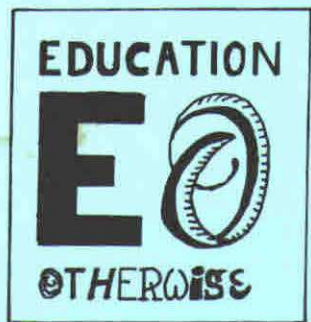


computer exhibit P30
PR2 Nat Home Ed



NEWSLETTER APRIL 1990
ISSUE NO. 73.

The Editor for the June Newsletter is: SUE WHITE, 2 PRETORIA VILLAS,
BROME, EYE, SUFFOLK, IP23 8AL. TEL: (EYE) 0379 870036.

The supplement in the June Newsletter will be on Special Needs
(contributions welcome). Send your contributions to: JANE WOLFE-DRAMA
13, WESTON DRIVE, LIVERPOOL 19, L19 0LX. TEL: 051 427 3212.

The deadline for submission is 1st MAY, 1990. Please send contributions
to the Editor marked clearly 'FOR PUBLICATION', including your full
name, address and telephone number on each submission sent.

FURTHER NOTES FOR CONTRIBUTORS:

1. Please submit before the deadline.
2. Please write or type your material clearly and indicate if you do not wish your contribution to be retyped otherwise the editor will retype and make minor corrections of spelling, punctuation, etc. Material of the wrong size, faint print may well have to be retyped anyway.
3. If you are referring to a previous article or letter, please include reference of newsletter number and date.
4. Feel free to make suggestions about articles you would like to see in the Newsletter, or supplements.

Advertisements are accepted (when space permits) from members if they are of interest to EO in general, at 10p a word.

If you would like to edit the Newsletter, or a supplement, please write to or telephone LESLEY KILBRIDE, PUBLISHING SECRETARY, FEARNHORE B. SHIELDS, STRATHCARRON, WESTER ROSS, IV54 6XX, TELEPHONE 032 03278.

Children's pages are edited by KEN BEADLEY, 'ORANGES', ST. CLEMENTS TERRACE, HARPETON, TOTNES, DEVON, TQ9 5SN. Please send ALL children's contributions to this address.

THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE THOSE OF THE CONTRIBUTORS AND NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE EDITOR, OR OF EDUCATION OTHERWISE AS A WHOLE.

EACH ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER IS EDITED BY A DIFFERENT, VOLUNTEER MEMBER OF EDUCATION OTHERWISE AND ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT BETWEEN MEMBERS.

Education Otherwise is a company limited by guarantee and is a Charitable Trust. Charity No: 292029.

EDITORIAL PAGE

I must apologise to you all for the newsletter being late, but as ever Enfield suffered a postal strike, just at the wrong time!

Thank you to everyone who sent in items for publication. Some of you will be disappointed as I did not have the room to put everything in, but I have sent on anything left to the next Editor.

I hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter and gain something from it.

I have been educating my youngest (Colin who is 13) for nearly two years now. In that time I have also be through a messy divorce and am about to re-marry. A note to those who are Single Parents. It does get better, think positive and do what is right for yourself and your children. Colin gets on well, he was accepted into our local college last September and will take his first GCSE Exam in Computer Studies this June. He is going on to take more Exams next year.

Good Luck to the next Editor, and keep typing...

Lastly I would like to THANK my Children for all their help in getting this newsletter (off the ground).

Louisa, my eldest daughter.... for doing nearly all the typing.

Michelle, my second daughter.... for the Front Cover.

Colin, my son.... for all the headings

BEST WISHES TO ALL EO MEMBERS. BOTH OLD AND NEW.



Contents

APRIL 1990 ISSUE NO 73

- 1 EDITORIAL
- 2 CONTENTS
- 3-12 REGIONAL NEWS
- 13 PEN PALS
- 14 PEAK CAMP
- 15-17 JOB VACANCIES
- 18 NOTICE TO ALL CO-ORDINATORS
- 19-24 LETTERS
- 25-30 NOTICES
- 31-32 PUBLICITY REPORT
- 33-37 MINUTES OF MEETING ON 27TH JANUARY 1990
- 38 EDUCATING ARCHIE
- 39-41 EDUCATION THROUGH THE PRESS
- 42 APPLICATION FORM FOR UNSTONE GRANGE
- 43 UNSTONE GRANGE
- 44 WHERE TO GET WHAT

Regional News

WEST MIDLANDS.. BIRMINGHAM NORTH.

7th April.. 2pm.. in Church House, Coleshill Street, Sutton Coldfield.
EASTER CRAFTS. Bring hard boiled eggs to paint.

12th May.. 2pm.. at Tom & Janet Dent's House, 7, Featherstone Road,
Streetly, Sutton Coldfield.

June meeting to be arranged. Bring food for sharing. NEW MEMBERS WELCOME.
PHONE. Mrs. Pauline Healy. 355 1545.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

The past year or so has been fairly quiet, with local families meeting on a very informal basis, however with several new members and enquiries, and also with the summer months approaching we thought it might be nice to plan a series of gatherings/visits.

We intend to have an 'open house' on Sunday 22nd April to discuss ideas. Bring something for a shared tea. Members from surrounding areas are more than welcome!

WEST YORKSHIRE.

From Sue Lyon, Rainbow Chalet, 6 Parkcliffe Rd., Bradford BD2 4NS. Tel. 5fd. 438337.

PARENTS MEETING... Wednesday May 9th 8:00pm at Sue Denton's 4 Oxford Road Dewsbury. Follow the main Halifax Road out of Dewsbury. After the college on the right, turn left. Phone Dewsbury 463309.

Monday July 2nd 8:00pm at Sue Hart's 284 Halifax Road Huddersfield M62 Jn 24 Brighouse turning right into Grimscarr Road. 1.2 miles, 2nd house on the left. Phone huddersfield 537865.

Monday September 24th 8:00pm at Sue Lyon's Bradford.

Monday November 12th 8:00pm at Jackie Reed's, 73 Salisbury Road, Armley Leeds. Phone Leeds 798793 for directions.

Continued.....

FAMILY GET-TOGETHERS.

Tuesday April 3rd.1.30pm.Visit to Standing Hurst Farm,Denby Dale.Small charge.Phone Alison Tribe 0484-606618 for further details.
Late April Woodland games and walk in the Leeds area.Phone Jackie Reed Leeds 798793 for further details.
May Sports and craft afternoon at North Wing Bradford,small charge per family.Phone 0274-639337 for further details.

NORTH LONDON MEETINGS.

We meet the 1st Sunday of every month from 11.30 to 2.30.Bring some food if you wish,tea & coffee provided.No activities have been organised but anyone is welcome to organise arts & crafts or musical activities.Usually the meeting is just a place for us to chat and play.
The venue is:

THE INTERCHANGE LOG CABINS,15 WILKIN STREET,KENTISH TOWN NW5,TUBE KENTISH TOWN,ER KENTISH TOWN WEST.

The log cabins are equipped with soft play equipment,home corner etc. kitchen and toilets.Fully wheelchair accessible including toilets.The place costs £9 we ask for £1 +/- which includes tea/coffee.Please phone David Michael 284 2124 or Lesley Earson 969 0693 for more information.

N.B. Dates that have been booked so far are Sun April 1st and Sun May 6th please phone for June's venue.

NORTH YORKSHIRE.

Saturday April 21st: Craft,Design and Technology workshop for all ages. There will be a small charge to cover the cost of materials.

Saturday May 12th: Breadingmaking day.Basic ingredients will be provided at cost,but bring your own if you prefer,along with any good recipes.

