our children, we are bonded to them mentally, physically and with our hearts, which gives us far greater insight into what makes them, or stops them ticking. Our older boys because of their own perseverance, have overcome their problems. Nothing will remove the shame and guilt they suffered at school. Why didn't we do something to help them? We supported them and tried to give them the confidence to cope, but we didn't know we could take them out of school, it is a source of deep regret to us.

Heres a happy note to end with. If anyone is thinking of home educating in the Derby area, our primary schools adviser is understanding, freindly supportive boosted our confidence in our ability to teach our own, came to see us 1 1/2 yrs ago and we have not seen him since!

BEN AND SHIRLEY KELK, 613 NOTTINGHAM RD, CHADDES DEN, DERBY DE2 6RU

P.S. Please dont think our days are filled with educational discoveries and uninterrupted learning sessions. Occasionally they are, but mostly they are full of play, talk, mess and me having to quell unfounded guilt at not conforming to the system, not to mention feeling shattered bad tempered and having very little time for myself. The coin has two sides and doesnt remain on one to long. Thank goodness.

Dear Eo,

We have three children, aged 6, 4, 2 1/2. Generally speaking, they follow a regular pattern of learning activities, during certain hours of the day. Spread over the week, this includes games for language and number,

writing in workbooks and their own stories, Ginn maths books, Parent and child books, reading, sewing, musical activities, clay work, drawing and painting, gymnastics.

I would greatly appreciate hearing from any other families who have, or had, a regular structure to their day or week, or set aside times for "basic skills". **CHRIS PARK SALT PYE, HILLSIDE, THURLSTONE, SHEFFIELD**

S30 6QJ

XXX

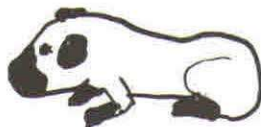
Dear E.O.,

I have just started to educate my five year old boy at home, rather than school. Is there anyone in our area doing likewise that would like to visit us? My biggest problem at the moment is finding company for him. HE loves older children, as well as children his own age. Also, anyone living a short distance away that would like to visit us for the day would be most welcome. If anyone has any ideas how to overcome this isolation problem when teaching an only child, please let me know.

Yours Sincerely, MRS CAROLE HAYES 18, WEST LEA RD, WESTON BATH, AVON, BA1 3RL

I seem to remember reading in a recent news letter that BBC Wildlife magazine was available to EO members for the schools rate of only £11. I am told by the BBC Wildlife subscription department that this is not true. I have therefore written to Ms. Amanda Waddington, BBC Wildlife Magazine, Wildlife publications, 100 Great Portland Street, London, W1N 5PD to ask that we be given that concession. Perhaps other parents who are members of Education Otherwise would like to do the same so that we could receive the lower rate on production of our museum "pass". Yours Sincerely
MRS ANN HASLER, 6 SANROSS CLOSE, HILL HEAD FAREHAM HANTS PO14 3NH.

Himalayan Guinea-Pig Tammy (8)



WHERE TO GET WHAT

The following publications are available from the Membership Secretary, Christine Wallace, 25 Diabaig, Achnasheen, Ross-shire, IV22 2HE. Prices are for members and cheques to be made payable to 'Education Otherwise'.

SCHOOL IS NOT COMPULSORY (SINC) :-	a guide to your rights	£2-50
EARLY YEARS :-	learning suggestions for the under 12s	£2-50
LATER YEARS :-	similar for older children, plus GCSE.	£2-50
TEACH YOUR OWN :-	by John Holt. philosophy of home education	£3-85
TROUBLED CHILDREN:-	by P Knox. a fresh look at School Phobia	£3-75
SCHOOLS OUT:-	by J Bendell. a good 'why and how' book by an EO member, and long term home educator	£5-95
EO NEWSLETTER:-	back copies for '88 & '89	£1-00
EO NEWSLETTER:-	'bargain basement', any 4 copies (our selection) from years '82 to '87	£1-20
HOME EDUCATION AND THE LAW:-	by Woolf & Deutsch. the law in England and Wales with regard to children who are already 'de-registered'.	£2-00

Also available from Jill Gillings, Ballaglonny Farm, Quayles Orchard, Ronague Castletown, Isle of Man.

'GROWING WITHOUT SCHOOLING':- the newsletter of EOs parallel organisation in the USA.
Years subscription of 6 issues, start March £10-00

Due to re-organisation, supplies of new membership forms are available from Lucy CHARLTON 2 Wiston Lane, Newton Harcourt, Leics. LE8 0PT. Lucy also has the stock of introductory leaflets and 'handbills'.

