

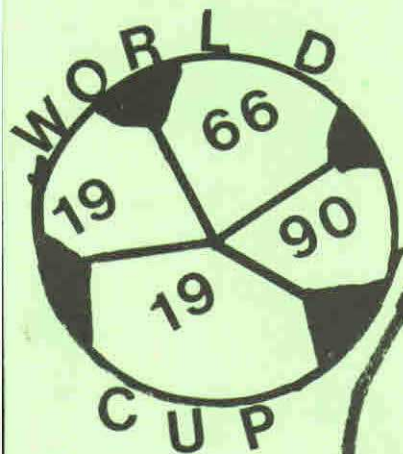
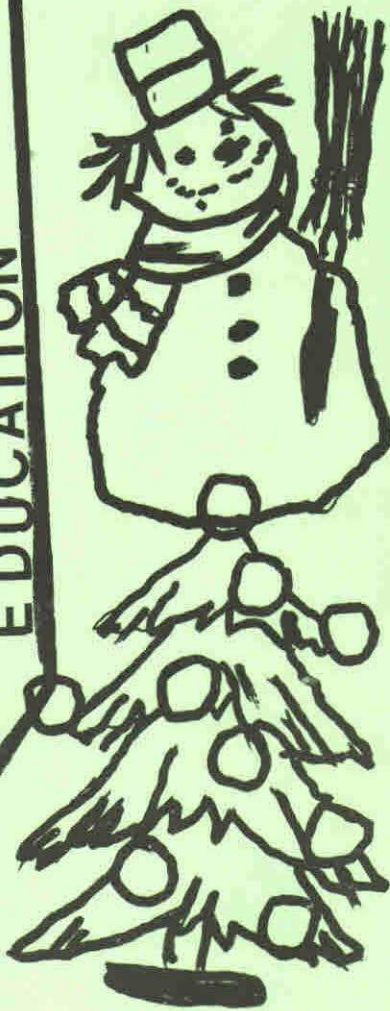
DECEMBER

89

CHRISTMAS
HIC
HAPPY

EDUCATION

OTHERWISE



NO71

INFORMATION FOR CONTRIBUTORS

- 1) Please submit before the deadline (1st of month)
- 2) Please write or type your material clearly and indicate if you do **not** want your contribution retyped (otherwise the editor will retype & make minor corrections of spelling, punctuation etc: material of wrong size, faint typeprint etc may have to be retyped anyway.
- 3) If you are writing and referring to a previous letter or article please include reference (newsletter number/date)
- 4) Feel free to make suggestions about articles you would like to see in the newsletter, or supplements
- 5) Advertisements are accepted (where space permits) from members if they are of general interest to EO in general, at 10p per word.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: JANUARY 1st

Contributions for the next edition should be sent to the editor by the deadline date, and materials intended as such should be clearly marked 'FOR PUBLICATION'. Contributors should be sure to include their full name, address and telephone number; their name on each 'cutting'; and **PLEASE, PLEASE BEAT THE DEADLINE!!**

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. This newsletter is edited by a volunteer member of Education Otherwise and its primary purpose is to provide support and communication between members.

The Editor of the February Newsletter is

Jo Rust,
8 Church End, Gamlinghay, Bedfordshire,
SG19 3EP Telephone: 0767 50032
Deadline: January 1st 1990

The Editor of the Supplement:

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SUPPLEMENT EDITORS ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED FROM JUNE '90. Please write or ring Lesley Kilbride Publishing Secretary (see inside back cover)

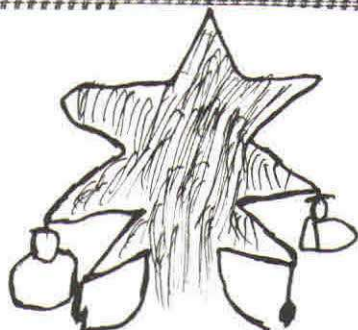
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TO HOME SCHOOLERS EVERYWHERE, AND TO THE REST OF THE
WORLD: ADVISORS, INSPECTORS, BERLIN WALL KNOCK DOWNERS, TEACHERS
ET AL: THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON: WE WISH YOU A HAPPY AND
PEACEFUL , JOYFUL, DIWALI, CHANUKAH, YULE, CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR.

#####



J.F.

Gary Lineker was transferred to Tottenham Hotspur for £1.5 million. He plays centre forward for England and Spurs, has two Golden Boots and was the 1986 World Cup Top Scorer. He is supposed to earn about £4,000 per match.

My best things at school are playtime, sports time and the end. This will make my dad angry at me but here are my best transformers:

1 Jetfire, 2 Grimlock, 3 Power Master 4 Optimus Prime (cut off in:ED)

What I did not like about school was everything. I am still connected with school because I go to football at their ground. I am now home educated and that is nearly as bad as school used to be , all right Dad I'm only joking.

In home education we do a lot of science, we once made carbon dioxide which made a candle go out without even touching it.

Jody Fleisch

"HOME EXECUTION" as it is called in our house, is nothing new. Our eldest children: Mark, now 22 and trying to study fashion and design at College, had a couple of spells out of secondary school. Jackie, now 21, had a year out in secondary school, and now has her eldest child half time in nursery school. Jody, 9½, left school the week he started, went back a year later, and left again at Easter.

He was obviously unhappy at school, did not want to go on many mornings, and was having around a day a week away. He presented a number of physical illnesses which were "psychological" in cause, none of which have appeared since leaving school.

Socially, he goes to football and dance classes. Apart from playing in football matches for Leisure centres/community teams, he dances at many festivals over summer, for pensioners' homes around Christmas, and has two nights at "Wales Premiere Theatre Clwyd". The 'visits' are far more varied and involving than most schools could provide. He takes exams in football, jazz, tap & ballet, and his performance is on public view (even video). Our house is either full of kids, or we are wandering around trying to find him: leaving school not only improved his performances (especially in dance) but has not affected his playing etc with other children.

I wonder whether, if the school atmosphere was as enjoyable, friendly, productive and hardworking as that in his football exam class (at Holywell: 15 children, 3 instructors) and in his dance classes (600 children with 3 teachers, ratios from 1:1 to 70:1 but averaging about 20:1), he would be having home execution. "Smile and enjoy it" was the attitude of his brilliant gymnastics teacher: now educating his children in a travel home around Europe. His excellent dance teacher, and good football coaches, have a similar attitude: and it works.

Financially, a question rarely discussed in these columns, books, videos, tapes in lieu of school will have cost us c.£100 this year. In terms of working at home instead of for others, I will have lost c.£160 per week, net: that's including cost of babysitters/home heating/take away meals. Others might like to look at the costs of home education.

Our primary school adviser has been friendly and constructive in his comments: Clwyd supports parents and our (unofficial) guess is that over 20 families are home "executing". Looking, as well as being orderly, and using pens as well as a word processor, were two pieces of 'advice'.

Home education has been met with acceptance by friends and neighbours, and with 'envy' by many friends still at school. My thanks are due not only to my wife, Pam, for proof reading this and putting up with me doing it, but to my 3 children for giving us much practical experience of home-schooling. Jody is jointly responsible for the cover. It seems strange to be wishing you all Happy Christmas and a Joyful New Year, whilst watching the Berlin Wall being dismantled, to have to read the horror stories of home educators. C'est la vie!

SpeLLLLling and typoGRaphi cal errors are entirely my fault or the cats for pawing at the word processor.

Kevin Fleisch, 62 Uplands Ave., Connahs Quay, Deeside, Clwyd, CH5 4LG, tel 0244 810153

My name is Michael Bogucki and I am 9. I learn at home and go to wood-craft folk. My interests are roller-skating,skate-boarding, codes, mysteries, spies, stamp collevcting, and reading. I have 2 computers ,a BBC and a ZX81. I play the piano and listen to pop music. We will soon be moving to the Crawley area.

Love

Michael Bogucki, 7 Derwent Drive, Mitton, Tewksbury,Glos. GL20 8AZ

16, Kenyon Rd, Wigan, Lancashire, WN12DQ

Dear E.O.,

My name is Joshua Thompson and I am eight years old. I have two brothers, called Oliver and Ashley, and a sister called Laura. I go to Wigan Christian Fellowship and I like playing chess and have Meccano 3. I would like a penfriend about my age.

Love from,

Joshua Thompson

Hello,

I am called Lisa and like ponies, art and music. I also like roller skating and reading books. If you write to me you are definitely going to get a reply!

Love

from Lisa Jackson,

39 Ushaw Villas, Ushaw Moor, County Durham, DH7 7PU, tel 3735196

Dear EO,

I would like a pen pal. I am 8 years old. I like swimming, reading, comics and playing board games. I do recorder and go to Woodcraft Folk.

From Jack Grahl

21 Hampton Rd Forest Gate London E7 OPD

There was a mouse
Who lived in a house
and he'd never seen another mouse
and then there came
another mouse and he said "
"Hello, are you the cat
of the house?"

Caroline Joy Bernard

47 Vernon Ave,Old Basford,Nottingham N66 0AQ England



3



LOOK
CHEESE
CAKE

CHILD CARE AND CUSTODY

My book, "The Abuse of Care and Custody Orders, and Understanding School Phobia" has been written to refute the concept of the psychiatric profession that school phobia is essentially a psychiatric problem to be treated with drugs and other psychiatric interventions, as described in the article from the British Medical Journal in the October newsletter.

This theory has led not only to the treatment of school phobic children in psychiatric units, but also to their placement in care, in residential units for the educationally sub-normal and for maladjusted children. It constitutes an infringement of basic human rights.

The psychiatric interventions have resulted in a high incidence of mental illness in later life for the children concerned. Home educated school phobic children show no such tendency towards mental illness.

My book is published Dec. 1989, £6.50 p.b., £12.90 hd. bk. Please order a copy from your local library, so that the book will be read by a wider audience.

Patricia Knox. Pen Llywenan, Bodedern, Holyhead, Gwynedd
#####

Sunday Mail 15.10.89: "Just how well cared for are children in homes? Of Britain's 98,000 child runaways, 34 per cent have run off from local authority homes. That's a frighteningly high figure considering less than one per cent of teenagers are in care."

Letter Published in several Scottish Newspapers, Sept. 89:
"They said Cleveland could never happen in Scotland, that under the Scottish system no family could be so damaged by any professional group. Sadly, Scotland has the highest incidence of children in care in the UK, and it has been our experience that the Scottish system is as open to injustice as any other."

SCAR (Scottish Children at Risk)'s main concern is the care and protection of children in situations where local authority intervention is causing harm. To this end they try to extend help to any family (Scottish or otherwise) who may need it regardless of where they live. All contact with them is strictly confidential unless the family agrees otherwise.

They strongly suspect that within E.O. now, or in the very near future, there is/will be a need for SCAR.

There are many caring professionals and a theoretically excellent system. However, not all social/care workers are as adequately trained or as responsible as one might hope.

SCAR belongs to all parents who feel their children have been/are being harmed by local authority intervention.

Advice, information, newsletter articles or HELP to or from SCAR
P.O.Box 7, Kingsbarns, St Andrews, Fife KY16 8QJ

CHILD EN'S BILL NEWS

PIPPED AT THE POST

Well, we got right to the last hurdle: as a result of all the campaigning by the Children's Home Based Education Association (CHEA)members and friends, four of our proposed amendments were accepted to be debated by the House when the Bill returned to the Commons for its Report Stage on Monday 23rd October.

Our amendments were due to be debated on the 24th, and we had many supporting M.P.s in the House. However, cerytain Labour M.P.s (one of them a Doncaster M.P. I'm ashamed to say) , aggrieved by the Government's handling of the Associated Ports issue decided to sabotage the Bill as a political tactic and forced a division on all the remaining amendments. This tactic was aimed at wasting as much time as possible. It worked, and the Bill was guillotined, being allocated only three remaining hours when the House rose in the early hours of the 25th.As a result, only Government amendments remaining after the allotted time were implemented into the Bill. All the other outstanding amendments were thrown out without debate.

Each year hundreds of families allow themselves to be taken to court by their education authorities AND LOSE, not because they are at fault but simply because they are not aware that there is any alternative to the choices their authority gives them. Many more give in to an unsatisfactory and often unjust course of action in order to avoid an appearance in court. When education supervision orders are introduced as detailed in the Bill in its unamended form these parents will not only continue to lose their cases unnecessarily; they will also have rights taken away from THEM and placed into the hands of their education authority.

Sections 36 and 76 of the 1944 Act (the sections that give PARENTS the responsibility for their child's education, give them choices as to how this is to be done, and lays a duty on the education authority to pay regard to the parent's wishes and to educate children in accordance with the parent's wishes) are to be removed . When an education supervision order is in place against a child, these rights are then passed to the authority.

When the Bill is made law, hundreds of families may have their rights taken away from them not because they are at fault, but simply because they do not know what case to present to the court, or what course of action to take to rectify problems with their child's education. Many more will accept an unsatisfactory course of action SIMPLY FROM FEAR of having those rights taken away from them and given to a member of the education authority.

The amendment that would have prevented this and would have ensured education supervision orders were ONLY taken out against those who were indeed flouting the law was thrown out when the Bill was guillotined. This was the amendment to place a legal responsibility on education authorities to inform parents of all their rights and

options, and to allow time to get suitable provision under way before action is taken by the education authority, and to give the family details of the relevant voluntary organisations.

That simple addition to the Bill would have prevented all those hundreds of families from accepting only the course of action the education authority thinks fit, and would give parents a realistic idea of ALL the options open to them. Even the best informed, best educated, and most articulate of parents are not aware of parent's rights and so lose court cases and appeals out of ignorance of the law. Those families could have stayed within the law if our amendment had been implemented into the Bill.

As the Bill began in the Lords it will only return there for the amendments that have already been added in the Commons, so it is not possible to campaign at that stage. However, it may be possible to use the allies we have gained at Westminster and elsewhere as a result of the campaign to at least pressure the Secretary of State to introduce voluntary guidelines for education authorities, advising them to inform parents of their rights and options and give parents details of relevant voluntary organisations. This of course will not be binding in law but it is all we can hope to achieve now and will at least go some way to saving some families from being prosecuted or manipulated unnecessarily, although of course the really bad education authorities will ignore the guidelines and continue to withhold information.