Saturday June 16th: Picnic at Fountains Abbey,near Ripon(National Trust),if dry.Meet at 1pm in the Abbey cloisters.Children might like to dress up as Robin Hood,Knights,and so on;ours probably will!

For details of times and venues contact Alan and Fiona Dix,128 Fifth Avenue,Tang Hall,York,YO3 0UW.Tel (0904)426038.

We are continuing to have open house at this address on most Friday mornings from 10am onwards.Everyone welcome;please ring before coming.We would also appreciate your ideas for outings,workshops,etc.

Continued.....

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

There is a weekly meeting in Cambridge, including workshops and visits. Newcomers welcome. Further information from: Rosie Alderson 0223 210384 Lorraine Fox 0223 411062.

LANCASHIRE.

We are now holding informal meetings on the second Sunday of each month. We meet at 2pm, and bring food to share at teatime. For the time being we have agreed to meet at the Draper's home in Preston, but please phone the Drapers (0772 719689) or Mary Swale (05242 62049) to check, before you come. All E.O.ers are welcome.

SUSSEX EAST & WEST.

We have regular meetings, at least once a week. For example, in March there were THIRTEEN, ranging from ice skating in Brighton to a talk at Drusillas, Alfriston on rainforests. There is usually something for all ages - including a parents only evening. Unfortunately, as far as this newsletter is concerned, we make arrangements only one month in advance so I am unable to let you know now what we have planned for April and May. For an update, please call Linda Tyrell on Ripe 358. Hope to hear from you.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

Malcolm and Jill Hornsby have resigned as Co-ordinators and we would like to thank them for all their hard work and support. Anyone in Leicestershire who would like to take over from them please contact either the Hornsbys or us for more information as to what the job entails. We hope to have the new Co-ordinator(s) approved locally at our May meeting, in order that their name(s) can be put forward at the Unstone Grange meeting.

April 11th: Swimming at Beaumont Leys (from 12.30).

April 21st: Meeting at Lesley and Pierre's (Market Bosworth - phone for details).

April 27th: The Micrarium, Buxton (meet in park for lunch, phone Liz and Gordon for more info: Loughborough 856604)

May 9th: Swimming at Beaumont Leys (from 12.30).

May 27th: Meeting at Gordon and Liz's (anytime after 12 noon). Sorry, this date has had to be changed.

Continued.....

June 8-10th: Camping at Beaumanor-this must be booked in advance with Liz and Gordon.It's free and the tents and other equipment are already there but there's only 40 places.Possibility of absailing/canoeing. Dates to be fixed: Belvoir Castle and Warwick Castle.

SHROPSHIRE.

April-June 90.The following events are in the regular SECOND Saturday in the month slot.Please check times and venues beforehand.

April 7th: CHANGE OF PLAN.Nikki will run a drama session at a yet to be decided venue in Broseley:cost approx 0.50p-meet at The Lindens at 1.30pm.Bring shared tea.

May 12th: FOR ALL E.O. MEMBERS IN THE REGION.10.00-4.00 at Willey Village Hall*** AMERICAN WEST *** A Theatre-in-Education group will run a workshop on the Indians of North America.It will provide a realistic view of their culture and explode any lingering myths about the way they are portrayed in films.Convoy from The Lindens at 9.45.Cost £3.00/child-please book:bring lunch and tea.

June 9th: Severn-side picnic:Meet at Arley Station(car parks either side of river)at 12.00 to enjoy view of SV Railway,idyllic river scene and gnats.If weather is inclement meet at Judy's and Robert's house.

For further details please contact Don & Mandy Patter,The Lindens,BROSELEY,Telford(0952)892720.

RUTLAND.

We had a pleasant trip round K.O. Chemicals near Oakham,with some half dozen families present.We all thought the research department was particularly fascinating,and could have spent longer there if Tom hadn't decided to do some experimenting himself(alarming the technicians with his knowledge of minor incendiaries)just as young Hyacinth Peace(7 and a half)caused much consternation by inadvertently letting out the beagles!

It seems this sort of thing happens from time to time which is why they have the barbed wire fence around the carpark.Fortunately the Parker twins had some wire clippers handy,which prevented the poor things getting caught up-another example of E.O. initiative and quick thinking!Despite requests from all for another visit,I'm not sure this will be possible just yet,but we are planning a trip to Sellafield next month.

Majorie Oakbroom.

(6)

continued.....

DERBYSHIRE.

Outdoor meetings will begin in the Spring and continue through to the Autumn at the following venues: Everyone is very welcome-we usually meet at the main entrance or car park, where appropriate, and bring a packed lunch.

April Saturday 28th: Heights of Abraham, Matlock Bath.

Cable cars, caves and children's Adventure Playground. Meet at the top by the playground at 1.00pm. (Cable car approx. £4.00 adults, £2.00 children over 5)

May Sunday 20th: Tramway Museum, Crich.

Meet inside the gates at 1.00pm. (Adults approx. £3.00, child £2 inc. rides)

June Wednesday 6th: Greens Mill, Nottingham.

Working Mill just outside city centre with hands-on exhibition. Phone Shirley Kelk for details-0332 675535. Meet at 11.30

July Saturday 21st: Chatsworth House and Park.

With farmyard and adventure playground. Meet in the playground after 1.00pm. (Adults approx. £2.50, child £1.50)

August Sunday 19th: Elvaston Castle.

Park and working farm museum. Meet at playground after 1.00pm. (There is an entrance fee for the museum, but the playground is free)

September Saturday 29th: Hathersage.

Approx. 3 mile walk through the countryside, if weather fine; start by meeting at Surprise View Car Park at 1.30pm. Phone Chris Squires for further details: 0246-201241.

October Saturday 20th: Riber Castle, Matlock.

Wildlife Park. Meet inside entrance at 1.30pm. (Adults approx. £2.50, child £1.50)

Autumn meetings will again take place at Alfreton House, Alfreton; watch later Newsletters for details. Also, a Creative Dance Family workshop (based on Laban technique) is being planned for April or May - please let Lynne know if you're interested as I need to know numbers before I can book a suitably sized hall. Possible cost £3.00 per family.

Phone Lynne & Mike- 0773 836662/Steph & Peter-0246 239048.

SUFFOLK.

Tuesday April 3rd: SWT, Foxburrow Farm, Melton, Woodbridge. 10.00am-2.30pm.

Friday April 23rd: Guided tour of the WOLSEY THEATRE, CIVIC DRIVE, IPSWICH.

Meet in foyer at 10.00am. Car parking underneath theatre. Please contact Valerie Irving (047 335) 666 for bookings.

Continued.....

Friday May 11th: MEDIAEVAL DAY-at Mortimer's Farm, Preston, St. Mary, LAVENHAM.

Lots of activities, including drama, craft, pottery, archery. Come in mediaeval dress and bring food for a shared mediaeval picnic. From 10.00am-all day. Cost £1.50 per family. Please contact: Ali Mariner (0787)247100 BY APRIL 22nd to book, and obtain further details of YOUR contribution to the day.

Tuesday May 22nd: Foxburrow Farm, Melton, Woodbridge.

ADVANCE NOTICE:-JUNE.

A visit is planned to either R.S.P.B. bird reserve at Minsmere, Westleton, OR, an 'educational' cruise up the river Deben on Orweli.

Please contact Charlotte Keith (072 873)650 nearer the time for further details and also confirmation of SWT. Foxburrow Farm, field study days.

GWENT/POWYS.