STATIONARY continues to come from June Grant 25 Chipperfield Rd The Manor, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP3 0AH. June also has re-use labels for envelopes at £1-50 per 100.

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PEN PAL'S

Dear E.O,

My name is Alixie Tissier. I am 7 years old. I like reading books and Horse riding .I will reply to anyone who writes to me .I would like you as a pen pal. Yours Sincerely ALIXIE TISSIER.

11 SOMERSET ROAD, MEADVALE, SURREY. RH1 6LS.

Dear Sirs,

I have a first grade daughter named Kathryn who would like to correspond with another first grade homeschooler.

Sincerely MRS Dave Keaton

4700 LAKE PARK DRIVE ,ARLINGTON,TEXAS.76016 U.S.A.



Dear E.O.

My name is John Wells. My age is 8. I would like a pen pal who is interested in computers , football ,animals and planets. I promise to reply to anyone who writes to me . From JOHN WELLS

PRINGLE HOUSE FARM ,NEWBRANCEPETH,DURHAM DH7 7E1.

Is there any boy or girl who wants to be my pen pal ? Iam nearly six years old and I like books ,jigsaws, pottery,drawing and playing with Lego.ROWAN PARNELL ,67 LEAS ROAD, WARLINGHAM.SURREY

CR3 9LP

Dear E.O,

I would like a pen pal ,I am 12 years old and like computers and football. From THOMAS WELLS ,PRINGLE HOUSE FARM ,NEW BRANCEPETH.

DH7 7H2

Dear E.O,

My name is Grace ,I am 8 years old. My hobbies are writing and sports, I have three sisters and I like making things out of snow and clay.From Grace .PWLLDRAINLLWYN ,TREFENTER ,ABERYSTWYTH, DYPED .SY23 4SR.

Dear E.O,

My name is Beth.I have been living in Botswana for eighteen months. My favorite hobbie is reading.I also collect stamps and I have clubs I was 10 on January 5th 1989, I will write back to any letters I recieve Love BETH ORTHAPEADIC WORKSHOP,BOX 258, GABORONE, BOTSWANA ,AFRICA



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"HOW DID YOU GET ON AT SCHOOL TODAY, DEAR?"

(I'm not in the slightest bit interested, I'm only asking to be polite.)

Maybe it's something to do with my feelings of masochism, I don't know, but last year I bought my twelve year old a book entitled "What Grown-ups say and what they really mean". Will spent the next few weeks walking around, book under arm, translating every cliché known to MUM! The book is an absolute hoot, and could also be used by parents as a source of inspiration for even more obscure phrases than we already use. Some examples:

"Have you tidied your bedroom?"
actually means,

"I know you haven't tidied your bedroom, so go and do it immediately!"

"My, how you've grown!"
translates as

"God, I'm getting old!"

"When I was your age I respected adults."
means

"I did no such thing, but I wish you'd respect me!"

"This is for your own good."
read instead

"This isn't going to do you any good at all,
but it eases my conscience to say it!"

and lastly perhaps a catchphrase for all EO grown-ups:

"I know all the answers to those questions, but I think it's important that you find out for yourself."

in other words,

"I haven't a clue!"

Jo Rust

(The book is by Jim and Duncan Eldridge, pub. by Beaver Books)



Dear EO,

I would like a pen-pal. My name is Claire and I'm 13. I've been educated at home for 2 years. I'm enjoying it a lot.

I work five hours a day from Monday to Friday. I sometimes take my sisters dog, Norman to Deiridge Bay at the weekends. I also like swimming and looking after my pets (a budgie and a guinea-pig) I like Rick Astley and Brother-Beyond. I also like watching T.V. My favorite programme is Neighbours.

Yours Sincerely Claire Brown.

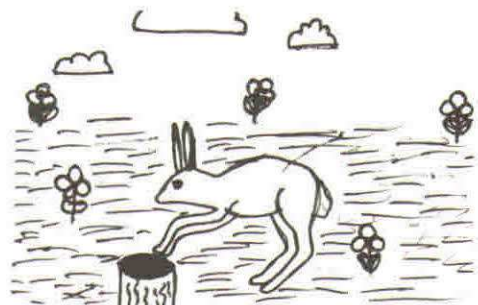
15, GREENFIELD TERRACE, AMBLE MORPETH NORTHUMBERLAND. NE65 0NY.