Every single case is an unhappy child however and if we can save just one we will have achieved a great deal. If you would like to help persuade the Secretary of State to introduce such guidelines then please write to your own M.P. either at her/his home or c/o House of Commons, LONDON SW1A 0AA asking her/him to pass your letter to the Secretary of State for Education (this creates more impact as the Secretary will have to answer your M.P., who will pass the reply on to you, whereas he may not answer if you write direct. Be sure also to ask your M.P. if s/he would give you her/his support in any other way to secure the introduction of these guidelines. Suggest that the Secretary introduces a circular advising LEAs to inform parents of their rights and options before any action is taken regarding any child, and to give the parent details of the relevant voluntary organisation, and to allow parents time to put their options into practice. You may like to put a copy of this letter in with your letter to your M.P. (photocopied from the Education Otherwise newsletter).

We must have been taken seriously to have got as far as we did in Westminster, and that is wholly as a result of 'ordinary' people writing to their M.P. and so on; I hope you will help build on the credibility we have all helped achieve for parents. Parents do have the basic human right and the legal right to be taken into account where our children are concerned.

CHILDREN'S HOME-BASED EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, 14 Basil Ave, Armthorpe,
DONCASTER, DN3 2AT Tel. 0302 633596

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EDUCATING ARCHIE

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ANOTHER CHALLENGING YEAR
DRAWS TO A CLOSE AS - YES -
ONCE MORE, CHRISTMAS
APPROACHES



Which REMINDS ME
ARCHIE, WHAT DO
YOU WANT FOR
CHRISTMAS?



THEY'RE BIG &
DANGEROUS, &
EXPENSIVE, &
YOU HAVE TO KNOW
HOW TO HANDLE
THEM



- DOESN'T
SOUND LIKE
RECYCLED
NOTEPAPER
TO ME, GIVE
ME ANOTHER
CLUE, DEAR



SOME PEOPLE ARE
SCARED OF THEM
BECAUSE THEY CAN
GET OUT OF CONTROL



- OH NO, ARCHIE
NOT A
ROTTWEILER?

- NO
OF COURSE
NOT,
MUM



I WANT A
MOTOR BIKE



SOB!

- BUT I'D
SETTLE FOR
SOME
INDOOR
FIREWORKS



AND A
HAPPY
CHRISTMAS
TO ALL OUR
READERS

COMPLAINTS

A reminder of the complaints procedure decided at Featherstone Castle in Sept.1988.

In the past, complaints have been brought to members' meetings or printed in the newsletter, where they have taken up an inordinate amount of time or space, and maybe even been ignored. It was decided that, prior to members' meetings, a small group would meet to discuss and hopefully resolve any complaints from the membership, unless reference to the meeting is necessary.

I volunteered to be the channel through which complaints can be brought to the group's attention, so if you have any things you'd like to see discussed and you can't make it to the meetings, please WRITE to me. I will either take it or pass it on to the next meeting.

ALISON ORR, 17 Blackwood Crescent, EDINBURGH EH9 1RA
#####

WE DESPERATELY NEED EDITORS FOR " EDUCATION THROUGH THE PRESS".PLEASE RESPOND WITH LOTS OF OFFERS TO SARAH GUTHRIE, Field House,Thrandeston,Diss, Norfolk, IP21 4BU

LETTERS

Dear Kevin,

We are-Partick,Chris, Lizzie (7), Pete (5) and Andrew (2). We have been EO'ers for a couple of years now but because of dire lack of time-honestly- we have been unable to contribute much in the way of anything!

Patrick is a Systems Analyst (also a final year O.U. graduate) and I 'run' Squires Protective Bedding.We started this business some 5 years ago out of sheer need for something to protect our duvets from the onslaught of bedwetting children! It has been an extremely hard slog which, we hope, one day, may have been worthwhile!

Lizzie came out of school last Christamas. We had pondered over this for a long time wondering how on earth we 'd cope with all the other committments. We had read so often about parent's giving up careers in order to teach their children at home- how could we cope with two working parents? Well, it hasn't been perfect- but we have survived. Lizzie came to the office with me once or twice a week and the rest of the time she spends with Lorna, our nanny.

Having a 'nanny' is not something we like to talk about publicly, people look on us and tend to wonder where we park the Rolls Royce! However, not only are our children looked after in the security of their home, we don't have to worry about them wrecking someone else's house (our children are like tornadoes- they can wreak havoc in any confined space) but with more than one child, a nanny can actually work out cheaper than childminders etc. Lorna has helped alleviate many of our fears on educating Lizzie. She is not responsible for teaching her but she fills in the gaps that we don't have time to fill i.e. crafts, nature 'studies', using the library, swimming, arranging outings etc. She is also a friend to Lizzie. It isn't always so-they have their disagreements and the relationship took some working on. Lizzie is very bright, has a very strong personality and can drive you round the bend! However with Lorna she can talk about



"Kylie" whoever (!), dream about horses and moan about her parents!
Thank you Lorna- you're doing a great job!

The rest of Lizzie's tuition is somewhat sporadic. We have a couple of blitzes occasionally when we feel we don't have much to show, but we're slowly learning to relax and let Lizzie take the lead. The dreaded 'visit' came last month- but our primary advisor proved to be marvelous. No criticism, just honest helpful answers to our questions. Maybe we'll try to have some work to show her next time!
By the way, Pete (5) attends infant school and loves every minute of it, but who knows!!! Andrew (2) will probably go also- if they'll have him!

Anyone interested in getting in touch/visiting-please do. Be warned though- we eat meat, drink, smoke and are agnostic! As a family we enjoy walking (up to 6-7 miles with kids- no further!), trains, cycling, swimming. Parents are also avid bridge players- Pat is brilliant, and I won't read the books!

P.S. We can offer a 10% discount on COMFIDRI-SNUGFIT protective bedding to EO members. Write or phone for a brochure and mention EO.
PPS Lyndon Pugh- October's Editor-recommended "How to talk so Kids Will Listen and Listen so Kids Will Talk". I read this book along with the author's other book "Liberated Parents Liberated Children" several years ago, as Lyndon said- it works!! We were so impressed that we now stock these books: prices as follows:

Liberated Parents£3.95 (60p p&p)
How to Talk£6.95 (60p p&p)

Merry Christmas
Chris Squires

30 Clarence Rd., Chesterfield, Derbys, S40 1LN

Dear Editor,

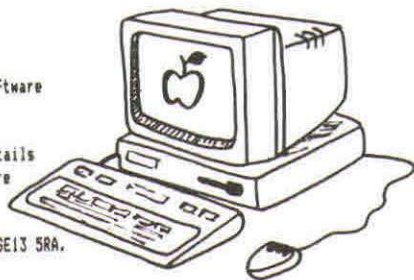
is Rajan Naidu trying to make a monkey out of me?
Edwina Theunissen, Pum Rhyd, Marchwiel, Wrexham, Clwyd

LEARNING LINK

Computer Hardware & Software
at Educational Prices.

Please send SAE for details
of Price List & Brochure
service.

83 Manor Park, London SE13 5RA.



Dear EO,

I am writing with reference to the article from the B.M.J. in the October issue about school refusal/phobia. There are several points I would like to comment upon, and to say that we have a 15 year old son who has suffered greatly from this problem.

Of course these children will suffer from anxieties and depression because each day they are forced to face something which they find extremely stressful. How many adults have to confront their fears and phobias head on every day ?

In our case our child was able to attend outside functions and mix with people but seemed terrified of school. His anxieties seemed heightened when at school. We had recently moved areas, he had to adapt to a much larger school, his young uncle died suddenly and his father was ill, so he unfortunately suffered many of the factors which may contribute to school phobia. I dislike the term school refusal. I do not agree that all the children who present with this phobia suffer from a separation anxiety.

Of course depression will be present in these children when they are forced to conform and attend school. They are under a great deal of pressure because most "experts" on the subject seem to feel the most satisfactory outcome is a return to school. My husband and I are both in the medical profession and we were told by the Child Psychiatrist that we were totally wrong not to force our son back to school when all our instincts as caring parents made us realise the harm it was doing to him.

I believe that some of the medical profession involved have a sense of failure if the children do not return to school. I do however feel that once the pressure to return has been removed, with love and encouragement these children can regain their confidence and sense of value. It is no wonder that there is evidence of depression in the mothers particularly; it is heartbreaking to see your child change from a happy outgoing person to someone anxious and depressed, withdrawn and maybe even suicidal because they are being forced to attend school. Why must it be assumed that everyone at the age of five should jump on the conveyor belt of school and only get off when they reach the age of sixteen?

In less severe cases I believe that the child may be helped back to school, with the patience and understanding of everyone concerned. However it is my opinion that some children need to be taught at home or in small groups away from the school system. I believe they then stand every chance of becoming normal well adjusted adults whereas those forced back to school may well need further help as adults. Only time will tell with our son but now after six months out of school his confidence has grown, he has settled to working for his GCSE's and he no longer feels abnormal because he is out of school.

No one can predict the future and I believe more research may be needed to follow up the children who have been taught at home. It would be nice to hear from anyone who has been in the same situation

Jennifer Bourne,
46 Alexander Rd., St.Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4QN

Dear Editor,

Since last writing a letter in the E.O. Newsletter, I have had many requests for information concerning

- a) living in France and
- b) The legal situation about education and home schooling here.

So far, I have always replied to every letter received but there seems to be a constant demand, so I felt I should give out the information more generally. (Also, I have sometimes felt a little sad that, after writing at length in reply to a request, I'd never hear anything more) even though sometimes there were requests to visit...!)

Living in France I suppose is much the same as living anywhere else, there's food and less food and bad and inbetween; some things are better: there is quality food, the possibility of buying organically-grown food; medicine is good here (doctors, homeopathy, acupuncture etc) usually on the French National Health; family allowances for families with 3 children or more are often pretty generous. Then there is the TGV (High Speed Train) which, if you live near a station it serves, gives you easy access to Paris (the network is being constantly expanded). As English is in constant demand (and growing), one can always find jobs teaching adults and/or children.

In my opinion, the schooling, albeit with some exceptions, is tough, long hours (8.30-11.30/1330-1630) and homework from aged 6 on. There are nursery schools everywhere, children are really expected to go from 2½ (or even younger), either part or full time. (At present, my 6 year old son Theo has the good fortune to be in a school with a wonderful teacher who accepts that he goes part time, and he is enjoying this arrangement. I will add that this is exceptional!)

However, if one wants to home school, there seems to be little difficulty, legally. One merely has to inform the Inspector Academique of the area (LEA), they send a form asking masses of questions which you're not obliged to answer, but if you do it all helps to keep good relations with them. Some day they arrange to visit your child(ren). Officially, at aged 8, 10 & 12. Most people I know say that the Inspector is normally pleasant and helpful, although I suppose one thing that is important is your approach to them/him/her. Legally they have to check that your child/ren is/are not being abused or 'misused' (unpaid servants?). Legally a parent has the right to homeschool, on condition the kids are being properly looked after. From a social point of view things are very different, however!

But things are definitely looking up. There is a "French E.O." called "LES ENFANTS D'ABORD", the 1st newsletter comes out in a week or two, I'll try and see if we can send the E.O. Committee a copy. One thing Les Enfant D'Abord wants to do is to liaise with E.O., to make each other stronger from a European point of view (after all, in Germany & Spain homeschooling is illegal, we would hope to change their minds and laws rather than they changing ours!)

On re-reading this, it may sound idyllic to some families thinking of moving here. In many ways there are lovely things and lovely people here, on an individual basis. What I miss (some times more than others) is (some) English Television, from a culture point of view, especially the funny programmes (French TV is not much cop on the whole!); popping into the local, a chat over the fence, a relaxed (not intense) conversation: English culture. Also, although my French is good, my intuitive and mother tongue isn't French and sometimes its a bit difficult. My children, on the other hand, are completely bilingual, a great advantage for them, especially with 1992 not far off. I'd also like to add that we are very happy to help welcome people who wish to visit, or stay here until they find something that suits them. Over summer we have room for whoever wishes to put up a tent or mobile home; in the winter there is our house. We also have friends who are longing to have visits from English speaking people. All we ask is that we are not expected to 'carry' people financially, and that those who come contribute their thing as best they can. I hope this information letter is of use to those thinking of coming to live in France.

Looking forward to hearing from any prospective visitors
Andree Roberts-Keen
La Radissonne, Morance, 69480 Anse, France, tel 78 43 08 57

STAYING OUT OF SCHOOL

One day this spring I received one of those letters I imagine every coordinator dreads. It was fairly illiterate, appealing for help with a pending court hearing about their son, aged 13, who was "school phobic" and had been threatened with a court order. I'll call them the Blackwells. I went round to see them straight away, it being a local address. Mr. Blackwell, clearly a highly nervous and paranoid individual, gave a terribly incoherent account of the events leading up to the court order. Luckily, his wife was calm and sensible, and so with her help I pieced together what had happened. "John" had been a school refuser for most of his school life. He'd just about managed to cope at primary school but he could not face life at a secondary school and was continually away. His parents sympathised with his misery but felt powerless.

They were urged on all sides "not to give in" and did their best to get him to school. Typically, they were told (by a teacher, popular in the local Labour Party, a campaigner for green issues and third

world rights) to "drag him to school, screaming if necessary". When John tried to throw himself from the car on the way to school one morning, his father realised that things could not go on like this. Somehow, John was officially diagnosed school phobic and given a home tutor by the local authority. But this did not work either, mainly, it seems, because the purpose behind the home tutoring was to persuade John back into school. In due course, the home tutoring was dropped and John was left to his own devices. It was now about three years since the child had been in continuous education. At no stage had anyone advised the family that it was their legal right to teach John at home.

Sometime at the beginning of this year, a new social worker came to see the Blackwells and told them that a place had been found for John at a remedial boarding school. The parents were confused - didn't like to force their son but assumed they had to make him go. John refused to go there, anyway. So in May, they received notification of a care order on the grounds that John was not receiving sufficient education and (thus) must be beyond the care and control of his parents. A solicitor was appointed, as was an independent representative - a guardian ad litem - for John, neither of whom knew anything about the right to educate at home. Fortunately, Mr. Blackwell had filed away a letter I had once written to the local paper about education otherwise, and so he now got in touch with me.