If anyone would like to meet for coffee and a chat and to arrange further meetings, visits, activities, etc. Please get in touch with us:- Dave, Polly and Aurin (10 yrs), 42, Brynhyfryd Tlewaunlwyd, Ebbe Vale, Gwent, Np3 GTW. Tel:-0495 371333.

AVON/BRISTOL.

The AVON SEED CIRCLE, established in 1983, is a Bristol based group of families, meeting twice a week for workshops and outings and at other times for play and entertainment. Members from Somerset and Gloucester and visitors always welcomed. Information and current mailing:-Julia Hammond 0272 636092 and Poppy Green 0272 735091.

SOUTH LONDON.

For EO parents and children of any age from any area. Completely informal-arrive when you like. Please bring food/drink for lunch/tea. We sometimes organize talks or activities-please suggest anything you would like.

Saturday 21st April: at the Child and Parent Centre, The Albany, Douglas Way SE8, from 11am-3.30pm.

Sunday 13th May: at Norwood Children's Centre, St Luke's Chambers, 2-8 Norwood High St., SE27, from 1pm-5pm. The Children's Centre is behind the church.

Saturday 2nd June: at the Albany as above.

Sunday 24th June: at Norwood as above.

Saturday 28th July: at the Albany.

Continued.....

Saturday 25th August: at the Albany.

For more details phone Rachael 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.

REGULAR LONDON ACTIVITIES.

SKATING.Fridays 2pm to 4pm at Sobell Sports Centre,Hornsey Road,N7.A nice little rink and maybe the cheapest in London-adults £1.50,children £1 INCLUDING SKATES.

CITY FARM.Thursday afternoons at Kentish Town City Farm,Cressfield Close,NW5.Goats,pigs,ducks,horses and other animals to look at,or you can help to cultivate the garden.Over sevens MAY be able to do some horse-riding.There is a room that we could hire for indoor activities.

MONDAYS IN THE PARK.During the summer we met on Mondays at parks all over London:St.James,Kew,Regents,Gunnersbury,Finsbury,Alexandra Palace, etc.We are continuing through the winter when the weather is mild.Each week we arrange the venue for the next week.

ENQUIRIES:-Rachael On 582 3949.

KENT.

Tuesday April 24th: 'Open house'at 35 Bosville Drive,Sevenoaks,Kent.

Annie Cole has kindly offered to have visitors from 10.00am until 5.00pm.If staying all day,please bring a packed lunch.Ring Annie on Sevenoaks(0732)452849 for directions or send her an S.A.E. for a map of the area.Please come as this will be a good time to discuss and plan future visits.

Tuesday May 1st: Local members now meet at Dover Sports Centre for swimming and/or a chat at 2pm on the first Tuesday in each month.If anyone would like to come and join us they would be most welcome.Other activities and sports also available.

Monday May 14th: Canterbury Cathedral and other places of interest.Meet at entrance to Cathedral at 12 noon.Bring a packed lunch.

Wednesday June 13th: Tenterden-Kent and Sussex Steam Railway.Meet outside the station at 12 noon.Bring a packed lunch.Good park with children's play area nearby.

Please try and come along to as many meetings as possible.Bring your family and friends.ALL WELCOME.If you would like to suggest places to visit or if you would like to organise a visit to somewhere near you then please write to Pam Stevenson,25 Wyndham Road,Dover,Kent.CT17 0BH. or ring Lois Cook on Herne Bay(0227)367059.

Continued.....

LONDON.

Tuesday April 10th: H.M.S. Belfast.Meet 11.15am.Talk at 11.30am entitled 'Life at Sea',for about half an hour.Look round ship.Lunch room booked 1.30pm-2.30pm.Film show 2.30pm.'A History of H.M.S. Belfast' for 20 mins.Numbers limited,please ring to book a place.

Tuesday April 24th: Museums.Meet in the Science Museum foyer at 11.15 or 12.30 at picnic area in Science Museum.Free passes available from Anne Wade(send 20p plus s.a.e.)

Tuesday May 8th: Geffrye Museum,Kingsland Rd.,London,E2.Nearest tube Old St.Meet 11.30 for a Historic Room talk at 11.40.This will be about Elizabethan life,and costume,and will last for 1 hr 40 mins.There are gardens and a playground beside the Museum,but I have also booked the lunch room.Numbers limited,please ring to book a place.

Tuesday May 29th: Museums,as above.

Tuesday June 12th: Maritime Museum,Greenwich.Meet at 11.15 outside the East Wing.Children over 7 £1.00,Adults probably £4.00,depending on which exhibitions visited.11.30 we are booked to look at the 'Cook Exhibition'.There is also a childrens activity gallery where children aged 5-12 can explore a reconstruction of an 18th century ship.At 1.30 we are booked to have a 30 min. talk entitled 'Early Explorers and the Age of Discovery'.Mainline stations are Greenwich or Maze Hill,trains from Waterloo or Charing Cross.Please ring to book.

Tuesday June 26th: Museums,as above.

Tuesday July 10th: National Portrait Gallery.Meet at 11.00 for 11.15 study session looking at 'The Tudors 1485-1603'.An introduction to pictures in order to gain a set of basic 'critical tools'to help approach artworks,not just factual information about the paintings.The session was excellent last time.Please ring to book a place.Children should have some knowledge of the Tudors to gain from the session. Sue & Stefan Petschaft.Tel.Crowborough(0892)661319.

ESSEX.

Families continue to meet on a regular basis and over the winter months have mostly met at the Pitman Room for various workshops or activities. We also arranged several museum talks,and a visit to the County Library where the children were given a tour and we all learnt a lot about the micro fiche,catalogue system and other library resources.Deborah Snook also gave us an interesting talk and slide show of her visit to Malaysia.Forthcoming meetings include a visit to the Suffolk Police H.Q.-meeting up with Suffolk EO members who actually arranged this tour,so we look forward to meeting some new faces as well as an interesting visit.

Continued.....

Wed. April 4th: 1pm at the Pitman Room, Bicknacre. The idea is for the children to write their own newspaper articles (news, sport, places to visit, features, etc.). We hope time will allow for the children to decide on lay-out, number of columns, pages etc. and we shall then have the 'newspaper' printed - either by photocopying, or if possible, by word processor or desk-top publisher.

Mon. April 23rd: At the home of Steve & Son Turner, 39 Patching Hall Lane, Chelmsford. At 1.30pm somebody from the Essex Chronicle Newspaper will be coming along to tell us about the history, and production of the newspaper. Since the Chronicle is over 200 years old, and they hold records from this time, it is a subject that offers a lot of scope (new technology, design, etc.). Arrive at Son's any time after 11am - let us know if you are coming early as we may visit one of the local parks or river walks before lunch.

Tues. May 1st: A visit to the ESSEX CHRONICLE newspaper to see the actual production area. We have been unable to arrange a time as yet so please contact me for details. Incidentally, please note that because the newspaper industry work to such tight schedules it might be necessary to change the date of the talk or visit if anything unexpected crops up. It is likely we shall visit the Chelmsford Museum, while in the area, as the Chronicle visit will not occupy the whole day. Details nearer the time.....

Wed. May 23rd: COLCHESTER TOWN VISIT. Meet at 11am in the Natural History Museum, opposite the Castle. Lots to do and see in Colchester - choice of museums, park, town walls and trail. Bring picnic lunch.

Thurs. June 7th: FORD MOTOR COMPANY-DAGENHAM. I have arranged a tour, starting at 1.15pm. We have a few places left if anyone would like to join us (numbers are limited). Please note only children of 10 YEARS AND OVER are allowed on the tour, and the tour finishes at 4pm. It includes about 3 miles walking, incidentally, and is quite comprehensive. Please call me for further details.... I understand the works are easily reached by public transport.