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SPRING TIME

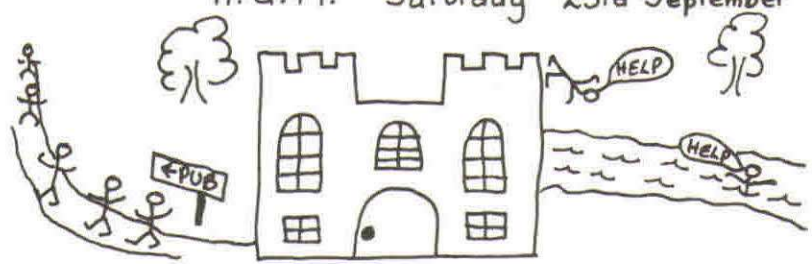
Spring times when the flowers grow,
The trees sway here to and fro,
The lambs are born,
In a lush green field,
There going to have,
A nice green meal,
The swallows fly around the barn,
Checking no ones in the farm,
And if we think how nice spring is,
We're sure to like it as long as we live.



(David Crowley 10)

FEATHERSTONE '89

Tuesday Sept. 19th — Monday Sept. 25th.
A.G.M. Saturday 23rd September



DON'T BOOK YOUR SUMMER HOLIDAYS YET
HOW ABOUT A WEEK IN THE BEAUTIFUL
NORTHUMBRIAN BORDERS?

The E.O. A.G.M. isn't just business, it's pleasure as well. Live in a castle for a week, surrounded by fields, trees and a river (there's also a pub $\frac{3}{4}$ mile away!) Meet other people who don't go or send their kids to school. Share ideas, dreams, worries etc. For more

information + booking form send S.A.E. to:
Rachel White Tel. 0969 23544
Wensley Mill
Wensley
Leyburn
N. Yorks. DL9 4HR.

DON'T EXPECT ANYTHING
BEFORE MAY! AFTER
THE LAMBING!

BOOK REVIEWS

Having volunteered to edit the book reviews I'm beginning to wonder what I've let myself in for-however I like a challenge, so here goes.

I would like to compile a list of potential reviewers-would you let me know your special interests or expertise, please. This includes ALL ages. Reviews are best kept short, 200-300 words are sufficient-if absolutely necessary I will edit a review, but I would rather not have to. If your review is nicely typed-single spaced on A4 paper-I'm less likely to want to alter it! Please include publisher, author, illustrator (if there is one) price, and if you have it the publication date. Send it to me as soon as you can.

At the moment two pages of reviews of new books seem to be the optimum, with recommendations of older books listed separately, as a resource, in much shorter form. I will be happy to deal with both, though of course new books will get priority. Older books which have slipped through unreviewed will be accorded more space than recommendations of books already mentioned. Remember though that for some people each issue of the

magazine will be the first one they have seen, so if you have found a book really useful pass it on.

I will be contacting publishers to let them know we are here, awaiting to advertise them, but if anyone could send me names and address of the beaten track type publishing houses this would help.

If there are regularly too many reviews to keep to two pages a month then a less frequent but larger supplement may be considered. Finally if anyone receives a book which they cannot immediately review-for whatever reason-let me know. We can sort out who you can pass it on. If publishers are to take us seriously review copies of their expensive books must be reviewed.

JULIE TURNBILL, COCKFIELD HOUSE, 48, FRONT ST, COCKFIELD, BISHOP AUCKLAND. CO. DURHAM. DL13 5DS.

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First of all I'd like to say many thanks to everyone who wrote to me with their support and recommendations after my article way back in er-was it October's newsletter?! For those of you for one reason or another didn't read that particular newsletter, I wrote a piece about the lack of information & publication about women in History, especially books written for children with few exceptions, History books always dwell on the achievements and lives of men with only the occasional Queen or notorious women popping up to lighten the mood.....

Elizabeth and Mike Solomon wrote saying that they have some interesting information on a local woman called Mary Bryant, who led a fascinating, if tragic life after being transported to Australia. They would be willing to prepare a pack of contemporary source material about her for a small charge to cover photocopying and postage. I will be taking up their offer soon! Their address is **6, BODMINICK HEIGHTS, BODMINICK-BY-FOWLEY, CORNWALL. PL23 1LX.....**

CLARE SHEANHAN, 15, PEMBROKE STREET. GLOUSTER. GL1 4EG. 0452 422576
(Sorry, much abbreviated version, if anyone wants the full booklist, which is very interesting, please write to Clare.)

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E. J. ARNOLD & SON LTD.
PARKSIDE LANE,
DEWSBURY RD,
LEEDS. LS11 5TD.