Here I was confronting the situation that so often gets thrown at EO families: "what about those people who are not capable of educating their children themselves?" For it was obvious that, with the best will in the world, John's parents just did not have the cultural resources that would convince a magistrate that John could be taught by them. They were poor, working-class, struggling-father a self-employed gardener and mother a self-employed cleaner. In addition, Mr. Blackwell had been in a motor bike accident some 25 years previously, which left him with what he described as "personality disorders"-unpredictable bouts of temper (though he claimed he was never violent, and because of his innocence and candour, I believed him.) It also made him extremely agitated and incoherent. I could imagine only too well what the magistrates would make of that. Mrs Blackwell was more capable, despite her husband saying she wasn't, but her own education had been muddled. Could they, really, give John what he needed ?

When I met John he was very reserved, polite, tense. He looked more like 17 than 13 and had clearly been under a lot of stress. But he showed me his wild life garden, his ducks and cat, and his bike that he went everywhere on. He had a friend he went fishing with, too. It turned out later that John was very concerned with ecological issues, animal rights and so on. So it would seem he had many interests despite his surface lethargy. I knew that he would probably manage well if left alone, but I was concerned that he could not, at the age of 13, read or write, nor do much with numbers. Obviously a handicap, and it couldn't help his low self-esteem. More important, it would look bad in court. The hearing was in two weeks time, so I had to think of something quickly.

There followed a hectic time of talking to everyone I could think of. The solicitor for the case was relieved that someone else was taking an interest, and though he was rather cynical about the Blackwells' ability to teach their son, saw it as a solution and was confident that the hearing could be postponed while we constructed a programme. Then I contacted John's guardian ad litem. He was even more cynical. When I explained the sort of things John had managed to do at home, which included rewiring the house, he replied " I don't call changing a few light bulbs getting an education " and claimed that John would never be able to get a proper job. When I suggested that at least it might prevent John attempting suicide, he grudgingly agreed.

The Family Rights group, whom I contacted to make sure that the care order was legal, were helpful and efficient. They confirmed that it was, and suggested I contact Education Otherwise....Ann Wade, our own legal contact, gave me lots of detailed and useful information about legal precedents and points of law. And the most encouraging of all was the reaction I got from those I asked to help with John's teaching.

It was obvious that John had to have outside help, and that his parents could not afford to pay for it. So I made a list of all the people I knew in the area who had something to offer. There was a remedial teacher next door, now on supply, who was really a painter and had great sympathy (from years of teaching) with school phobics. Would she undertake to help John to read and write ? She said she would, and she did not want money. However, she wasn't averse to a system of barter, and liked the idea of having some cleaning done in return for the lessons. Then we both realised that, if anyone needed help with cleaning, it was me. So it was decided that Mrs Blackwell (who had already agreed to the scheme) should clean for me but that I should pay my neighbour, and that John would get twice weekly lessons amounting to several hours. Mrs Thatcher would approve, the LEA wouldn't care and everyone would be happy.

Then-maths. My own children were already having occasional lessons from a woman in the next village who had a lot of experience teaching innumerate adults. She readily agreed to help John, and welcomed the idea of gardening in exchange. And our local field studies director offered to do what she could for John, to give him the opportunity of developing a curiosity and love for scientific things through doing practical work and observation, and in return he could do odd jobs for her. For someone interested in wildlife, this was a glorious opportunity. There were more avenues I could have explored, but I felt that it was important not to overwhelm John to start with. His parents decided that they could do history and geography with him, and although their approach was very piecemeal and confused and rigid, it was not my business to stop them. I couldn't feel he would respond to textbook work, though.

The family decided that we should start the programme right away, without waiting for the results of the case. The solicitor succeeded in getting a postponement of the court case for a month. He was then told by the LEA that permission to educate at home had to be obtained. I was amazed that, after years of pressure from me to be honest about

home education and the law, the LEA should still be making this kind of statement.

They later diluted this to saying that special forms had to be filled in. Again I objected, but the solicitor persuaded me that it was safer to play them at their own game. So Mrs. Blackwell and I spent a whole afternoon painstakingly filling in those ghastly forms that require the parent to account for just about every waking hour of the child's life. I added a long letter of explanation for good measure, only to learn the next day that Mr Blackwell had torn everything up in a fit of frustrated rage at the whole business. We had to do the paperwork all over again.

Shortly before the case, the primary schools adviser came to visit the Blackwells to assess their credibility. I offered to be present. To my relief, she turned out to be a sympathetic and sensible woman who refrained from asking too many questions about how it was all going to work, and was understanding and friendly to John about his school refusal. She said that she would not oppose the idea, but that the final decision rested with her superiors. We all felt confident.

At last, in early September, the case was heard and the parents won. The magistrate agreed that John could be educated at home, provided he was supervised on a fortnightly basis. Six months of stress had ended. But what of John himself? He now found himself able to educate himself (almost) at his own pace, in Renaissance style, with an array of tutors. No curriculum, hardly a timetable, no homework, exams, pressure. There is only one snag. John does not want to learn. He's not interested. He is listless, uncurious, mentally blank. He'll go through the motions mechanically, but that is all. My neighbour, at first despairing, is now resigned. They play Scrabble, draw horses, go for rides, learn to tell the time, talk about things. Some slow progress has been made. He hasn't followed up the Field Studies offer, yet, but dutifully goes along to his weekly maths lesson. But ultimately, John doesn't want to know. Would it not have been kinder, says my neighbour, to have left him in his own little world? Others who have been involved with him this summer feel the same. They wonder how to motivate him to ENJOY reading and writing and numbers and everything else that develops out of that. Will he ever, in all honesty, want to pick up a book, write a letter, read a newspaper? They reckon he is more interested in his new ghetto-blaster than anything else.

I see their point of view. But maybe, given the right support, the mind can finally heal itself of negative experience and is able to open up to all the possibilities of life. For that reason, it is perhaps worth persevering. "Is he happy?" I ask my neighbour. After some moments thought she says "Well, he's not unhappy." At the moment, I suppose that's the best we can hope for.

Sarah Guthrie (of Educating Archie fame)

Dear N.L.

Many of us sympathise with Rachel Sanger and Keith Charlton and have similar intentions towards our children. So why am I now sitting my 8 & 11 year olds down to maths workbooks and expecting them to do a certain amount of reading & writing (nearly) every day? Do I no longer trust them to learn what they need to know? Am I tired of swimming against the tide? Would I be better able to keep faith with this philosophy if we lived in a rural idyll? Or am I simply following my instincts too?

Until recently I had believed that the children of Primitive People learned to survive naturally through their curiosity, experience and by example. However some Amazonian Indians repeatedly and deliberately dip their infants into rushing water to build the skills they need for life on and near the river. Australian Aborigines, as soon as they are aware of the first stirrings of speech in their children, start placing in their hands things that are important for their survival and repeating their names. Not toys, but leaves, lizards, sticks, stones....so it seems to me that parents have always taught their children vital skills, not left them to discover them, by chance.

In a complex urban environment literacy and numeracy are every bit as much a skill for survival as is road safety. As E.O. parents we have the privilege of being able to be sensitive to our childrens' readiness to learn these things, to be able to follow up our childrens' own interests, to set our own priorities and to devise our own methods.

I respect the instinct, intelligence and natural goodness of children, so should I doubt the the instincts and experience of parents?

Jane Woolfe
13 Western Drive Liverpool 19

LANGUAGE LEARNING AND ESPERANTO

There is one thing which schools do supremely badly- and that is the teaching of languages. Many millions of pounds are spent from our taxes and rates, fruitlessly "teaching" millions of English children French and millions of French children English. "Aversion therapy" might be a more accurate term than "teaching". Only a very small minority actually learn to use a second language. Most learn to hate all foreign languages and to feel an utter failure at the very mention of the word "language".

All that is really needed to learn a foreign language is for the learner to spend a certain length of time living in the country concerned, conversing with its native speakers. Books hinder rather than help. Millions of illiterate sailors learned to speak several languages simply by travelling round the world, and staying in various ports.

There are relatively painless and easy ways to learn a foreign language (see Accelerated Learning Association, Uni-Vite House, 50 Aylesbury Rd, Aston Clinton, Aylesbury, Bucks, H22 5AH, tel 0296 631 117) but these are of no real use without also using the language. There is, however, a good way to prepare a child for national language

learning and that is to learn Esperanto. Esperanto is an international language with European roots and a simple regular grammar, which is used by a network of a million people all over the world in both "communist" and "capitalist" countries. A knowledge of Esperanto opens the door to the private homes of people in far-away countries whom one could never hope to meet on a package tour. If travel is beyond your means, you can correspond with Esperantists in other countries or entertain them in your home. You may find a special interest group enabling you to discuss your interest with people who have no real skill in English.

Mr Baker, in his wisdom, has prescribed two lists of national languages which may be taught in schools, either as a first or second foreign language. Esperanto is in neither list.

It was banned in Hitler's Germany, and is now virtually banned from state schools in Britain. This is a pity, because it has been proved more than once that children who have studied Esperanto and enjoyed the confidence that rapid success brings, and made contacts in other countries with non-English speakers- these children make much more rapid progress in learning a first foreign national language than those who start without first learning Esperanto.

If you want to know more, Maire Mullarney, author of "Anything school can do, you can do better", has written a book "Esperanto for hope" published by Poolbeg in Dublin, Eire, 1989.

I learned Esperanto along with my eldest daughter when I had her out of school for a year in 1979-80 when she was 10-11. Since then I have kept up my interest in the language and my third daughter Wendy aged 10 has now learned it. We used "A practical course in Esperanto" by Szilyagy. Although written in 1932 it is still one of the best available courses, having lots of amusing pictures and stories, and lots of oral practice exercises, assuming no previous knowledge of Esperanto. I have reason to hope that an even better course will soon be developed.

Wendy has been learning Esperanto since she was eight but when she was booked in last April for the International Children's Congress in Esperanto at Rottingdean in St Auby's School, (to be held at the same time as the Grown-Ups Universal Esperanto Congress, but a few miles away in Brighton) then we really had a motive for learning it properly. We did Esperanto every day in the summer term and finally put aside all other subjects, in order to achieve fluency in spoken Esperanto.

By the time she had covered half the 16 lessons she found that if she asked for something in Esperanto e.g. "terpomflokajn" (potato crisps) she was more likely to get it. Finally we were able to feed rabbits, prepare lunch, go swimming and shopping in Esperanto. We learned a few songs, read Esperanto stories together, and played games to increase her skills.

When the time came to go to the Congress, she was able to manage for a whole week speaking only Esperanto. There were 33 children aged 6-12, most of whom spoke no English, with about 5 adult 'guides' and

five teenage helpers. They had to speak Esperanto in order to understand and to be understood.

They swam, played and learned together, and prepared a concert for the grown-ups at the end of the week. A video was made of this, and re-runs of television coverage were shown. The children sang, played music, performed poetry and sketches. Wendy was still singing in the car on the way home in Esperanto with great gusto.

None of this would have been possible if I had kept her in school. British Esperanto Teachers in schools mostly teach Esperanto in lunchtimes in secondary schools in clubs. Hungary is the country where most progress has been made in introducing it into the primary schools. In some schools there, children do their basic lessons in the morning, and spend the afternoon in various activities using Esperanto, instead of Hungarian. Esperanto is very popular in China and South America, too.

I hope you have enjoyed reading about our experiences. I have written about them not in order to draw attention to ourselves, but to encourage others to try it, for the following reasons.

1) Esperanto can help reduce friction and misunderstanding in international communication. It was a mis-translated word that gave the Americans excuse to make the final decision to drop the Atom bomb on Japan in 1945.

2. Esperanto could reduce the cost of many international meetings, and greatly increase real effective communication, person to person, not through interpreters. Half the money we all pay for V.A.T. goes to finance translation; the cost of this could be reduced by about 80% if Esperanto were used as a bridge language, that is if all texts were translated into Esperanto and then out again into the other national languages, instead of every language being translated into every other language. Only 20 interpreters would be needed for a ten-language group, instead of 90. Huge translation budgets absorb millions of pounds which would otherwise be available to bring relief and development to the third world.

3. Esperanto is an ideal language for computers, having holidays, raising families, being angry or happy and all the many ways in which humans use language to communicate.

If you want to find out more about it, please write to:

The Esperanto Centre, 140 Holland Park Ave, LONDON W.12
tel 01 727 7821

A TASTE OF ESPERANTO

To give you an idea of what Esperanto is like, a poem by Shelley

TOMORROW

Where art thou, beloved To-morrow
 When young and old and strong and weak
 Rich and poor, through joy and sorrow,
 Thy sweet smiles we ever seek
 In thy place-ah! well-a-day!
 We find the things we fled-To-day

Pronunciation

r always rolled
 aŭ as in cow
 a as in father
 ie as in where
 i = ee as in police
 j as y
 oj as in boy
 aj as in by
 ĉ as in rich
 ĝ as in gem or j in joy
 o as in fork
 iaŭ as in Meeow
 as in English, ""
 indicates a word ending
 missed out to help scanning
 ^ supersigns are an
 essential part of
 Esperanto spelling
 _ = accented syllable

MORGAU

Amata Morgau kie vi estas?
 Kiam junuloj kaj maljunuloj
 Ric', malric' tra gojkaj malgoj
 Viajn dolc ridetojn sercas;
 Ho ve! Ho ve! Anstataŭ vi
 Nur Hodiaŭ trovas ni.

Vocabulary

Amata
 Morgaŭ
 kie
 vi
 estas
 junuloj
 maljunuloj
 kaj
 ric'
 malric'
 tra
 goj
 malgoj
 viajn
 dolc
 ridetojn
 sercas
 Ho ve!
 anstataŭ
 nur
 hodiaŭ
 trovas
 ni

Meaning

Beloved
 To-morrow
 where
 you, thou
 are
 young people
 old people
 and
 rich
 poor
 through
 joy
 sorrow
 your, thy
 sweet
 smiles
 seek
 alas!
 instead of
 only
 today
 find
 we

I hope you have fun seeing if you can read the poem in Esperanto. Poems always lose something in the translation, but they make available poems which might otherwise be a closed book to people who cannot easily read English. Lots of poems and other writings are written directly in Esperanto. During the congress in Esperanto which I attended, I witnessed a performance of poetry in Esperanto, dramatised very effectively by the speaker. Some poems were moving and others very funny.