Wed. June 27th: DANBURY COMMON/PITMAN ROOM. Weather permitting, meet in the main car park (N.T.) opposite the village store, on DANBURY COMMON, 11am. There are lovely walks and is rich in historical interest. Alternatively meet us at car park for picnic lunch at 1pm. NOTE: - I shall reserve the Pitman Room in case of bad weather (or through choice) and we could use Map Reading as our theme... (compass direction, degrees, long/latitude, scale, etc.). Bring along maps, ideas and any games please. Incidentally if the weather is wet, you might prefer to go straight to the Pitman Room at 1pm - phone me before 10.30am if in doubt!



Continued.....

We are always pleased to see new families at the meetings so please call me if you would like to know more details. Our newsletter-the ESSEX EPICYCLE gives further information about activities in Essex so if you would like your name on the mailing list, please send £2 to me, to cover post and printing. Incidentally, we are always on the look out for new venues, so please let me have any suggestions (invites to members home also welcomed).

Please contact Sandie Cottee-0268 733259 to confirm meeting arrangements or for further information.

HIGHLAND.

If any members would be interested in get-togethers or possibly workshops please get in touch with Bruce and Christine Wallace at 25, Diabiag, Achnasheen, Ross-shire, IV22 2HE. Tel:-044 581 225. Ideas and S.A.E. welcome!

NORTH NORFOLK GROUP.

We meet together once a fortnight during term time. Our first workshop this year was on shadow puppetry. We have about 30 children from 5-15 yrs old and one or two babies and toddlers. Each child over 5 took part in the show working in small groups whilst others preferred to work alone. February 9th saw us together again for a workshop on U.S.A. Although this took a great deal of work behind the scenes all the children took part and learnt a lot. This year we have also had weaving and photography workshops and others planned including drama, easter activities, calligraphy and illuminated lettering plus a walk.

Workshops are held at :- HINDOLVESTON VILLAGE HALL. Fridays 10.30am-3.30pm.

March 16th. Drama and music.

April 6th. Easter traditions.

April 27th. Sealife (at Hunstanton).

May 11th. Letters and lettering.

Contact: Carol Bennett, The Haven, 25 Lambert Road, Sprowston, Norwich, NR7 8AA. TEL:- Norwich 408467.

EDITORS NOTE.... Sorry Carol, had to condense your lovely letter due to lack of space..Jan.

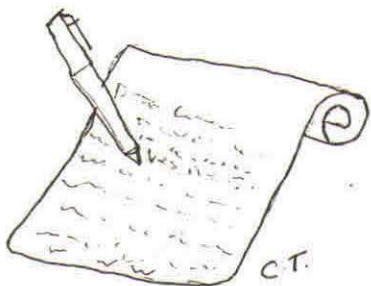
Pen Pals

My name is Rosie Raymond. I am 10 in July and my hobbies & what I like is horse riding. Working with horses & ponys, Garfield, Neighbours, Home & Away and more horses, I also like animals. I will write to anyone who writes to me. My address is...Four Seasons, Coneyhurst, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 9DG.

My name is Alexander Pole, I am 9 years old, educated at home and would like a pen-friend of similar age. I like writing programs for my computer, codes, reading, Canoeing, Swimming and writing poems. I collect post-cards and like singing. Please write to me at :
14 Pennyletts Green, Stoke Poges, Bucks, SL2 4BT.

Hi, my name is Tracey Knowles, I am 13 years of age and would like a pen pal roughly my age. My hobbies are Dancing, Aerobics, Swimming and Ice-Skating. I have been Educated at home for 4 months and would like a pen pal from anywhere. Please write to me at :
19 Carrbottom Avenue, Littlehorten, Bradford, BD5-9BG, West Yorkshire.

I would like a pen pal, (a boy, if possible). I am 10 years old and my interests are, Aircraft, Target Shooting, Radios and electronics, Trains, Radio Controlled models and Snakes. I would like my pen-pal to be of the same age as me, and to have almost the same interests. My name is James B. Wilson and my address is : 42 Maes-y-groes, Prestalym, C lwyd, N.Wales, LL19 9DA.



Peak Camp

The Annual Peak Camp that follows Unstone Grange starts on Monday June 25th 1990 and continues till Sunday July 1st 1990.

It is approximately 40 miles from Unstone to Barracks Farm Camp Site on the edge of the Beresford Dale. The Site is clean and peaceful, it has showers and toilets, a washroom with a 10p slot for hot water and it has an old ringer.

CAMPING CHARGES

40p CHILD. 60p ADULT. 50p PER CAR PER NIGHT.

The nearest village is Hartington, two miles away. The river does flow through Beresford Dale and there are many lovely walks. The river life is plentiful.

Ashbourne, Buckstone and Castleton are all within 30 miles drive away and the BEAUTIFUL MANIFOLD VALLEY is a short drive or a long walk away.

PLEASE 'PHONE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED OR YOU REQUIRE MORE DETAILS. BOOK YOUR PITCH AND YOU PAY ON ARRIVAL.

PLEASE CONTACT.....

BEN & SHIRLEY KELK..... TEL DERBY (0332) 675535.

Job Vacancies

CHAIRPERSON.

The chairperson's most obvious job is to see that meetings are conducted smoothly & effectively. He/she works in partnership with the general secretary, not only during meetings, but also beforehand, in order to prepare agendas. The chairperson is also a member of the steering committee together with the treasurer and one other person. The steering committee are collectively responsible for running E.O. between meetings. One of the functions of a members' meeting is to identify jobs which need doing, and to find people to do them. People often volunteer enthusiastically to do things. It is useful if the chairperson can keep up some of that enthusiasm away from the stimulation of an E.O. gathering, and gently remind people to carry out the jobs they offered to do.

The chair of E.O. does not have a high profile. It can be seen as one job among many. To chair meetings effectively the chairperson needs to be well-informed, aware, sensitive and tactful. In general, he/she should strive to be competent and reliable, and to act wisely in the general interest of E.O. There is no need for a leader figure who might be tempted to exercise power for its own sake. E.O. holds three members' meetings each year. One of these is combined with an A.G.M.

Any interested persons please contact either Jennie White on 0969 23544 (present chair) or Pam Stevenson, 25 Wyndham Rd, Dover, CT17 0BH (general secretary) BEFORE THE END OF MAY please.

PUBLISHING SECRETARY.

At the A.G.M. in Sept 1990 I shall be resigning as publishing secretary, after 4 years. If anyone is interested in the job please contact me at my address which is on the inside back cover of this newsletter. I hope there will be more than one applicant. These names will be put forward at the next members' meeting in June, for consideration. The job entails supervising and over seeing the publication of the newsletter and acting as a link between the editors. It involves recruiting editors and working, supporting them whilst the newsletter is being put together. After it is complete all the editors (newsletter, supplement and childrens) send the work to be checked for things like legal requirements, page numbers, etc. to the publishing secretary. Sometimes items have to be re-typed. Occasionally, additions are made at this stage if important announcements have missed the

Continued.....

deadline date. This may require both cutting and pasting. I do not consider that the job involves changing the layout or correcting spelling, punctuation or typing errors, etc. It makes the finished piece look messy. Editors are advised not to except anything of an offensive nature and to discuss all queries with the publishing secretary first. I have nothing but admiration for E.O. members and their families who give up a considerable amount of time to edit a newsletter or supplement. I feel they deserve the support of the publishing secretary. Finally the completed newsletter is sent to the printer in Wales with special instructions i.e. number to be printed, colour of cover ink, etc. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the printers Bleddyn Jones in Gwynedd for all their help and good service to E.O. during my term as publishing secretary. I shall miss our brief exchanges of weather conditions over the phone from Scotland to Wales.