Publish catalogues of educational equipment as well as books. You may not wish to order anything but could benefit from a browse as some of the ideas could be copied at home. We found making games and equipment almost as interesting as using them afterwards.

HELEN HOLLAND

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(Book review)

Flexischooling by Roland Meighan (from Education Now, P.O.Box 186, Ticknall, Derbyshire DE7 1WF, price £5.95 post free)

In 1983, in his contribution to the book Alternative Education Futures, Roland Meighan wrote: 'Sadly, the polarised situation of either home or school has been forced on parents by the unimaginative response of many LEA officials. The idea of a cooperative programme, a flexistudy arrangement, or some other home-school partnership which is the first choice of many families who turn to home-based education, has not materialised yet, though it is probably only a matter of time before the chief education officer of some LEA sees the advantages of such schemes.' Alas, Roland was over-optimistic: as far as I know, no such schemes have yet emerged in the state system during the five years since that time. The attitudes of LEAs and headteachers have proved obdurate.

Roland based his optimism partly on the precedent of the Open University which he saw as a model that flexischooling could learn from and copy. Yes, indeed, it is administratively and educationally an appropriate model, but the obstacle is that whereas the Open University is socially acceptable, flexischooling for children is not because the conventional adult perception of children is that they are 'resisters' (to use Roland's term) and will only learn if subjected to rigid controls.

In Roland's new book Flexischooling he has reacted to this impasse by sidestepping it. He still defines flexischooling as 'the word used to describe the notion of a part-time arrangement whereby school and family share responsibility (for the child's education) in an agreed contract and partnership' but the idea is extended to a much more flexible approach to education in all its dimensions, particularly, it seems, within the school, including the setting up of independent schools which are committed to the flexischooling approach.

He sets out to analyse under various headings the repertoire of different educational options that are available. In the first chapter he details the rigidities inherent in the present system of state schooling in the U.K., many of which have their roots in outmoded conditions and prejudices of the past. The analysis is detached, objective and incisive, and it sets the tone for succeeding chapters in which he classifies the alternative approaches that are open to the various participants and factors in the learning process - the parents, the learners, the

teachers, the curriculum, etc. In each case the options are classified on a scale that starts with the 'authoritarian' and ends with the 'democratic', taking in several intermediate stages such as the 'consultative', 'the autonomous', on the way. He defines 'democratic learning' as 'a group working in cooperation to devise, implement and evaluate their own programme.' This of course presupposes the existence of a group, which is likely to be provided by a network of independent schools such as Dame Catherine's School in Derbyshire, each of which would be linked to a number of subsidiary or satellite learning centres.

When we first set out E.O.'s statement of aims in 1977, the last paragraph read: 'We envisage a situation in which schools and other educational services provide a resource that is freely available to all members of the community, whatever their age.' This statement was hardly an aim, more a piece of wishful or wistful thinking. Its mildness was a concession to the more moderate members of the group who felt that it would be an error to affirm an aim which we might not have the power or resources to fulfil. The moderates seem to have been right, for E.O. has never, I believe, pursued this aim. If we had, I doubt whether we would have had more success than Flexischooling. A few families have individually found sympathetic state school head-teachers with whose school they have established some cooperation, but their level of interaction has been very limited.

So what is there in flexischooling for members of E.O. when we seem to have got on quite well without it for over ten years? But have we? Have there not been many families who were too daunted by the prospect of full-time home education to undertake it? Who, having undertaken it, have found the pressures and responsibility too much of a strain? Children who wanted a taste of school but not a full meal? A need for more facilities, more courses, some advice? Do we want to remain a small, select, *privileged* group in an educational cul-de-sac?

At one time I believed that flexischooling was a valuable half-way house to full de-schooling, but over the years I have come to the conclusion that the reverse of this is true. Full de-schooling is a temporary stop-gap or stepping-stone, most often undertaken, as Roland says, because the families were 'forced into it by frustration and desperation', and because there was no alternative option. I now feel convinced that the future must lie in a situation where there is an open choice