Frances Howard,
 38 Hampden Rd, Hitchin, Herts, SG4 0LD

Winter nights are drawing in and we should have some good opportunities to look at the stars. It is all so much more interesting when you learn to recognise a few constellations. 'The Plough' which has always looked more like a saucerpan to me and Cassiopea like a large "W" or Orion with his bright belt of three stars and his dagger of 3 smaller stars hanging from it. It is harder to make out Orion's great bow or the dog that follows at his heels whose eye is Sirius the brightest star in the sky.,

I have always enjoyed looking at the stars and thinking how far away they are, but it is only a few years ago that I bought a star book and have enjoyed learning more. The nearest star is about four light years away and others may be hundreds of light years away. My son has lain out on nights when many shooting stars are predicted and been well rewarded. It reminds me of my childhood when my aunt came to stay and we had lessons on the universe. (I was educated at home for about 6 years) and conversations like ; "if the sun was about the size of this house then the earth would be about the size of this orange, and we would have to take it all the way to....before it would represent our solar system." She would tell me too about the inside of atoms and how there was just as much space proportionately inside an atom as there was in the solar system. It remains a wonder to me that my table holds together at all!

Lately I have been trying to understand quantum mechanics and the theories of relativity. I was recommended to read 'The Dancing Wu Li Masters' by Gary Zukov [published by Fontana which I did not understand but it made me aware of what it was that I did not really understand and borrowing other books from the library I was beginning to understand. Now I am reading "A Brief History of Time" by Stephen Hawking published by Bantam Press which I find excellent, but perhaps that is because I have read enough to know a little of what he is talking about.

This is no accurate fact filled article, I am just trying to spark off an interest in other adults to find out more, who will in turn have the opportunity of sparking off the interest in their children. Scientific knowledge seems to take years to penetrate to the general populace. Einstein had long overthrown many of the concepts that I was taught at school. It is a few years ago now that I discovered that light is bent by gravitational pull if it passes close to a large object like the sun, but I did not know that in 1962 they proved the prediction that time goes slower when it is nearer a large object (like the earth). Two very accurate clocks were mounted at the top and bottom of a water tower and the clocks at the bottom ran slower!

Some knowledge alters one's whole perception of reality. It was not until I lived in the tropics that I realised the sun could shine from the North at mid day. It seemed extraordinary that I had never realized that in Australia they must sometimes build their houses facing North to catch the most sunshine.

Priscilla Park Weir
14 Biggs Lane, Arborfield, Reading, RG2 9LL

THE SAGA IN SHEFFIELD

My anarchist friend thinks I should graffiti "the Hodges' boys are in College ! " , on the walls of the Town Hall and Education Offices! Conrad, now 16 , and Gavin, 15 in July and I had a few scenes, provoked by the impending doom of YTS and, worse still, Employment Training. Then I made a few suggestions. I'd been a volunteer Advice Worker since early '88, in a very friendly, supportive, political (small) independent Advice Centre, and my colleagues were very amenable to the boys joining the staff..

In November '88, inspired by Juli and Toby Lyons of Barnsley, and with a supporting EO letter from Joan Hoare, I wrote to the Education Officer and the Principals of two of the new Tertiary Colleges, to ask if the boys could attend part time courses prior to entry at 16. The Principals and their staff were interested, open minded and supportive, and since January Conrad has been attending an Open Workshop on Communication Studies, and a Maths Workshop where he is working on GCSE material at his own pace. Gavin does Communication Studies and Art.

The Chief Education Officer did not reply until January, stating: This is, I am afraid, not a matter on which I can give any quick reply, since I shall have both to take advice and consult a number of interested parties.

I had quoted Toby Lyons as a precedent, as he has been studying a BTEC First Certificate since September '88, at a College of Further Education, two years prior to being College age,. Joan Hoare's son, Robin, who is in the 'year below' Gavin and Toby, has applied to study five GCSE's at Tertiary College, in preparation for his chosen course on Civil Engineering. The Chief Education Officer has instructed the college not to enrol him. After writing to him four times, and sending copies to the Chair of the Education Committee, plus two letters asking him for his opinion, and after me chasing him up as a fellow Labour Party Member, Joan was eventually informed that facilities could be provided for Robin in School, and that "the Hodge boys " should not have been enrolled, in his view, had he known, but that it was " at the least, insensitive " to exclude them, having been enrolled.

Joan has now written to the DES, from whom she has already received confirmation that it is legal for 14 year olds to attend post 16 education, where the education facilities provided at school are not suitable, stating her case. Robin is mature and has never been to school. He is used to self motivated study, and " full time" college attendance would give him more time than a school timetable, to follow his other interests and activities.

I have written to my "fellow socialist" , expressing my interest in how the decision was reached!

Conrad has been accepted to take a Certificate of Pre-Vocational Education, and four GCSE's, in September. At the interview, I was told that he conducted himself very sensibly, was very positive about having been educated out of school, and concern was expressed that

he might find aspects of the course " a bit dull".

The boys have recently decorated Gavin's bedroom, and are now tackling Conrad's. This has entailed a considerable amount of " making good" with plaster browning and finish. They have calculated the amount of materials needed, and chosen the colour schemes.

They work at the Advice Centre two mornings a week, doing administration, bookkeeping, publicity and reception, and have had some internal training on welfare rights.

I have been very pleased at the way things are working out. I've written to Rachel Sanger, in her response to her letter in the last issue, on " doing nothing ". We are too crippled by the system to show children what to do. The responsibility to create a caring world and undo the mess we ae are in lies with them. We can only allow them the scope to do so.

UPDATE October '89

I found out from a contact that a letter had been sent from the Education Officer, to the College that Conrad and Gavin had attended, to the effect that enrolment of under 16 year olds was not to be repeated.

As I did not know officially, I suggested to Gavin that he go on enrolment day, intending to enrol. He was game for this bit of nonviolent direct action, and enrol he did! I was in the background, and we both thought we detected conspiratorial looks all round! Meantime, Robin Hoare has enrolled at one of the other Tertiary Colleges, to study three GCSE's. The Principal there is fully aware of the Education Officer's attitude, and was perfectly agreeable to admitting Robin. One of his colleagues has done a project on home educated children.

Conrad, now legitimately attending Post 16 education, seems to be taking CPVE in his stride.

Jill Hodge

10 Granby Rd., Sheffield S5 6WD 0742 432006

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BOOK REVIEWS

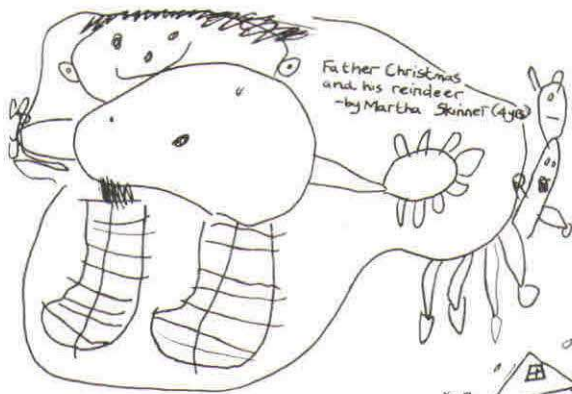
We have a book on loan from the children's library in Wigan called: 1,000 FIRSTS AND LASTS;THE GREATEST BOOK OF QUITE AMAZING FACTS

I have found an element of fiction in this book, but I haven't enough knowledge to debate about the authenticity of most of the book's content!

Here is a fact I found within the pages of this book by Gyles Brandreth (If it isn't fact, someone can write in and say so):-

The word "school" originally meant "leisure". It came from 'schole' which is Greek for "leisure"

Angela Thompson



CHILDREN'S PAGES No. 6

DECEMBER 1989

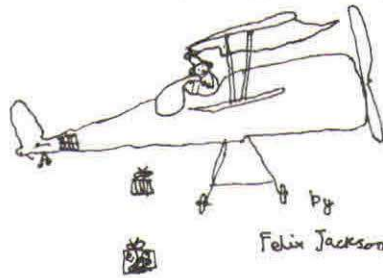
January 1990



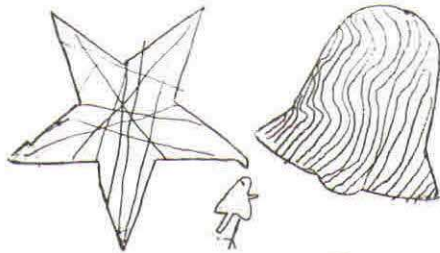
The Christmas Poem.

FATHER CHRISTMAS AIR LIVES

Children were sitting by the log fire.
The carols were sung by the church
choir.
Stars were shining in the sky and
Father Christmas was just passing by.
Soon the children would be going to bed
And resting their tiny sleepy head.
Stockings were hung by the fire place
With a smile on everyone's face.
All the family were in the warm
House together.
Meanwhile outside was the cold,
Snowy weather.
Father Christmas landed on the roof top
With glee and started to climb down
The chimney.



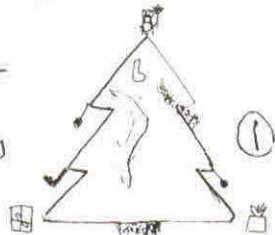
Now the children were fast asleep as
Santa came in to have a peep.
A few hours later the children woke
Up and in one of their stockings they
Found a pup.
All the children beamed with glee.
What a happy Christmas day for all the
family.



by Pappy Skinner
age 6yrs

The Skinner family
live in Hartland,
North Devon.

Russell Illingworth age 9.
Stubbington, Hants



Dictated Word Search
 Composed by Lara Lea (6)
 19c Abercorn Road, London N.W.7.

P	I	G	B	S	M	J
U	L	W	I	T	C	H
P	Q	U	A	R	F	K
E	Z	C	M	A	N	L
G	H	T	O	P	G	S
I	D	A	L	E	P	L
M	E	T	E	N	J	O

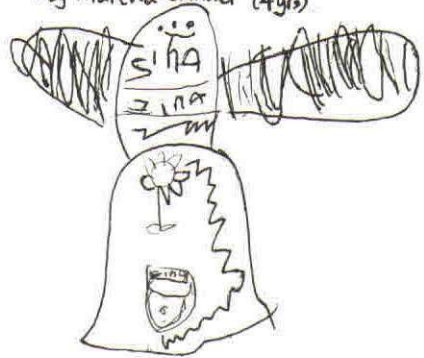
There are 12 words to find.

Hannah S. Korycinska, age 8.

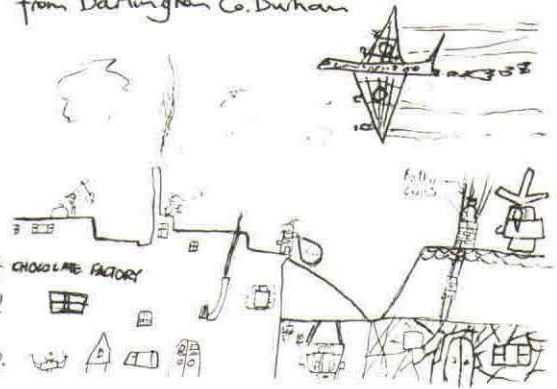
There was an old man of Peru,
 whose foot couldn't fit into his
 shoe,
 when he felt faint,
 He stuck his nose in some paint
 which cured that old man of Peru!

17 Pittcullen Terrace, Perth, PA2 7EQ.

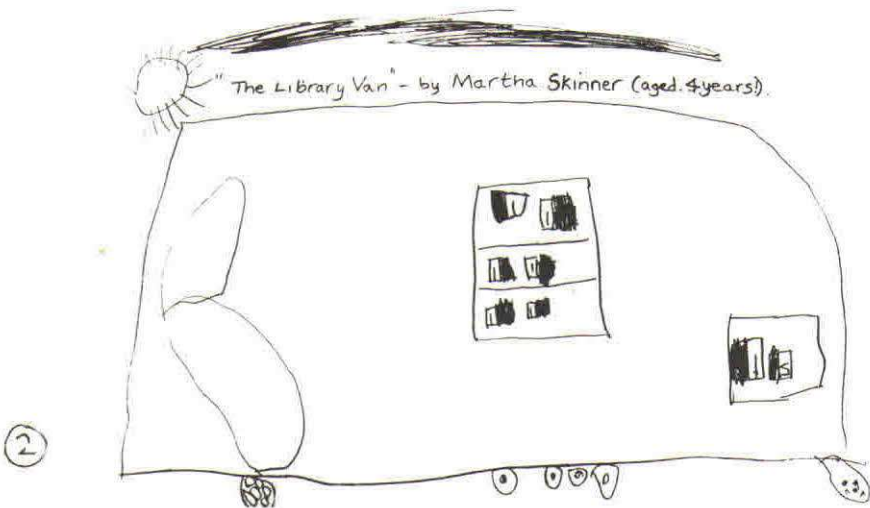
"A Happy Butterfly"
 - by Martha Skinner (4yrs)



from Darlington Co. Durham



"The Library Van" - by Martha Skinner (aged 4 years)



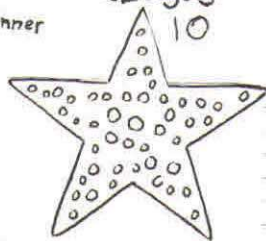
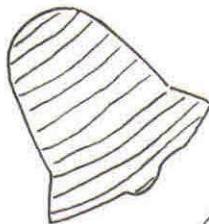
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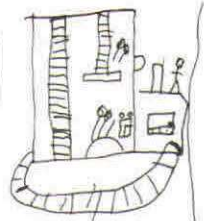
CHRISTMAS MAZE by MELISSA BEAGLEY

Laya Skinner
8 yrs

10



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



1 SOUTHEND
WICKWAR GLOS

ZENAGE 7
HOUSE

The Hen, The Pig and The Mouse

Once upon a time there was a hen who wanted to build a bridge. She went to the pig - who was busy eating.

The hen said to the pig, "Will you help me build a bridge across the stream?"

The pig said, "Can't you see I am busy eating?"

The hen went to the mouse and said, "Will you help me build a bridge across the stream?"

The mouse said, "Yes!" Together they gathered enough sticks to build a bridge. Together, they built their stick bridge.

When they finished their bridge they scampered across it with great glee.

The pig, who had finished eating, lay down there but alas was too heavy for the stick bridge.

The bridge broke and the pig dropped into the stream.

MORAL: Help to make bridges that will hold your weight, instead of adding to your weight.