After this I await the arrival of my copy of the completed newsletter and the results of everyone's efforts. Preparation for the next newsletter begins, sending the guidelines to the next editor. I make between 6 and 12 phone calls and write about the same amount of letters. Anyone interested in the job would find it useful to be able to attend meetings and in particular the June 1990 meeting. We would then be able to choose the right person and then this person could work with me on the August issue.

I feel the newsletter is an important voice for E.O. members and the means of communication and support in an organisation with over 2,000 members, spread the length and breadth of the British Isles. I have enjoyed my time as publishing secretary.

We still need editors as well as a new publishing secretary, so please come forward and thank you all. Lesley Kilbride, publishing secretary.

CENTRAL ADDRESS/HELPLINE.

Janet Everdell has provided E.O. with a central address for many years, and is now looking for someone else to take this on. The job entails receiving a large amount of mail, bundling it up twice a week and sending to enquiries secretaries who deal with it in rotation, and supervising the telephone helpline. The helpline is a separate line (incoming calls only) installed at E.O. expense, it also has an answering machine attached with information for enquiries. This involves updating the tape and getting the machine mended occasionally. Anyone interested in this job needs to have a long term permanent address. Please contact general secretary Pam Stevenson, 25 Wyndham Rd, Dover, Kent, CT17 0BH. BEFORE THE END OF MAY please.

16

Continued.....

REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.

North of England and Scotland as one area.

The work involves the following:-

Making up and sending off membership packs and other publications to new members and usually writing a short note to go with each, reacting to specific queries, worries, etc.

Keeping a 'post-book' record of packages sent, cost of postage, etc.

Sending membership forms on to computer base weekly.

Ideally you should live somewhere in the area. It is not necessary to attend meetings although you'd be very welcome. I'd like to encourage someone who is currently uninvolved with the running of E.O. to consider 'applying'. Time involved currently is approximately 3-5 hours per week depending on the post bag and complexity of enquiries. MOST new memberships are very straightforward. You'll also need a certain amount of space to store E.O. publications out of the way.

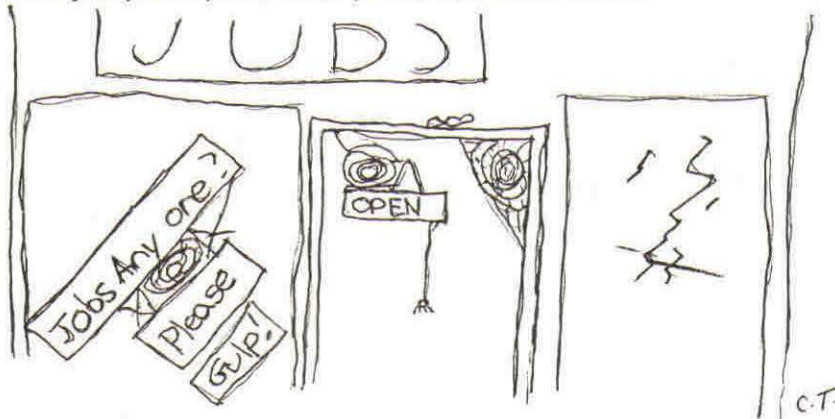
If you think you may be interested and would like to know more, write to, or phone, Christie Wallace, membership secretary, at 25, Diabiag, Achnasheen, Ross-shire, IV22 2HE. Tel: -044 581 225.

SINGLE PARENT CONTACT.

I am at present the single parent contact. Should anyone wish for any information please contact me.

Due to a lot of pressure at home with regard to my children I am resigning this post forthwith. I am also resigning from E.O., however I wish all members all the best for the future.

Anyone interested in this job please contact Ranald Robertson, 22 Nethergate, Crail, Anstruther, Fife. Tel: -0333 50368.



Notice For All Co-ORDINATORS

June Grant has had to give up the Job of Co-ordinators Secretary because of Cameron's sudden serious illness.

I am keeping the lists at the moment, so please let me know when Co-ordinators are resigning and new ones taking over. I can then put the names of the new co-ordinators to the next members meeting.

We are also re-writing the co-ordinators guide lines and I would like to hear from co-ordinators detailing their interpretation of the job.

STEPHANIE FUTCHER, 50, SPRINGFIELD AVENUE, CHESTERFIELD, DERBYSHIRE, S40 1HL. TEL 0246 239048.



NEW E.O. MEMBER ASKS.....

My daughter attends school part time. I should like her to continue to do this when she is five.

I would be most pleased to hear from anyone who has experience of this, mainly from the Legal and Organisational point of view.

PLEASE CONTACT.....

LOUISE & KEN RHODES, 7, BIRCH GROVE, BIRCH-IN-RUSHOLME, MANCHESTER, M14 5JX. TEL.... 061 225 3492.

Letters

I am relatively new to E.O. and always look forward to the newsletters. I have a daughter Emily, who will be three in July and I am expecting another child in June. I joined E.O. to find out more about home-schooling, as I am not happy with the way children are taught, or in fact, with schools in general.

I live in Staffordshire, and would like to hear from anyone in the area who has had dealings with the LEA, as I would like to gather as much information as possible before Emily becomes school age. Also I would like to hear how other families have coped with teaching their own children at home. I would be grateful to hear from anyone who think they can help: - Julie Lockett, 73 Gravelly Bank, Lightwood, Stoke-On-Trent, Staffs, ST3 7EF.

Can anyone recommend any good books or possibly reading schemes to help our nine year old son who is reluctant to read himself but enjoys listening to stories and looking through books. He finds reading very difficult and only enjoys writing if it is on the computer rather than pen and paper.

If you can help contact Polly Craft at 42 Brynhyfry Tce, Waunlwyd, Ebbw Vale, Gwent, NP3 6TW. Tel: -0495 371333.

Dear E.O.,

What's snappy, witty, whacky and with it ???

ANSWER: - Jo Rusts Newsletter.

Thankyou Jo - I just drooled over every easy to read-action packed page. More newsletters like this please....

Yours Poppy Green. 15, Bellevue, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 1DB. Tel: -0272 735091.

Dear E.O.

I have a 2 bedroomed ground floor flat on the edge of a village 2 miles from St. Albans, it is council. I want to move away and start my life again. I would like a garden and to live in the coastal regions of Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex, Kent, Hampshire or Wales. We want to be at home in our education efforts so would like to live in an area with good E.O. group and support. Failing an exchange is there anywhere we could set up home i.e. a mobile home, cottage on a small holding ANYTHING will be considered. We are in urgent need.

If you can help Cecilia Taylor at 9, Allen Close, Wheathampsted, St. Albans, Herts, AL4 8TH.

Continued.....

Does anyone have any peak maths books they could sell me? Also has anyone found interesting non text book maths material for use with bright but reluctant child?(aged 8)
Contact Cecila Taylor, 9 Allen Close, Wheathampsted, St. Albans, Herts, AL4 8TH.

During 1990 we are expecting to travel the British Isles in a van. We are 2 adults, 3 children and 2 dogs. I would like to hear from anyone who has a parking space and would welcome an E.O. family.
Please contact Linda Lovett, 82 Easton St., Portland, Dorset, DT5 1BT.
Tel:-0305 823859.

Dear E.O.,

I am writing to put forward an idea I had for an E.O. one day a week 'school'. It would be for six to ten year olds and begin in September. From talking to other E.O. parents I have got the impression that many would value one completely free day a week. I also feel it would be nice for my son to work in a group. He is nearly seven and has never been to school.