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between full home education at one end of the scale and full schooling at the other, and any combination between these two extremes that can be agreed between school and family, with a wide range of freely available resources and facilities. This is what flexischooling aims to achieve, but the problem is to find the schools. Roland does not repeat his optimistic hopes about state school involvement, though Philip Toogood, head of Dame Catherine's School, in a postscript describing the School, writes: 'Sooner or later, the state will have to consider giving a reality to the rhetoric of parental choice so that small schools provided by parents may be funded by the public purse as in Denmark.... What is needed is for the state to support a diverse range of educational provision so that parental involvement can take place ...' He may be right, for in the present educational turmoil with a lack of consensus about the aims of education and an even greater confusion about the means, anything could happen. On the other hand, the present climate of opinion, in which lip-service is paid to parental participation and control, while at the same time decisions about the school curriculum are becoming increasingly centralised and rigid, does not fill me with optimism. Meanwhile, if state schools do not come up with the goods, let us be thankful for the small independents, Dame Catherine's School in Ticknall, The Small School in Hartland, Sands in Ashburton, The Park School in Totnes, and such other places where flexischooling, in name or intent, exists. 'The teaching profession wants to eliminate the private sector, while I see it as the one guarantee that genuine radical experiment can happen' wrote Colin Ward in Anarchy in Action.

But in the end, the answer must lie with state education. The number of trusts willing to subsidise flexischools is limited. However much parental or community contribution is made to running independent schools, fees are bound to make them exclusive (fees at Sands in Ashburton, for example, are £2,100 a year) even if bursaries are available.

Flexischools are a utopian vision, and the difficulty with utopias is that they are on the far side of a great divide. What plans are there for crossing this divide, how do we make the journey? I wish Roland had allotted some space to this problem and I hope that he will in due course bring his great knowledge and experience to bear on this problem of strategies and tactics.

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I believe Flexischooling is an important idea (as important as flexi-living, but that's another story!) and this short book is one which everyone interested in education should read. Apart from its central theme it contains many perceptive and sometimes painful observations (for example, do we de-schoolers organise our home-schooling on a consultative basis? Why yes, of course we do, the family, parents and children, consult together all the time - but beware! For when parents consult with their children there is always a hidden (or sometimes open) power of veto lurking on the agenda, and Roland lists 'consultative education' under the classification 'authoritarian'). The book will make you think, and provides the criteria for evaluating schools, and family relationships, whether you practise home education or not.

Dick Kite

DOWN TO EARTH by H.R.H Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.
Published by Collins.

A collection of writings taken from Prince Philips speeches, all concerning mans relationship with, and destruction of our natural enviroment. Very readable and thought provoking. For parents and older teenagers concerned about the present and the future of our small planet, the observation and assesments of one of the worlds foremost conservationists make interesting reading.

KATE J WILSON, MANOR COTTAGE, WALGRAVE, NORTHANTS, NN6 9PH 0604 781497

STOP PRESS Rosie Ellen Common arrived on 14th March to join Valerie, James, Geoffrey, Bradley and Jake (but too late to join the contact list!)



Joshua (6)

XXXXIX

SATURDAY SCHOOLS

Saturday schools are supplementary schools, providing some sort of extra schooling for children who are usually already at school Monday to Friday.

I don't know if they exist in other areas of the country? In London they are nearly always run by (and mainly for) Afro-Caribbean families, occasionally by other ethnic minority communities. However, children from other communities may be welcome, as they were at the one that I visited recently in South London. All the children that I saw were black, but they have some white children enrolled, and they are open to all.

The people who use Saturday schools are not satisfied with how their children are getting on at school during the week. For example, the parents may know that their children are capable of much better work if they are not in a racist environment, and so they use the Saturday school to make sure their children keep well up with their peer group.

Two points occur to me, that EO members might like to consider.

1) We could use Saturday schools

The one I visited recently was teaching English, Maths, Drama, Music, Art and other subjects in a fairly conventional way in small groups in a very pleasant atmosphere. The children seemed calm and absorbed in what they were doing. This could be a useful facility for an exhausted EO family. You get a bit of extra professional help with teaching, and it might help to stave off criticism from an awkward LEA.

2) We could publicise EO at Saturday schools.

The EO membership is almost entirely white in my experience, and the informal routes by which information is passed around tend to perpetuate this. Why are there so few black people in EO? Personally, I have not met one single black EO family in the 3 years I have been a member, and I find this a serious deficiency.

Perhaps EO publicity directed specifically at black and other minority communities would be a step in the right direction. When I asked the director why the families using his school didn't take their children out of school altogether since they find it unsatisfactory, he thought they had probably never considered it as they did not know it was legal.

I'm sending some EO leaflets to his school in the hope of spreading the word.

Please let me know if you have any information about Saturday schools or other supplementary schools in your area.

Rachel Sanger, South London

01-582 3949



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

Our principle aims are to:

encourage learning outside the school system

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

establish the primary right of children to have full consideration given to their wishes and feeling about their education

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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