Story as told by:

JOHN
WOMERSLEY, I.A.
19, ABERCORN ROAD,
MIL HILL,
LONDON W17 7LH
TEL. 01 349 5078

Christmas Kittens

Fluff felt very proud of herself. She had just given birth to four lovely kittens. Ruskin was pleased too.

Fluff and Ruskin were both pedigree Persian cats. Fluff was white and had very dainty paws. Ruskin was a gingery cat and had a purr like a lawn mower, it was so loud. The children of the family who owned the cats were delighted. Fluff let the kittens be picked up, stroked, kissed and hugged gently.

Just then a little girl arrived. Her name was Amy and she was their cousin. She gave the mother a letter and sat down. Two tears trickled down her cheeks. When Anna, one of the children, asked "What's the matter? Why are you crying?" Amy replied, "My Mother and Father have been divorced and neither of them will take me. I have to live here with you". "How sad," said Peter. "Come on children, it's bed time", called out Mother. Anna asked, "Will you come and see your room, Amy, it's a very nice one". And indeed it was. There was a big open fire place and also the two baskets with cats in them. "Look, here is a stocking for you to hang up." said Anna. "If you want me, I'm next door." "Thanks", said Amy, quietly, but as soon as Anna went away, Amy started to cry again. Ruskin, awoken by the noise, came to her, rubbing against her legs, purring. At this, Amy stopped crying and bent down to stroke him. When she did so, she saw the kittens. "Oh, aren't you beautiful, but I'd better go to bed now." she said.

That night, Father Christmas accidentally made a bit of noise coming down the chimney. This awakened Fluff who miaowed loudly. Amy woke, suddenly. She had been dreaming of her parents. Tears came into her eyes as she thought of them. Just then Father Christmas came and touched her shoulder. "Why are you crying, Amy?" he asked. "How do you know my name?" she said. "Magic" he replied, "But please, tell me, why are you so sad?" Amy told him all about it. Father Christmas said, "That's a shame, but let's not think of that or it will make ME upset too. Do you want to see the toys in my sack?" "No, don't worry", was the answer. Father Christmas couldn't think of anything to make her happy. Then Fluff, who magically would speak, said "I will be glad to see you and the kittens. I will tell the kitten what has happened and he'll understand why he is to be your cat when he is a bit older." "Oh, thank you so very much", said Amy. "That will cheer me up!" As Amy fell back to sleep, Father Christmas quickly filled her stocking. "Well done", he said to the cats. "You can always speak now but only Amy will understand".

THE END.

By Freda Jackson, 1989
Chelmsford, Essex.

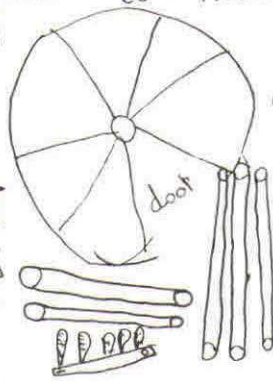
This year the B.B.C. BLUEPETER programme is collecting empty aluminium cans for its BABYLIFE APPEAL, which will buy much needed equipment for intensive baby care units in Britain's hospitals. The cans must be aluminium and not steel. ALLUMINIUM CANS do NOT stick to magnets which can be found on fridge doors and magnetic letters etc.

Collection bins are available at most Tescos, as well as Crazy Prices and Stewarts in N. Ireland. Otherwise crush up to 25 cans and put them in a SHOE BOX, wrap it up well and send it to:-

④ BLUEPETER BABYLIFE APPEAL, FREEPOST, SWANSEA SA 88 1BP.

how to make a tepee

Jessica A
Outred
Age 7 1/2
KINGS LYNN
NORFOLK.

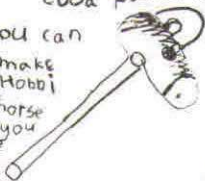


Cut a circle.
cut a little hole in
middle of the circle
and cut it into four
triangles and overlap
them so that you
have a cone and five
sticks in it to
make it strong if
you like to you
could pattern it

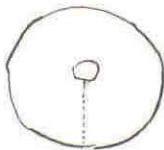
head dress

cut a strip
of material
and sew five
feathers on
it

you can
make
Hobby
horse
if you
like



a doob
cut out
a circle
cut a little
hole in
the middle
cut to the little hole and



wunts apomatim ther was a
littl gerl her name was

soofee she had a bruther
cowld tom and a sisder
cowld caren her Bruther
was 5 1/2 her sisder was 9 1/2
she was 7 1/4 her mummy was
cowld soosen and her daddy
was cowld tim her mummy
was 40. It was her buthdaye
her daddy was 45 1/2. She had
a kiten and a rabbit the rabbit
et letis and the kiten et cat
food and slepd in a bascit.

Rosie Stace, 8 years.
Heathfield, E.Sx.



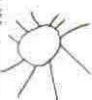
THE SCARE CROW
STANDING IN MY MUDDY FIELD
MY LONELY JOB IS DONE
I'VE FRIGHTENED ALL THE
BIRDS AWAY
AND NOW THE CROPS HAVE GONE
THE FARMERS CUT DOWN ALL THE
WHEAT
THE MICE HAVE HAD TO LEAVE.
THEY'VE COME TO SAY HELLO TO
ME
AND RUN INSIDE MY SLEEVE.

from
Sarah Tribe
age 8



- DALE @
- WITCH @
- WEN @
- TEN @
- CAT @
- MOLE @

- Top @
- NMN @
- and @
- ops @

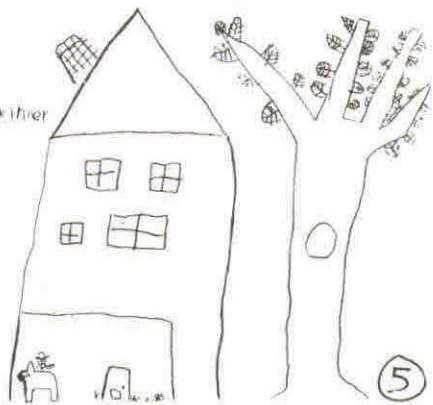


"Viliekulla Cottage"
name of Pippi Longstocking

WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

This is a poem I wrote when
my Aunt came to our house.
Leaves
red > yellow
Stem > veins > ribs
pointed edges, hexagon shape
leaves are smooth and rough.

by
Avery Smith
6 yrs



Robert Shaw 90 Kingsley Road
Liverpool L9 2XH
age 6



(5)

Peanuts

(A PROJECT FOR NEXT SPRING)

by Hilary Forster, Chepstow, Gwent.

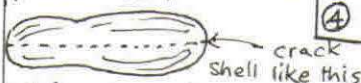


most peanuts will have two peanuts inside a shell, but some have only one peanut inside and others have three.

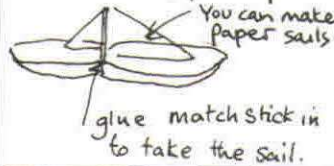
To grow your own peanuts.

Buy some peanuts in their shells. Crack open some of the shells carefully and choose some fresh looking peanuts to plant.

If you crack the pods carefully you can make small boats, they float well!



using a knife to help you. Take care or ask for help!



Peanuts are interesting to grow from seed. They sprout long, hairy shoots and fairly quickly come into flower. When the flower withers a small 'peg' comes out of the flower and grows down into the soil. The pod containing the peanut grows underground from this 'peg'.

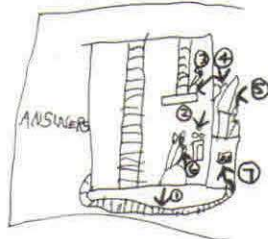


The peanut plant looks a bit like this! but grow one for yourself to see for yourself.
Plant needs: 4-5 months warm growing conditions in a sandy compost. Water into plant tray as compost dries out.

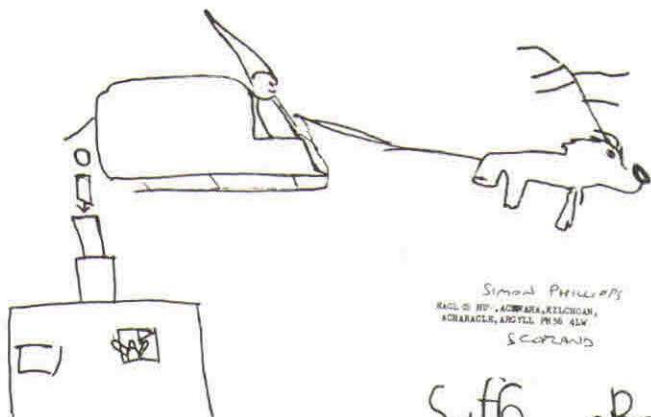
you need a large flower pot and some potting compost to fill it. Plant your peanuts below the surface of the compost. Keep the compost watered when necessary and grow in a green house or a suitable sunny window sill. Wait and see what happens. Our first try at growing peanuts was not a success as we overwatered the plant and it rotted! But we tried again and we hope to make some peanut spread soon!

Recipe to follow in another Ch

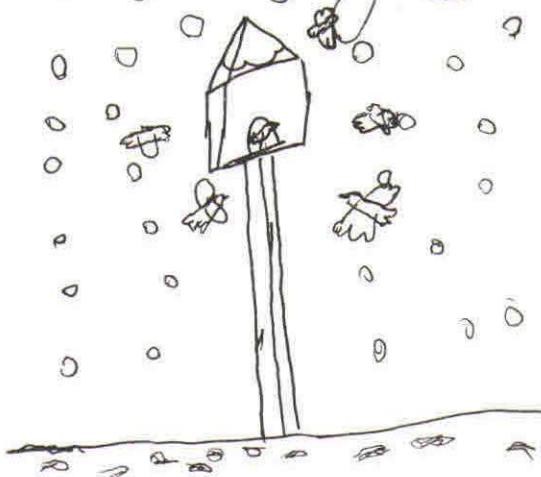
SPOT THE DIFFERENCES 7



Simon Pringle
 RAIL @ HQ - ACHMARIA, KILGILGAN,
 ACHARACLE, AUSTIN, PWS 614
 SCOTLAND



Saffron Beauty



My bird Table

I sit by my window staring
 Out I can see
 Blue Tits eating
 The Nuts we have
 Put out for them
 When I look at
 them I feel happy.

by Bridie
 Pringle House Farm, Co. Durham

FEED THE BIRDS

Position your bird table away from 'cat-cover', out in the open and in full view of a window.
 Feed regularly every day.
 Provide a mixture of fat, seed and water.
 Leave seedheads standing for bullfinches & goldfinches.
 Fieldfares and redwings will be attracted to fruit in hard weather.
 Wrens will hunt spiders in logs.



"Christmas Tree"
 - by Martha Skinner
 (4yrs)



Many thanks to everyone who sent material for the Christmas edition of the Children's Pages. We received so much that we were able to fill 8 pages since there was some extra space as there is no Christmas Supplement.

The next issue will be
CHILDREN'S PAGES 1st BIRTHDAY
and will be the SPRING EDITION for FEBRUARY + MARCH 1990.

Please send your drawings and stories about a
PANCAKE MACHINE

To make our job of editing easier, wherever possible please prepare your artwork in BLACK (pencil does not print well) on WHITE paper.

We look forward to receiving your artwork, writings, interesting projects, favourite recipes, ideas, pets news etc or anything else you'd like to see in print.

Please send to 'Children's Pages', at
'Oranges', St. Clements Terrace, Harboston, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5SN
Tel. Totnes (0803) 867140 by the lifeline on 1st January 1990

⑧ MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Dear E.O. Members

I have recently bought a set of "CHILDCRAFT" from the World Book Co. for my 6½ year old son Rammiel who doesn't go to school. I paid £199.00 for 16 volumes and a dictionary. Each book covers a different topic such as Science, Animals, Plants, Mathematics, our Universe etc and the information is laid out in a 2 page format which is good when concentration is limited. The words used are simple and clear with many colourful illustrations. I'm learning as much as my son does from reading them.

The set for older children and adults, called "WORLD BOOK" is again written clearly and simply with colourful illustrations and with extensive topic suggestions and cross-referencing, a comprehensive index and excellent bibliographies and research guides.

They are multi cultural, even if not as radical or "new age" as I'd prefer, and compare very favourably, price wise too, with other encyclopaedias on the market. They can be paid for with interest free credit over 4 months for Childcraft and 6 months for World Book (price £474), or with interest over longer periods.

My enthusiasm has prompted me to sell them so I would be pleased to show them to anyone in the Greater London area, with no pressure to buy, so you can see for yourselves.

Although I'm promoting this, I feel to add, that I felt very much in tune with the letter some E.O. issues back, entitled "Is anyone Out There Doing Nothing" with the emphasis on "Trust Children". I was happy to read it.

Sangita

26 Wulfstan St, East Acton, London W12 0AH tel 01 740 8858

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RESOURCES

If, like me, you collect press cuttings from newspapers and magazines on generalised or specialised interests you'll know how limited that can be. On the basis of how many papers, etc are available and their cost.

I recently set up a home-based business called INFO EXCHANGE. A press cuttings exchange scheme based on the "swop-principle."

You send in a request for cuttings on your special interest with a large stamped addressed envelope and cuttings fee, together with press cuttings made of articles asked for on the Info Exchange current "wants" list.

And in return, I will send you, as soon as possible, cuttings on your interest. At present, I am only dealing in press cuttings but I could include magazine back issues, second-hand books etc.

If you would like to have further details, write enclosing a sae to:

Valerie Stone, INFO EXCHANGE-EO

12 The Firs, Wroxtton, Banbury, Oxon, OX15 6QS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOR SALE: 2 bedroom terrace house in rural community. Well established organic garden. Solar panels, 5 miles from historic Durham city. Supportive EO group. £30,000 tel 091 373 3628
Hazel Leroy 52 South Terrace, Esh Winning, Durham DH7 9PS

Anyone interested in making contact with a family, or families, in FRANCE with a view to giving or receiving hospitality is invited to contact Alison Niefham, Elmhurst, Cavendish Road East, The Park, Nottingham, NG7 1BB who would be pleased to pass on (to anyone who encloses a SAE) the details of enquiries she has received from families belonging to the newly formed French home-schoolers associatioikn, "Les Enfants D'Abord" and seeking to make friends in Britain.