My approach to home schooling is fairly structured. We do lots of project work that is cross curricular. The type of projects we were thinking of are peace studies, history (particularly women's history), science problem solving, music and language studies. The sessions would run from ten to four one day a week. As we would not be expecting parents to stay we would charge a moderate fee. The group would be no more than twelve and there would be three adults, working in pairs, running the sessions.

By September the ground floor of our house would be ready for use. It consists of a large kitchen/dining room, a 'school' room, a quiet room and a good sized garden. I also hoped we could do some home centred activities like baking, gardening and perhaps a bit of D.I.Y.
Please get in touch with me if you think you might be interested in something along these lines. Leslie Barson, 1 Croxley Rd., London, W9 3HH.
Tel:-01 969 0893.

P.S. While on a recent visit to Canterbury we visited 'The Pilgrims Way' museum. They have started a Young Pilgrims Club centred around a character called Noll. For £1.50 your child will receive a badge, a scroll and a very good magazine with information about the Middle Ages, competitions, jokes, games and letters. If you're interested write to:-
Young Pilgrims Club, Canterbury Pilgrims Way, 23 Hawks Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2NU.

Continued.....

Dear E.O.,

Angela Thompson writes to ask how to teach eleven year olds out of school if you are 'poor', and of poor brain too. (Feb. newsletter) I have been extremely concerned about the fact that secondary school teaching is made to appear so difficult that people feel that they are unable to attempt it without massive resources.

One family, with a school phobic child who had made a suicide attempt, was so desperate to home educate that they allowed themselves to be dictated to by the LEA who insisted on a home tutor for their daughter for six hours a week. The family went into debt to the tune of £4,000 in order to pay for this. I was quite appalled.

There are some excellent books. Rhodri Jones, New English Series, books 1-5, suitable for children aged 11-16, reaches GCSE standard. Letts Foundation Skills, books 1-3, available in each of eight subjects, is suitable for children aged 11-14, and gives a good grounding in each of the subjects covered, but does not reach examination level. All these books cost about £4 each. For more expensive books, use your local library. We have just found 'Chemistry Counts' by Graham Hill, which makes chemistry so interesting that Ali does a bit of chemistry every day. Many books can be borrowed from the library on a three month study ticket.

As for parents who feel they are of 'poor brain power' I expect that if you help your children with their education, you will learn many things. My geography teacher in school succeeded only in teaching me that geography was a boring subject. While teaching geography at home I discovered that it is a fascinating. Similarly with History. Ali does not learn her history from textbooks but from historical novels which I always make sure that I read too. Cynthia Harnett and Clive King are two authors who have written historical novels for children. Librarians are always happy to give you advice.

There are excellent programmes for schools, on T.V. When my eldest child was out of school as a result of a crisis, we continued to teach her rather like being at school, and aiming for exams. It was a mistake. As children grow into their teens, they may like to take more and more responsibility for their own education, and to work independently.

Sometimes there will be a week when Ali wants to do English practically all the time. She decided she wanted to finish the Biology course, and worked at Biology to the exclusion of most other things for a few weeks. Next, she is determined to finish the Geography books.

When my eldest child was out of school, we prepared for her seven o-levels, as that would be reasonably similar to what she would do at school. She went into a chronic depression, so that had been a great mistake. The doctor said that lots of children go into a chronic depression before external exams. I was shocked by this. Obviously, the

Continued.....

medical profession and the head teachers of secondary schools knew that this happens, and yet the examination system remains, putting pressure on children.

My youngest daughter, therefore, will be sitting exams in stages, no more than three at a time.

There are no statistics about depressive illness or nervous breakdown in adolescence, except when it is so severe as to land the poor children in psychiatric hospital. THE LITERATURE ABOUT MENTAL BREAKDOWN IN ADOLESCENCE PLACES THE BLAME FAIRLY AND SQUARELY UPON THE PARENTS. Children who end up with nervous breakdowns do so, according to the medical and psychiatric professionals, because of abnormal family relations. The possibility that it could be anything at all to do with pressure to achieve well academically is not even discussed.

Adolescence is a good time to learn all sorts of creative skills: art, craft, cooking, etc., and I hope that many more young people will be able to learn them within the flexible environment of their own homes. Patricia Knox, Pen Hywanan, Boddedern, Holyhead, Gwynedd.

EDITORS NOTE.... As a parent of three, two now finished with the state system and one having home education, I feel that it is the wrong time in adolescence to expect young people to put all their efforts into studying for seven or eight exams when life is hard enough to cope with!

Dear Editor,

I remember reading that at the children's meeting at Featherstone they decided they would like their contributions typed, just like the rest of the newsletter.

In the children's pages of the February newsletter, this hasn't been done.

Can someone explain why this decision has been ignored, or have I misunderstood what was intended?

Rachel Sanger, 32 Daddington Grove, London, SE17 3TT. Tel: 01 562 3949.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: ATTENTION PLEASE CO-ORDINATORS AND OTHER EO ADVISERS

'STATEMENTING' UNDER THE 1981 ED. ACT DOES NOT REMOVE THE LEGAL RIGHT
TO HOME EDUCATE.

If you believed otherwise - read on!

There appear to be some common errors of understanding among EO members concerning several of the provisions of the 1981 Education Act.

I have received a number of calls from parents who have been informed by their co-ordinator, or some other EO adviser, that either:

- a) They can "opt out" of Statementing, or that it will not proceed if they refuse to sign the LEA's consent form.
- b) If they do allow their child to be 'Statemented' they lose their right to home-educate.

Neither of these is true.

Most LEA's do issue a consent form when they notify parents that they propose to assess their child. Goodness knows why! If they are determined to go ahead they will do so with or without consent. And parents are actually liable to prosecution if they "fail without reasonable excuse" to present their child for examination.

The 1981 Act amended section 36 of the 1944 Act as follows:

"It shall be the duty of the parent... to cause him to receive efficient full-time education suitable to his age, ability, and aptitude *and to any special educational needs he may have*, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise".

This gives the right to educate any child 'otherwise'.

Section 7(2) of the '81 Act says:

"In any case where (an LEA) maintain a statement ...in respect of a child, it shall be the duty of the authority to arrange that the special educational provision specified in the statement is made for him *unless his parent has made suitable arrangements.*"

Having said that, I can't pretend it is always easy to convince an LEA of these facts!

This is unfamiliar territory for most LEA officers. The duties imposed on them by the Act seem also to give them the right to determine all aspects of a child's education - in particular to deny that parents can choose to provide the education at home.

Several LEAs have tried to invoke section 3 of the 1981 Act (which concerns provision of special education by the LEA "otherwise than in schools") against parents who wish to home educate by saying it is not considered "inappropriate for (that provision) to be made in school". It had to be pointed out to those LEAs that they had misinterpreted or misunderstood the purpose of section 3.

So if your LEA tries to tell you that section 3 of the '81 Act has anything to do with home education, or if they say anything that conflicts with what I have said here, they are WRONG! (I will be happy to help you to deal with them if you give me a call.)

Apart from the above-mentioned S36 amendment, the only part of the Act which makes an absolute legal distinction between SEN ('Special Educational Needs') and 'mainstream' children (in respect of the choice for home education) is Section S11 which says: "The parent of a child registered at a special schoolshall not withdraw the child from the school without the consent of the local education authority". I'm sure this section of the Act was not designed to prevent home education!

Although there have been initial difficulties with a few LEAs, I know of no case where an LEA have prosecuted or even succeeded in preventing a family from withdrawing a child for home education. If you do know of such a case, please let me know.