USBORNE BOOKS: Re the October newsletter: I've just found out I can offer a straight 10% discount (instead of 5% as advertised) p&p free. Those who contacted me (or will contact me) please note.
Emily Matthews
98 Crofthill Rd., Glasgow, GH4 5QQ tel 041 637 0664

Dear EO members,

Here are some sources of supplies which we have found very useful:-

1) Wooden alphabet letters and numbers, simple wooden jigsaws:-
John Lawrence Products, 2 Debenham Way, Pettaugh, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 6AZ

2) Scientific Equipment; Lego Technic, electrical items, maths items:
A&L Scientific Equipment
190 West Drive, Cleveleys, Blackpool, Lancs, FY5 2EJ
They are very competitive on many items

3) Electrical and modelling items (primary & secondary):
ELF Educational Services, 32 Aragon Drive, Ilford, Essex,

If anyone is interested, we've got for sale-all very good condition:
a) Ginn Maths-Teachers Resource Books levels 1&2: £4.90 each inc p&p
b) Peak Maths: "Peak Plus" Books 1,2,3 & 3 teachers books: £5.50 p.paid

TRESSEL PUBLICATIONS,

of Lower Ground Floor, 70, Grand Parade, Brighton, E.Sussex, BN2 2JA are a teachers co-operative and together with their information books, history books and computer programmes also provide some pupil workbooks. They do an excellent introduction to history skills called "The Suitcase Mystery" which could involve a whole family from age 5 upwards. They will send their illustrated catalogue if you wish.
M.Evans

16 Thistle House, Dee St., London E 14 OPD, tel 01 515 1797

"DUE TO PRINTING SNAGS", "THE BEST OF ARCHIE" HAS HAD TO BE HELD OVER. NO MORE ORDERS, PLEASE, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Dear EO,

My littler boy Michael is almost four and has been diagnosed as autistic. If there is anyone who has had experience in educating an autistic child at home, we would very much appreciate hearing from you. Mrs Lynda Jones, 85 Victoria Rd, Sherwood, Nottingham, NG5 2NL
Phone:624405

We'd be pleased to hear from any other Macintosh computer users whose children use the Mac. Steve and Gabrielle Rann, Pengelli'r Bryn, LLanfair Clydogau, Lampeter, Dyfed, Tel. 057045 200

FEATHERSTONE CASTLE, SEPTEMBER 1990.

Is there anyone out there who would like to take responsibility for the running of the week-long autumn gathering at Featherstone, Northumberland? If you think YOU may like to do it and would like to find out more about what's involved, please contact either Rachel White, Wensley Mill, Wensley, Leyburn, Wensleydale (tel: 0969-23544) or Bruce and Christine Wallace, 25, Diabaig, Achnasheen, Ross-shire IV22 2HE (044-581-225).

BEAUMANOR HALL RESIDENTIAL CABINS. Fri. Jan. 26th. - Sun. Jan. 28th.

The January meeting is going to be at Beaumanor Hall, Old Woodhouse, LEICS., as it was last year. This year, however, we've decided to try and make a really interesting weekend for all the family as more accommodation is now available to us. In order to make this gathering successful we need to have lots of "input" from everyone. This will be especially true during the Saturday meeting when many adults will be unavailable most of the time; and whilst Beaumanor has forty-acre grounds, it is a conservation area and must be respected as such - even to the extent of no river-wading and tree climbing. At the last meeting at Featherstone Castle it was decided that a get-together without children wasn't worth coming to, so in order that whole families can come along, and we can still get through the necessary business, please think very seriously... is there something you can offer? ...Perhaps a workshop? ...Or a sports activity? ...Or a lift to somewhere? (rollerskating? a museum? swimming?).

Most accommodation is in dormitories although there are a few small rooms. Every cabin has its own kitchen, dining area, showers and toilets. Most have carpets in the bedrooms, all have heating and are equipped with cooking utensils, crockery, cutlery, pillows etc. but you will need to bring pillowcases and sleeping bags or some other bedding (there is none provided). All cabins are self catering. "Special Needs" families can be accommodated too.

COSTS £2.50 per person per night - day visitors £0.50 per family member.

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****BOOKINGS**** Please send cheque/postal order (made out to Education Otherwise) to Gordon and Liz Ramsay, 1, Stanford Hills Cott., Stanford on Soar, Nr. Loughborough, Leics., LE12 5QL. We will need to know how many beds you require and for which night(s). If you feel you couldn't sleep in a dormitory, or that you would only want to share with another family you know to be coming, or if you have special needs, then please tell us when you book. It's important that day visitors book too especially if you intend to come with children. Please can everyone try to make offers of help with the childrens activities for the Saturday so that we can begin to assess what else may be needed. It would help to know ages of children. We are expecting to be able to send more information in late December/early January so please enclose a stamped self addressed envelope (two if you also want confirmation of booking).

REGIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please read the news from surrounding regions: there may be events you can join in from neighbouring EO groups

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Meet at the Community Centre in Ross St., Cambridge every Tuesday at 12.30. Please bring packed lunch and ring Cambridge 870134 to confirm if travelling some distance. Workshops 1.15-3.00 As space is limited groups are rotating as follows:-

October 31st. Whole Group
Introduction to first aid and visit from an ambulance.

November 7th Older Children
Drama Workshop

November 14th Younger Children
The letter 'S'. Collage, drama, songs, playdough. Bring clippings and articles beginning with "S".

November 21st. Whole Group
Flight. Making flying saucers, helicopters, aeroplanes, kites etc

November 28th Older ones
Music workshop from 1.15-2.15. Parents invited to join in with singing from 2.15 onwards

December 5th. Younger children
The letter 'H'. Content as above

December 12th. Whole Group.
making Christmas Presents

December 19th Whole Group
Making Christmas decorations, cards etc

January 6th New Year Party

January 9th Whole Group
Visit from Police Officer to talk about work of police and road safety
(to be arranged)

January 16th Older ones
Jewellery and accessory workshop. Co-cooperative games

CLWYD

We had two families respond to the last newsletter's entry - both in Gwynedd. Come on Clwyd - where are you?! We had a very enjoyable trip to the last day of the hands-on-science "Discovery Dome" all with free tickets I arranged through local contacts.

Coming events include:

Christmas Party (date and place to be arranged)

Usborne book party: 8th January 1990, afternoon (includes sale of slightly damaged books at cheaper prices at the Millers house).

We would also like to have a 'hands on' computer day at some date, having recently acquired more interesting software the children could play around with. However, as I am expecting our second baby in February, meetings for some months after that will probably have to be arranged by others- I'm afraid I find life very difficult to cope with when I have a new-born in the house!

Please do contact: Jan Miller, Saith Fynnon, Whitford, Holywell, Clwyd, Ch8 9EQ tel 0352 714796 if you are interested in any of the above events.

DERBYSHIRE GATHERINGS

Winter monthly gatherings will continue to take place. Bring appropriate materials and your own ideas! Meet at Alfreton House, High St, Alfreton. Numbers will be limited so please phone Steph & Peter (0246) 239048 or Lynne & Mike (0773) 836662 for details

Sat 16th Dec: Candle Making

Sat 20th Jan: Basket weaving (corn dollies) with local weaver).

Sat 17th Feb: Threadcraft (sewing, weaving, knitting).

Sat 10th March: Kite making.

Members will be asked to contribute towards the hire of the hall and demonstrators fees.

OUR SPRING AND SUMMER MEETINGS ARE STILL AT THE PLANNING STAGE: IDEAS FOR OUTDOOR VENUES? PLEASE RING/WRITE TO LYNNE& MIKE

DORSET

A number of us have been meeting 'out and about' over the summer and we will continue to arrange informal outings, so contact me for details if you are interested in joining us, or if you have suggestions for a visit near you. Two planned events so far are:

Sunday 17th December:

A Christmas Party from about 3pm at my house. Everyone is invited. Please bring something sweet or savoury to put on the table for tea. If you have any ideas for games or entertainment, let me know.

Tuesday 16th January

An outing to Upton Country Park, Poole. Meet at 1.30pm in the car park. Admission is free.

From: Christine Adey, 1 Dunbury Cottages, Milton Abbas. (tel 880355)

DYFED

Our first get-together, on September 16th, was a great success. Many thanks to Emma and Julian Orbach who hosted the meeting at their home. The weather was dreadful, but it couldn't dampen our enjoyment. A day of unlimited talk, toys, painting, fabric collage and food, which reached its climax with the performance of "King Ludd and the Dragon" by the Slippery Fish Puppet Theatre. Those few of you who didn't come missed a wonderful time.

End of year get-together on Saturday Dec. 30th, 11am-5pm at the home of Steve and Gabrielle Rann, Pengelli'r Bryn, Llanfair Clydogau, Lampeter, tel Llangybi (057045) 200. Ring or write to say you are coming and get directions.

HANTS

Informal meeting Sat Jan 13th at 11 The Grove, Penton Grafton, Andover, bring refreshments, start 12ish.

Also arranging visit to Winchester Museum in March, we can get a Speaker if there are enough people so please let me know before the end of Jan so I can book him. Thank you. tel 0264 773308

KENT

Our visit to Chatham Dock Yard was not very well supported. Unfortunately I was ill and unable to go, and Lois was also unable to go. We would like to apologise to the few families who turned up, and managed to enjoy the visit despite small numbers.

Unfortunately our 'open house' day at Glenys's had to be cancelled as she moved house unexpectedly. So far, there hasn't been any response to our appeal for volunteers to open their house for a day to other

E.O.ers. Please, is there someone who would be willing to have a meeting at their home one day during the last week of Feb. to discuss and plan our visits for next year. Please write to me or ring Lois so that we can advertise in the Feb., issue of the newsletter. Please contact one of us before the end of Dec. so that we can meet the newsletter deadline. We will advertise our Spring outings in the April issue.

Pam Stevenson, Lois Cook

LANCASHIRE

We have now met three times at the Drapers in Preston, where the grownups drank tea and talked, and the children played (and sometimes vice versa). We had a bonfire at the Smiths in Burnley on Nov. 4th. There is enthusiasm for making monthly or six-weekly meetings a regular habit. Any EOers are welcome. We have met so far on Saturday afternoons, and we have brought food to share at tea time. For details of the next meeting phone Mary Swale, Bentham 62049

LEICESTER

Winter Gathering/Party: December 15th 1989: Lucy Charlton has found a cheap hall in Leicester which is suitable for a winter party. (Christmas/Diwali/Chanukka???) If you would like to come (not just local E.O.ers) we would like you to bring party food to share and a few decorations if possible. Anyone interested, please contact us (Gordon & Liz Ramsay) at: 1, Stanford Hills Cottages, Stanford on Soar, Loughborough, LEICESTER, LE12 5QL Tel. (0509) 856604, or Lucy & Keith Charlton, 2, Church Lane Cottages, Newton Harcourt, LE8 0FT, tel (053759) 2118

LEICESTERSHIRE E.O.

We are still meeting on the second Wednesday of each month at Beaumont Leys swimming pool - come along any time after about 12.30...for details of other meetings , please contact Liz & Gordon (address above).

LONDON GATHERINGS

Please note new dates. I have changed museum dates to the last Tuesday in every month because there are occasional lectures at the Museum on Tuesday, and because our Monday dates very often seemed to coincide with a Bank Holiday. Ring me for the latest information.

You can get free passes for the Museum from:- Anne Wade, 19 Perkin Close, Wembley, Middlesex, HA0 2LY (tel 01-904-7155)
[Send 20p and a stamp addressed envelope]

Tuesday Dec.12th PLANETARIUM Marylebone St NW1

Nearest Tube is Baker St. Meet 10.45 for a special lecture. No

facilities here for eating packed lunches, but there is a cafeteria, and Regents Park is fairly near. Under 5s not admitted to the Planetarium

Tuesday Jan 9th Possibly a tour backstage at the **Festival Hall**. Lasts an hour, £1 each. Tickets have to be bought one month in advance. If no-one wants to come we will possibly have a trip to the **Imperial War Museum** on Fri. Jan 12th when the museum is free. If I haven't got sufficient numbers for the Festival Hall by December 9th I will try to arrange some activity at the War Museum. Contact me for details.

Tuesday Jan 30th Meet in foyer of the **Science Museum** at 11.15 or in the picnic area at the Science Museum at 12.20

Tuesday Feb. 12th National Portrait Gallery
St Martin's Place at 11.00 Study session for 7-11 year olds, 11.30-1.30 + parents. Aimed to help us to gain a set of basic critical 'tools' to help approach artworks. We will look at "families" in portraits, and do some drawing afterwards, all equipment provided. Numbers limited for study session.

Monday Feb.19th Tower of London
I have arranged 30 free places for children. Adults £4.50 but probably reduced for a group. There will be a talk in the Education Centre at 12.15 about the history of the Tower and children will be able to handle and perhaps try on some armour. Meet 11.00 outside the GROUP BOOKING OFFICE

Tuesday Feb 27th: Museums:see 1st item above

NORTH LONDON PARENT'S AND CHILDREN'S GROUP

We meet at Swiss Cottage Community Centre, 19 Winchester Rd, NW3, close to Swiss Cottage Tube, on the first Sunday of every month. EO members from all areas, or anyone else with an interest in otherwise education, are welcome at these meetings. Please bring food or drink to share for lunch.

Because of the necessity for us to cover our costs at every meeting (we have to hire the premises) we are asking regular attenders to support these meetings by becoming subscribers : for £4.50 you and your family can come for a year without further payment. (The "on the door " contribution is 75p.)

If you have any queries about these meetings , ring Andrea Granville (328-4138) or Leslie Barson (969-0893)

SOUTH LONDON MEETINGS

For EO parents and children of any age from any area. It's very informal. Bring some food or drink for lunch/tea. Usually the parents have a chance to talk to each other and the children get to know each

other. Sometimes we have talks or activities - please suggest anything you would like.

Sun 21st January, Norwood Children's Centre, St Luke's Chambers, 2-8 Norwood High St, SE27, from 1pm-5pm

Sat 24th February, the Child and Parent Centre, The Albany, Douglas Way SE8 from 11am-3.30p.m.

Sun 18th March Norwood as above

Sat 21st April Albany as above

For more details phone Rachel 582 3949 or Dorothy 469 0413

These dates are 99% certain but not yet formally confirmed so it may be a good idea to ring and check before coming.

NORTH WEST

Last time I sent information into the newsletter I headed it 'South Manchester'. Of course anyone who is within travelling distance of our meetings is more than welcome- hello Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire! (and N.Wales? Ed.)

We are meeting monthly and, as well as informal meetings, have now got some trips organised. We recently had a visit to a fire station; future meetings are:

9th December - Family Fun Concert, RNCM ,Manchester

15th January - Informal meeting at Gaynor Jackson's, Irlam, 10.30-2.30

12th February - Manchester Museum of Science and Industry, 11.00
Please telephone for details.

Informal meetings are also being held in Lancashire approximately every six weeks. For dates of future meetings telephone Mary Swale,

Benson (05242)62049

Anne Nesbit, 17 Tewksbury Close, Poynton, Cheshire, (0625 871718)

SHROPSHIRE E.O. EVENTS

DECEMBER 89-FEBRUARY 90

Most of the following events start at 1.30 p.m. and are in the regular **SECOND** Saturday in the month slot, but other events are included here too. Please check times and venues beforehand.

DECEMBER 9th. Variety show at Don and Mandy's house. at 1.30 p.m. Please prepare something to entertain us with-comedy routine, puppetry, music, magic, story telling, impressions, sketches, mime. Bring something Decemberish for tea.

JANUARY 13. An Otherwise Forum for adults and kids of 14+. The opportunity to stand back and talk with a professional in mainstream education about what, how and why we are educating our children out of school. Mandy will be the child-minder but parents of younger children should be prepared to leave one partner with them. Children and adults meet at Don and Mandy's house.

FEBRUARY 10th. Starting at 11.00 a.m. Puppet Workshop at Don's and Mandy's house. Juliet from "Brogg's Puppets" will lead us through the possibilities of turning junk into fully animated characters. The last one was hugely successful. Bring lunch and tea to share and contribution for Juliet's time.

For further details please contact Don and Mandy Patter, The Lindens, BROSELEY Telford (0952) 882780

STRATHCLYDE

Help! Is there anyone willing to take over the job of co-ordinator for Strathclyde Region? I have been doing it for just under two years but in little more than a holding capacity. Shortly after having taken it on we were called away to America for six months and I am indebted to Brenda Holliday of Central region for holding the reins during that time and continuing to handle the more complex enquiries dealing with school phobia and de-registration.

Over the past year I have had a slow trickle of enquiries but for some reason during the last few weeks this has suddenly turned to a flood of requests for information and people wanting meetings. I have three children officially 'out' aged 8, 7 and 5, a toddler of 2½ and am about to give birth to number 5, so am not really in a position to devote a lot of time to being co-ordinator or arranging meetings and outings, as I had originally hoped. Is there anyone with more free time able to do a more thorough job? In any case you are quite free to organise your own meetings, locally, and advertisdre them in the newsletter, which would be a help in such a large geographical area as

ours.

Jo Fletcher, 17 Glasgow Rd, Uddington, Glasgow, G71 7AU, (tel (0698) 813732)

SUFFOLK

So far some families have now managed to meet up on a regular basis apart from the advertised programme, including extra visits to such places as Leiston Longshop Museum, Framlingham Castle, where we all had a very enjoyable time learning about Medieval musical instruments and shooting real bows and arrows:(see Sue White's report) and Shawgate vineyard. The Longshop Museum, Framlingham Castle and the Minsmere bird reserve venues were excellent and we plan to revisit them next year. At the time of writing we have not yet visited the Suffolk Wildlife Trust at Melton, Woodbridge, but all had a super day out at Minsmere, managing superb views of Kingfishers, Herons and some Bearded Tits.

Our plans for next year include a French Day and a resources session, including a pyrography demonstration. Other possible visits when the weather improves are a police station; West Stowe Iron Age Village nr Bury; Sizewell Power Station; Easton Farm Park; more field study days at Foxburrow Farm; and other workshops.

If you're interested in any of the above or could help in any way please contact:- Charlotte Keith Westleton 650 or Jocelyn Hardin-Framlington 724392

WATCH THIS SPOT! Don't forget to read your newsletter or you may miss events. WE ALSO NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

TUES. DEC. 12th CHRISTMAS CRAFT ACTIVITY DAY

AT Westleton Village Hall, Saxnundham. Christmas decorations, badgemaking, percussion instruments, games etc.

Bring your own mince pies to decorate and any other Christmas craft ideas if you wish

From 11.am to 3 p.m.

Cost: £1.50 per family

TUES. JAN 9th provisional date

SWT Foxburrow Farm, Melton, Woodbridge

Exciting activities yet to be finalised. Bring a packed lunch and suitable clothing, wellies etc. Suitable for all ages.

From 10.00a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

Cost: £1.75 per child; £1.50 for 2 children/family. Adults and under 5's free

FRI JAN 26th: 1992 and all that!

A day with a FRENCH flavour

The day is being led by Angela Tellkier who teaches French from age 5 years up to "A" level. Her own family is bilingual so she has a lot of experience and ideas to offer us. Try and bring food for a picnic lunch with a "French Flavour", and anything else that is French orientated

that you feel could contribute to the day e.g. books, clothes, groceries, any other ideas? If you are already studying French, bring your things along- it all helps!

Meet at Jan Adams' : Latham House, Mill Lane, Badingham, nr Framlingham, Tel Badingham 385 for directions

Tues FEB 6th provisional date

SWT Foxburrow Farm, Melton, Woodbridge, Bring a packed lunch

From 10.00a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

Cost: as for Jan 9th

? FRI FEB 23rd ?

provisional date, as it is hoped to hold this during the schools' half term break.

RESOURCES DAY

Come along to Jan Adams' house at the above address from 10.30 a.m. onwards. Bring any good books, ideas, equipment that you have found useful in your own family for home education. We also plan to have a demonstration of pyrography in the morning by a 16 year old boy who is still at school, hence the need to organise it during his $\frac{1}{2}$ term holiday. Please bring a packed lunch.

SUSSEX

A group of home educators from both East and West Sussex will be travelling to the:-

Polta Children's Theatre 240 The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 on Jan.23rd to watch The Firebird: a delightful and breathtaking musical play for children of all ages with actors, puppets and lots of excitement and colour. Price £3.50 per ticket.

If you would like to join us I will book seats. Contact: Mandy Solomon, 6 Downland Rd, Upper Beeching, W.Sussex, Tel 0903 812053

Please contact me no later than Dec.23rd as I have provisionally booked seats which will be released after Christmas. Payment is in advance, please.

WARWICKSHIRE

A small group of Warwickshire EOers have started meeting on a regular monthly basis. The present age range is 16 months to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ years. If anyone else would like to join with us they will be most welcome. For details of meetings and venues please contact: Alison Cox, Harbury (0926) 613619 or Sue McNamara, L/Spa (0926) 338199

YORKSHIRE

NORTH YORKSHIRE

New Co-ordinators: Alan and Fiona Dix, 128, Fifth Ave, Tang Hall, York YO3 0UW Tel (0904) 426038

We recently had our first meeting for sometime, and although only one family actually made it on the day, a number of others got in touch to say they would like more get-togethers. Two more meetings have been arranged so far:

Sat 9th Dec at 2.30

Christmas Card Making at Jane and Paul's house, 84 Wigginton Rd, York, tel York 621127

Sat 13th January at 2.30pm

Visit to York Castle Museum. Meet by the fire engine in the entrance hall at 2.30.

Also, we are at home most Friday mornings (128 Fifth Ave, York). So if people would like to get together any Friday, you are welcome to come to us. We could do something crafty or some science or music or 'just' play and chat. Please always ring beforehand in case we're away or busy.

The bias towards York in these meetings isn't intentional. If you would like people to come to you, or outings in your area, please get in touch to arrange something.

WEST YORKSHIRE

Parents Meeting:

Monday January 15th 8.00p.m. at Sue Lyon's Bradford

Family gatherings:

December 12th: Winter Party in Bradford. To book phone Sue Lyon.

Thursday 11th January, 1990 12 noon: Visit and tour of Leeds Playhouse. No cost. Bring packed lunch or use Playhouse restaurant. Contact Sarah Cook 0532 629557 for more details.

Tuesday Jan 23rd: Visit to Treadwell's Art Mill, in Bradford's Little Germany. Price £1.15 adult, £1 per child. Meet at entrance at 11.am. Cafe lunch.

Friday Feb.9th: Music Workshop by Satellite Theatre Co. at Slaithwaite Community Centre (next to the church), 1-3, easy BR access. £2.00 per child max. cost.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Unfortunately I cannot give any dates for scheduled events. However this doesn't mean that we don't meet. We do, only we haven't quite come round to planning it very long in advance.

If you want to know more about our meetings and outings (when and where) please give me a call.

I have recently moved house. My tel. number is still 553836, my new address is: 48 Montgomery Rd, Sheffield, S71L Dineke de Jong

EDUCATION THROUGH THE PRESS

Compiled by Andy Axten, contributions from Janice Owen & Peter Edwards with thanks (and some late additions:Ed).

There has been a great deal of print in the Daily Papers lately dealing with schools which have opted out of Local Authority control, and of those I have read about, Head Teacher Roger Perks of Baverstock School in Birmingham has an admirable 'Golden Rule' for his pupils. "Treat all people in our school as you would like them to treat you." Said to be the one and only entry in his rule book, it has the value of dozens of others. I hope his children absorb it thoroughly.

It was good to see the D.Telegraph (21.9.89) give a good write up to a Montessori School in Curedbridge, Hampshire; run by Mrs Janet Howard since 1958, there are 160 happy pupils who still receive milk (and biscuits) at 10.30 in the morning. How nice!

"The National Curriculum - an essential innovation on other grounds and one that has all party backing - could also make some village schools unviable. Providing the right spread of subjects, including science, for a school with 30 odd pupils, a couple of classrooms and a statistical total of one and one half teachers, will not be easy." (Daily Telegraph, 9.9.89)

"The porters ...called the Bomb Squad, the police,... After the area had been evacuated, the cartons were blown up, whereupon their (ticking) contents were found to be plans for the Programme Study and Attainment Targets of the new national curriculum". From South Wales Echo,21.7.89 reproduced in T.E.S., 3.11.89 (KF)

Alternatively, six girls " became the first to attend Britain's smallest independent school. Their beribboned hats were made by their Headmistress, their books were a gift and their desks secondhand cast offs from other schools. It has taken five years of effort by parents to re-open the former C. of E. primary school in Dale Abbey Derbyshire, which was closed 12 years ago by the county education authority as unviable (when it had 29 pupils) (Daily Telegraph 8.9.89)

"The Government's idea of the school of the future opened for business in Noittingham....and business is the operative word. The Djanogly City Technology College....is the first purpose built school in Britain designed by businessmen to meet the needs of industry and commerce.

The first pupils are drawn from inner city working class homes. In educational terms they represent the bottom 40%, the children who the system has consistently failed by offering them a watered down version of an academic curriculum.

The theory that it is setting out to prove, is that a vocationally orientated curriculum taught in a high tech environment will better prepare such children for the world of work (D.Telegraph,31.8.89)

And two of ours, the Daily Telegraph (15.9.89) looked favourably on E.O., adding the contact address. Good.

Teacher shortages continue this term: "Inner London Education Authority...has recruited teachers in Holland, Denmark, West Germany and Barbados." "22 Dutch teachers have been recruited by the I.L.E.A. (D.Telegraph 6.9.89)

A Homework Problem:

"Twelve year old pupils at a secondary school in Northamptonshire were asked to plan the perfect murder as part of their homework. They were asked to write a detailed account of how they would arrange an undetectable murder and throw suspicion on another person.

The second year pupils were asked to name their victim, giving reasons for the killing and express in detail the methods they would use to kill their victim. The Head of English at the school said the work was part of a theme about heroes and villains.(D.Telegraph 19.9.89)

"Soccer hooligans and Lager Louts develop their taste for violence while still at school by bullying other children according to psychologists.

Details of research by Sheffield University show that 20% of pupils aged between 8 and 17 fall victim to classroom thugs who continue their violent ways once they leave school. The worrying thing is that the hooligans we see are getting their training in dealing with things in a violent way at school.(D.Telegraph 14.9.89)

"Bullying has made 20% of Dublin's primary pupils afraid to go to school, a survey of almost 800 children revealed." (T.E.S. 3.11.89)

"Teachers are to be asked by the Government to suggest new traffic control measures to reduce the 6,500 children killed or injured every year on their way to or from school. Britain's death rate for child pedestrians is one of the worst in Europe." (D.Telegraph 21.9.89)

Strategy aimed at social and academic success:

"The Lothian initiative has been sharpened by the ideals of the late Lord Kilbrandon, who envisaged an educational system which would care for its pupils as well as enable them to learn. Twenty five years ago, the Kilbrandon Report recommended that educators should work closely with parents and the local community in the best interest of the child. Lord Kilbrandon's ideals were the foundation of children's hearings in Scotland but education, which was the subject of the report, has reacted slowly - if at all until now. (The Scotsman 10.10.89)

Why is it things take so long to evolve?

I hardly like to promote such things, but maybe we should join in one of the present car sticker phases with ours reading

[EOers do it quicker]

And mention in the Education Scotsman 10.10.89 of an interesting book on Child Truancy, called 'Out of Place', Fiona Patterson, the Falmer Press.

"Children do not always want to be at the same place at the same time. This is a normal human response.. The fact that some truants

have problems has led to general assumptions that all truants have problems." Doctor Patterson has written a book to prove that it can be the educational system which has the problems. She has turned the spotlight on school itself.

and from others:

"Saatchi and Saatchi is the biggest advertising agency in the world...it persuades us to eat Marathon bars,... vote Conservative, ...donate to the NSPCC ...Charles left his local Hampstead school at the age of 17 without winning any glittering prizes, and the warning that he" would never get anywhere in life". A former classmate recalls : " Charlie (...at 44, he runs... a company worth almost 1 billion pounds)...always came bottom of the lowest class in every subject..."...His maths teacher remembers him as " the boy who was always struggling. He was always getting detentions for bad conduct. He took no interest in school activities, clubs or sports. He was the sort of boy who made you wonder what would ever become of him." Today, 21/9/87 (Sylvia Goldstein)

"Mathematics and Science teachers would receive pay rises, parents would be subsidised for teaching children at home and all schools audited each year if recommendations to the Committee of Review of NSW schools are adopted.