And if you want to know whether it's worth the hassle, see how Kit Virdee feels:

"Your comment that 'if he were at home and sat on a chair all year he'd learn more than at special school' certainly rang true. He generates his own learning.....his self-motivation has come on in leaps and bounds.....creative work constantly delights me.....He sings at the top of his voice...One HAPPY little boy!"

But Kim Wark (Leeds) intends to avoid the hassle:

"It was such a RELIEF to discover EQ and the possibility of educating my son at home, rather than handing him over to 'the system'. I am now more at peace, more relaxed and have lost a nagging headache!"

Computers for pre-school special needs.

Andrew is 5 years old. He is physically disabled by cerebral palsy - but very bright. His hand function is limited although it is improving. He had his computer (a BBC Master 128) shortly before his third birthday, and has used it extensively both as an educational tool and for fun.

For the first few months I tried desperately to find suitable software. The speech therapist we had at the time knew little about computers and it seemed that the educational software that teaching friends could tell me about was too advanced for Andrew. We had a concept keyboard with the computer, but it was the large A3 version and he didn't have the reach to use all of the surface.

Luckily I heard of someone who wrote SEN software and worked with children with home computers. She visited and advised about appropriate software. She told us to ensure his seating was suitable, that he was level with the screen and not too far away. He needed adequate head support so he didn't flop over too easily while using the computer.

To see if Andrew understood the concept of 'cause and effect', we used a program called 'Blob' - accessed by a large wooden box switch (the type used for battery operated toys). Blob is a brightly coloured character who changed colour and played a tune when Andrew hit the switch. We soon saw that he DID understand cause and effect!

The next stage was to teach him to use the whole screen and begin using cursor control. We used Blob and friends playing hide-and-seek, and a variety of maze programs. He progressed rapidly from the large box switch to a much smaller single switch, and then to using two switches so he had more control over what was happening. One switch moved the cursor, the second chose the object. He needed a fair amount of help to differentiate physically between the two switches at this stage - he showed he wanted the 'choosing' switch by making a noise.

Once Andrew had learned the basics, we introduced programs with a more educational theme: 'Blob 2' has colour and shape matching games. 'Where's Blob?' encouraged him to use his (then) limited vocabulary. And we introduced 'Using Pictures' - a package designed for use as a speech therapy aid; the aim being to familiarize a severely physically handicapped child with using a series of pictures representing nouns and verbs, individually at first, then at a higher level to combine pictures of words on the screen to form three or four word sentences.

Andrew's teacher felt it especially important for a child of normal intellectual abilities but little or no speech to be able to communicate as early as possible. She also intended 'Using Pictures' to be the basis for assessing such children on the computer rather than trying to do the normal manually based assessments.

Andrew now uses a smaller A4 concept keyboard, and as his manual dexterity improves the surface is divided into more and more areas. He can now manage about 10, thus he can use more complicated software. A great favourite is 'ZOOBACK' (in which a little girl feeds zoo animals)

Our concept board version of 'Folio' enables Andrew to use the words he is learning at school. But there is a limited amount of good software available for switch and concept board operation - so we hope to get Andrew some form of keyboard emulator which would allow him access to ordinary software. Anyone got any ideas?

Sue Bird 75 Pondfield Crescent Marshalswick St Albans Herts AL4 9PA
Tel: 0727 39687

'Blob' 'Blob 2' 'Where's Blob' and 'Using Pictures' all available from : Widget Software Ltd. 1, The Ryde, Hatfield, Herts AL9 5DQ

(I now have details of other useful software but no room to include them! Ring or write to Sylvia Jeffs for information.)

I felt I had to write to recommend a wonderful book, called 'Every letter Counts'. It was written by Susan Hampshire and published by Bantam Press.

This book has helped my own family and I feel will really help many others. In fact all would be well advised to read this book in order to have more sympathy and understanding for those who suffer from DYSLEXIA.

My eldest son Paul (aged 12), my daughter (aged 9) and my husband Malcolm all suffer from this disability. Reading the book's true-life experiences helped them to see they are not alone, and can successfully win against this problem - or at least learn to cope with it.

I am very proud of my family's achievements in spite of not being diagnosed as dyslexic until recently. Not that knowing will really make that much difference. What does help is that they know they are not stupid, thick or lazy; that there is a reason for their problems. However, they do have to work a lot harder than others who are not dyslexic, so I admire them for their determination and diligence.

I hope this book helps many others to become more aware of this problem in order to help dyslexic ones, rather than to belittle them and generally make life so much more difficult.

Carol Kerr Carmal, 3 Duthac Wynd, Tain, Ross-shire.

Dyslexia or Vision Related learning difficulties?

I have received information which suggests that a high percentage of literacy problems may be due to vision-related difficulties which would not be found by ordinary eye testing. (Because that test is: "an individual static one taken at a distance", whereas when reading, "the eyes are used in binocular mode..moving..and working at near distance")

It states that: "the typical multi-sensory tuition will not make much progress until the vision has been sorted out and improved. The remedial exercises which can be given to improve the eyes' muscular co-ordination are very effective if done daily at home".

The writers describe the typical 'symptomr' and the results of recent research into diagnostic techniques. They advocate a specialist "Dynamic eye test" and offer a free screening service (which involves a 15 minute telephone call, and production of an example of the child's work, done under certain conditions)

I believe that the vision testing costs about £75. Assessments or educational advice are a separate charge. I have had no 'feedback' yet from parents so I cannot make judgements of any kind. Therefore I can only pass on the information - a phone call would be best.

No room to explain, but will anyone having trouble obtaining milk tokens for 'a handicapped child at home' please ring me! You do NOT have to be receiving income support!

Any comments, problems, queries, to Sylvia Jeffs, 16 St Bernards Rd.
Solihull, West Mids. B92 7BB. Tel: 021 706 6460

Continued.....

Dear Everbody,

Almost a year on. It seems the question we asked about children missing out on the social aspects of school is still generating interest. Had we been really organised, we would have put together the five or six direct replies we received to the letters, together with the responses that have come through the newsletter, and given a brief catalogue of the valuable advice we were given. Unfortunately, we aren't that organised. All we can really do is thank everyone for taking the trouble to write to us, and raise the question again in response to Carol Bennett's article 'Socialisation and Home Education' in last month's issue.

Carol Bennett says children from secure homes 'are all the more vulnerable to the rough and tumble of school. Their kindness tends to be mocked and advantage taken of their lack of aggression, until they become either withdrawn or decide that if you can't beat them you must join them.'

We found this observation very alarming. We have two children now, and so far have been striving to ensure their environment is as natural and 'Neillian' as possible. We are aiming to teach them at home, because, as ex-teachers, we know what a terrible place school can be. We believed that by giving children abundant love and security, and freedom to grow and self-regulate (to use A.S. Neill's famous phrase) they might quickly become self-confident, independent, socially competent and happy. So far it seems to be working, but then neither of the children are five years old yet, and school is still along way off.

Yet, Carol Bennett seems to be implying that far from preparing them well for the rough and tumble of life, we are in danger of putting them at a disadvantage. Her argument seems to be that precisely because they've not had hate and violence around them to any serious degree, they won't be able to cope with it when they meet it. Now it seems inevitable to us, given the horribly flawed society we live in, that our children will meet hate and violence as they grow up and when they become adults. Indeed they've already met it. We've always believed that by providing them with a bedrock of security, especially for the crucial first three years of their lives, they'd be able to cope with the unpleasantness more easily. Mrs. Bennett says this is not so - for in her answer there lurks the suggestion that the more security we give them, the nicer people they may become but the LESS able will they be to cope with unpleasantness.