....Options listed in the discussion paper include, changing existing legislation to allow parents to easily gain permission to teach children at home and the provision of home schooling subsidies....The paper said advocates of home schooling argued it provided freedom of choice for parents (including religious freedom) was educationally effective, avoided peer pressure and was more cost effective than conventional schooling.

from "The Sunday Telegraph, Sydney Australia, 23.4.89 via A.M.Thompson.

"Dear Madam: September the 28th, 1989 is the 2,540 year's birthday of Kung fu-tzu or Confucius, the first and greatest teacher and philosopher in Chinese history. It is also Teacher's Day and a national holiday in the Far East. People celebrate to show respect and thankfulness to the hard work of teachers. Special ceremony is held by the head of state to mark the importance and appreciation. Please accept our small gift on this occasion and have a very happy Teacher's Day!. [Note from parent accompanying gift-wrapped boxes of chocolate for a pupil's teachers.] T.E.S. 13/10/89 (Could this be our EO day?? Ed)

Gary Lineker's final school report read: " Too interested in sport-you can't make a living out of playing football." Shoot,4.11.89 (PF)
(This footballer's transfer fee to Spurs this summer was £1.5 million)

PUBLICATIONS MEETING : FEATHERSTONE CASTLE: 22.9.89

S.I.N.C. It was agreed that an update was needed for SINC, covering the Childrens Bill and information about G.C.S.E/'s. A loose, four sided 'flyer' inserted into the pages would be sufficient.

THE NEWSLETTER There has been some dissatisfaction with the standard of the newsletter recently, mainly concerning spelling and overall literacy. Jo Rust (publicity officer) circulated a report in which she said that she felt the newsletter was not a good advertisement for E.O. and perhaps we should look at ways in which the newsletter is put together and perhaps improve on it. She thought less space should be given over to personal opinions.

After listening to how the newsletter is put together, that is by volunteers with little or no experience of editing, and some with very few facilities, it was agreed that our editors' efforts are much appreciated. We value the concept of a 'moving editor' and the feeling that anyone 'can have a go' and confirmed that the newsletter is for members, by members, and not a publicity publication. A statement will appear from now on on the inside front cover of the newsletter to this effect.

A suggestion was made by Kay Day that it would fulfill a need if we produced an annual or bi-annual document which would be presentable to the media and other bodies- this will be discussed further at the January meeting.

There followed a discussion about small improvements that could be made to the newsletter and some suggestions were made.

Spelling mistakes are usually simply typing errors and certainly assistance with typing would be helpful to some editors. Rachel White reported from the Children's meeting that the children were concerned that if too much emphasis was put on correct spelling they wouldn't feel confident about contributing. Also they didn't like the idea that Children's material often appears in the newsletter in its original form untyped (on the 'pen pals' page for instance) whereas contributions from adults were always typed. This led to a further point that sometimes an article was put in perfectly typed and would be unnecessarily be retyped perhaps with errors of spelling that had not appeared in the original. A suggestion was made that the guidelines should include a statement about not retyping material where a request has been made for it to remain in its original form.

This could also be covered in 'Information for Contributors' which will appear at the back of each newsletter including various other guidelines for contributors to submit material before the deadline, quoting a reference for previous articles or letters where they are being referred to etc. It was also thought to be a good idea for the headings in the newsletter to appear in the same order. In general it was felt that the newsletter served its purpose but a few details could be changed that would make it more readable. Lesley Kilbride (Publications Secretary)

CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT ON THE A.G.M. & MEMBER'S MEETING HELD AT
FEATHERSTONE CASTLE SAT. SEPT. 23RD 1989

Well, we had a very full and busy week. Over 100 members, new and old and their children, gathered to play and talk and cook and clean and argue and sing & blow bubbles & make candles & puppets & friends. Near the end of the week we held the meetings, both of which were well attended. We now have a new General Secretary, Pam Stevenson, and Mike Cooke of Kent has offered to be our new Treasurer. It was decided to lower our quorum for A.G.M.s to 15 signed-up members and the Trust Deed will be amended accordingly. Christine Wallace reported that our membership is currently 1950 but it is thought from enquiries that there could be up to ten times that number actually home educating. Regionalisation is working well. Jo Rust reported favourably on our publicity and she is building up a file of contacts on various subjects from school phobia to G.C.S.E.

"Figureheads" for E.O., were discussed and it was thought to widen our honorary members list. Jo will write to some prospective people, find their reactions and report back. Lesley Kilbride reported that editors are coming forward for newsletters but volunteers are needed for supplements. Some publications need updating & the original authors will be approached first, otherwise volunteers will be advertised for. It is hoped to print up a new Newsletter Digest and start the next one in process.

Anne and Rob Wade report the Legal Group is still very busy. Too many L.E.A.s are issuing mis-leading or illegal information to prospective home educators. This is being tackled whenever it occurs but please keep up the pressure and inform us of any harassment you receive from your local L.E.A.s. The Family Support Fund had a quiet year with only one request for £14 made and granted.

The Rolling Fund was set up to encourage people to set up common resource centres for member's use i.e. the Norwich Group received a loan of £400 for science equipment. Two repayments have been made with more to follow. The Isle of Wight group received £300 for a publicity/resource centre. This has now all been repaid. Felix Polkowski was willing to promote the fund more.

We have had a request for "twinning" from an E.O. group in France-Miriam Bush will find out more & report back. There was also talk of a "European E.O."

It was agreed that Bob Emmett could purchase a new E.O., Computer. After discussion it was agreed to close the old Barclays Bank account in the interests of efficiency and raising money. Jude Ashley-Walker has quantities of W.E.S. books for sale cheaply, or for more expensive ones, to hire.

Paul Bently now has a photocopied pack of information on G.C.S.E. which is available to members for £2 inc. p&p. An updated insert is being prepared for later years. After promptings from various members our newsletters, membership forms and information leaflets are now all on re-cycled paper. We

will try to extend this to all our stationary. Our printer was so impressed with the quality of the re-cycled people that he's using it in other areas of his own work.

It was pointed out that the Steering Committee, which has responsibility for decision making, consists of the Treasurer, Chairperson, and one other signed up member. Currently these are Bruce Wallace, Jennie White and Liz Ramsay. Any member can contact them for advice and information.

It has been felt for some time that we should adopt a more formal method of appointing new officers and council members. It was suggested a search group be set up to approach any person who seemed suitable and discuss the position with them. A job description should be drafted for each position so E.O. and the applicant knew what was involved. It was decided that each office be held for two years at a time. The meeting proposed that we set up a sub-committee for each post to search for, appoint and support the new officer. This would consist of the previous officer, others working closely with him/her and one or two other members.

Lesley Kilbride explained that she sends a copy of the newsletter guidelines to every editor - but not all editors abide by them. It was agreed that the accompanying letter be amended to read that offensive material be omitted at the discretion of the editor, and that the guidelines be amended restricting the contribution of the editor to a one page editorial. Lesley recommended guidelines for contributors to be printed on the inside cover of each newsletter. The voluntary basis of the editors was also to be noted. A regular format was suggested. From the children's meeting held earlier in the week, it was asked that their contributions be typed and corrected where necessary unless otherwise requested.

It was felt the time was right to produce a separate magazine - perhaps in the form of an annual journal, to use in promoting E.O. generally. The children's meeting in particular was keen to have E.O. more publicised. Jo Rust offered to make a draft for further discussion.

Liz and Gordon Ramsay suggested we had a National Home Schooling Day to promote E.O., gain publicity and generally "come out". Costings etc will be brought to the next meeting. The next meetings will be:-

January 1990: Beaumanor Hall, Leicester
Spring 1990 : Unstone Grange, nr Sheffield
Autumn 1990 : Featherstone Castle, Northumberland

This last meeting will be a week earlier than usual. Suitable venues - large (80-100 accommodation) with room for meetings and playing and cheap are needed for future use. Please look around your area - think of the travelling it will save you!
Our thanks were expressed to Racehl White for organising the week. Any comments, complaints etc please send to Chairperson, Jennie White, Wensley Mill, Wensley, Leyburn, N.Yorks, DL8 4HR

Full copies of the minutes can be obtained by sending a S.A.E. to Pam Stevenson, 25 Wyndham Rd., Dover, Kent, CT 17 OBH

SIGNED- UP MEMBERS

At the meetings at Featherstone Castle, some people were uncertain as to whether they were signed up members or not; so here is a complete list of all the current signed-up members of:

Education Otherwise Association Ltd

Jude Ashley-Walker, Caroline Bithell, Miryam Bush, KayBebb, Isobel Bogucki, Kate Berridge, Anne Clark, Bruce Cox, Lois Cook, Mike Cook, Martyn Chillmaid, Lucy Charlton, Peter Darling, Peter Edwards, Nigel Everdell, Janet Everdell, Stephanie Fitcher, Val Gammon, Robert Gillings, Jill Gilliujngs, June Grant, Elizabeth Hemphill, Tony Hill, Frances Howard, Sylvia Jeffs, Lesley Kilbride, Thomas Kilbride, Patricia Knox, Rena Laslett, Jean Louis, Barry Lovius, Sue Lyon, Julie Lyons, Ken Mafham, Alison Mafham, Jill O'Connor, Joseph O'Connor, Alison Orr, Felix Polkowski, Gordon Ramsay, Liz Ramsay, Meg Robertson, Pam Stevenson, Rob Wade, Ann Wade, Bruce Wallace, Christine Wallace, Jennie White, Mick White,
Pam Stevenson Gen. Sec

WHERE TO GET WHAT

The following publications are available from the Membership Secretary, Christine Wallace, 25 Diabaig, Achnasheen, Ross-shire, IV22

School is Not compulsory (SINC)-a guide to your rights	£2.50
Early Years, learning suggestions for under 12s	£2.50
Later Years, ditto for older children plus GCSE	£2.50
Teach Your Own (John Holt), philosophy of home education	£3.85
Troubled Children (P.Knox), a fresh look at school phobia	£3.75
Schools Out (J.Bendell) a good 'why and how' book by an EO member and long term home educator	£3.75
EO Newsletters: 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 (Woolf & Deutsch), the law in England & Wales with regard to children who are "de-registered"	£2.00

Also available from Jill Gillings, Ballaglonny Farm, Quayles Orchard, Ronague, Casteletown, Isle of Man, "Growing Without Schooling" (The newsletter of EOs parallel organisation in the U.S.A.
6 issues, one years subscription (from March) £10.00

STATIONARY and RE-USE LABELS: 100 for £1.50
from June Grant, 25 Chipperfield Rd, The Manor, Hemel Hempstead
Hertforshire HP3 OAH

MEMBERSHIP FORMS, introductory leaflets & handbills from:
Lucy Charlton, 2 Whiston Lane, Newton Harcourt, Leics. LE8 0FT

Education Supervision Orders

Under the Children Act, not yet passed at the time of writing, an Education Supervision Order becomes available as a means of dealing with non-attendance without making a full supervision order. As such it is narrower in scope: for instance it does not give the supervisor the power to require the child "to live at a place specified". A full supervision order would entail a referral by the LEA to the social services department, and, if they agreed, a separate court hearing, with an opportunity for defence, appeal, etc.

It's a pity this issue has been dramatised into a threat to EO's existence: the situation is actually better for EO now, as an LEA can no longer threaten care proceedings. The civil servants involved with the legislation understand the issues clearly and seem keen to safeguard EO rights. The main problem lay in schedule 3, s.12(2), under which it was the duty of the supervisor to ascertain the wishes of the family "as to the school which the child should attend". This has now been amended to "as to the place at which the child should be educated", in order to leave scope for home education under an ESO. Details of how this legislation could affect different categories of family appeared in the August 1989 newsletter on page 27. (If you're a new member and want to know, ring your coordinator.)

College enrolment

Anyone experiencing problems with getting under-sixteens into college should ring Bob Emmett (0492 69 355) to discuss ideas for handling it. Some LEAs are panicking that this form of flexischooling is threatening their schools, and are clamping down on it. ILEA are quite open about it: "We'd have no pupils left in some schools if we allowed it."

Anti Bullying Campaign

Anne went to their symposium in October to provide information on EO as a possible solution. There was a lot of media interest and follow-up. Anyone with personal stories of bullying and/or school refusal who is willing to go on TV, please contact Jo Rust (0767 50032). Michele Elliott of Kidscape (182 Brook Street, London W1Y 1YG; 01-493 9845) is running the Campaign, and has packs with ideas for dealing with these situations (send large SAE). Strategies are being developed in the same way as they have recently been for sexual abuse.

Part-time registration?

The DES have now rung us about our letter on flexischooling, part-time registration and deregistration on request. They apologised for the delay in answering: at the time of writing we still hope to have an answer soon. They felt that our suggestions were reasonable, but were not optimistic that this was a good time to introduce them, amidst the turmoil of the national curriculum and the threat to LEAs of schools opting out.

Sorry

Have you written to us and not had a reply? Please forgive us and ring up. We are submerged in work as more and more people in trouble find out about EO and contact us.

Anne & Rob Wade

West London 01-904 7155

General Enquiries.....25 Common Lane, Hemingford Abbot,
Cambridgeshire PE 18 9AN
Telephone Helpline:0480 63130

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Dover, Kent, CT17 0BH

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Shieldag Strathcarron, Wester
Ross, IV 54 8XX tel 052 05278

Treasurer (Acting).....Bruce Wallace (see above)

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DL8 4HR

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706 6460

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3EP Tel:0767 50032

REGIONAL SECRETARIES

South West... *AND*

South East.....Jude Ashley-Walker 0983 78680

East Anglia.....Sandie Cottee 0268 733259

Midlands.....Hazel Clawley 021 772 7165

The North.....Mick & Jenny White 0969 23544

Scotland.....Brenda Holiday 0786 832042

Wales.....Miryam Bush 0269 861069

London.....Genevieve Bridgeman 01 341 0751

Ireland.....Clare Weber, Furness, Newport,
Co. Mayo

EDUCATION OTHERWISE OFFICERS

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

Our principal aims are to:

Encourage learning outside the school system

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

Establish the primary right of children to have full consideration given to their wishes and feelings regarding their education

For further information please send a s.a.e. (9" by 4") to:

EDUCATION OTHERWISE
25 Common Lane
Hemingford Abbots
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