This has unpleasant implications for the whole E.O. philosophy. Are we, in educating our children at home, producing offspring who may not be ideally or even adequately prepared to cope with the nasty world they'll have to live in? If this is the case, then the answer to our question 'Won't your children, being educated at home, miss out on the

Continued.....

social aspects of school?' is a resounding 'YES!' Because,unpleasant as school often is,at least it prepares the child for the awfulness of society.

It's the main justification put forward by most pro-schoolers.If you don't send your child to school they will say a)you're depriving him of the opportunity to make friends, and b)you are crippling him,weakening him,making him unable to cope with life's stress because he lacks adequate experience of it.

Our experience so far has been that our three year old son Daniel copes with the frustrations and violence of other children with considerable skill,and,comparatively free of common hang-ups and inhibitions,he tends to be the focus rather than the butt of other children.They find his unconcerned ways attractive.And,at the end of the day,we think having a child is compassionate,relaxed and happy,is better than having an aggressive,upwardly-mobile Machiavelli.

We also think that Carol Bennett's warnings won't apply to Daniel.So far it's been our experience that the security we've been giving him has worked to his advantage,even in the rough and tumble of the public playground.But will it work for the new baby,Mark? Or,to put the question in a more general form: 'Could educating your children at home make them professionally and socially inadequate?'

Nick and Leda Skeens,55 Chapel Rd.,Burnham-On-Crouch,Essex,CM0 8JD.
Tel:- Maldon (0621) 784889.

Dear Editor,

I felt I must reply to Angela Thompson's question in the February newsletter 'Have your non-EO friends stopped dropping in for coffee?'

My question would be 'Have you stopped INVITING your non-EO friends for coffee?'

A lot of EO people say that they are not against schools as such and/or that they have lots of school-going friends.I AM against school as such,and I find it harder and harder to have any rapport with people who decide to send their children to them,if they could perfectly well choose not to.Also,the children become almost unbearable-since starting school,many of Helen's playmates since birth have undergone a dramatic transformation for the worse in personality and behaviour.

Some EO families say that their children play with school-going friends in the afternoons after school.We've tried this,and the school-children are overflowing with pent-up anger and resentment about their day,which all comes out on us.The worst thing is,the parents don't even seem to notice.Nowadays we really only see a)EO people b)Family c)Childless friends and everyone else has dropped out/been dropped.Are we just unlucky/too intolerant/at a difficult stage,or do others have the same trouble?.....Rachel Sanger.

NOTICES

TAPES TO SWAP-We have several tapes available to swap in the longer short term.e.g.Wind in the Willows,Winnie the Pooh,Coral Island,etc. Sue & Stefan Petszaft,2 Leylands Manor,Tubwell Lane, Crowborough, E.Sussex TN6 3RH. TEL. 0892 661319.

'Co-ordinators,can you check that local EO details are kept up to date with the local C.A.B. offices'.Thanks Jennie White.

%%%

Jose and Eleanor and family of North London would like to announce the arrival of a baby girl,Yoshi Naomi,born on February 7th 1990. With special greetings to all the lovely people we met at Featherstone in September. 21,Central Ave.,Edmonton, London,N9.

EDITORS NOTE... Congratulations to you all.

(((((

Writer,wife and daughter urgently seeks unfurnished detached property in rural setting,to rent.Conditions immaterial,all areas considered. Please contact Mick & Hazel Ellis,30 Wotherton,Chirbury, Montgomery, Powys,SY15 6BT.Phone Chirbury(093 872) 334.

ff

WEEKEND CAMP in West Wales for EO FAMILIES.MAY 26-28 1990.Close to the sea,lovely coast.Self-catering.Ring early as numbers may have to be restricted.0239 811118.

Holiday flat at Cwm Rhaffau available through the summer for EO members 1.5 miles from beach.Ring 0239 811118.

Cwm Rhaffau,Sarnau,Llandysul,Dyfed.John and Sally Hargraves and Emma and Julian Orbach are looking for a third family to join them in a community based around home education,meditation(See Feb. newsletter) Ring 0239 811118.

))

EO FAMILY MEMBERSHIP CARDS.

There is now an official EO membership card, robust, credit card sized and made out of recycled cardboard. It can be used to gain free entrance to the Natural History and Science Museums in London. Now that we have this card, perhaps it is time for all regions to think about the resources in their area and start negotiating for free or reduced entrance fees on behalf of all EO members.

WANT ONE ?

Send an SAE marking the top left hand corner EO CARD to :

Paul Bentley, 83, Manor Park, London, SE13 5RA.

(Specimen cards can be supplied if required by your resource, if you send an SAE too).

CHILDREN'S MEMBERSHIP CARDS.

Cards which show that you are legitimately being home educated.

Send an SAE to:

William Rust, 8, Church End, Gamlingay, Beds. SG19 5EP.

Help your children with their early learning while they enjoy listening to these musical tapes. 'Musical Sounds' of the orchestra £2.95. Alphabet; Multiplication Tables; The Calendar; Counting; Rhyming Words; £2.45 each. Postage 45p each. Money refunded if dissatisfied: Martin Evans (EO) 16, Thistle House, Dee St., London, E14 0PD. (01 515 1797)

#####

HONORARIUMS FOR EO PUBLICATIONS
(SINC, EARLY YEARS, LATER YEARS)

Within the next year, all of these publications have to be reprinted, and updated.

At the meeting at Beaumanor Hall in January, members discussed whether or not honorariums should be paid to the person, or persons, updating this material before reprinting.
(All of these publications are profit-making for EO.)

At the next meeting of members, at Unstone Grange in June, the matter will have to be resolved. Comments and ideas are welcomed from all members on this subject.

Also, at Unstone, if honorariums are to be paid, the decision will then have to be taken on how much this should be, and who should take on the respective assignments. If you are unable to attend the meeting in June, but would like to contribute to the discussion, please write to Pam Stevenson, General Secretary, at 25 Wyndham Road, Dover, Kent, CT17 0BH, who will then bring your letter to the meeting.

HOME EDUCATORS and RESOURCES PROVIDED BY THEIR LEA

When I meet up with EO members from different parts of the country it becomes apparent that not only does the attitude of LEAs to home educators vary, but the amount of help in providing resources is also incredibly diverse.

Some parents manage to achieve some form of part-time schooling, some LEAs accept under 16s into Further Education Colleges, some don't. Some LEAs provide space for EO members in Community Education establishments, some refuse.

In order to get a national picture of what LEAs may or may not do for home educators, I intend to mount a survey on this subject. If you have good experiences in your area, or if you have bad ones, please WRITE to me explaining your situation as fully as possible. (Please don't phone as I am already inundated with calls.) All material received will be handled with the strictest confidence, and if I decide there is enough material received to publish a national report on the subject, it will only be done with the full backing of EO officers.

Many thanks.

Jo Rust, Publicity Officer, 8 Church End, Gamlingay, Nr Sandy, Beds. SG19 3EP.

27

Continued.....

NATIONAL HOME EDUCATION DAY.

A criticism often levelled at EO is that we don't do enough to publicise the right of parents to educate outside the school system. There are no doubt hundreds of families who would choose to educate otherwise if only they knew it was possible-maybe your own family was one of those families until recently? All of us, of course, are busy, but perhaps some of us could find time to let others know about the rights that we ourselves enjoy. With this in mind Gordon and I would like to propose we hold a National Home Education Day. This would be a day to single out homeschooling for media attention and there'd be any number of ways this could be done.

- You could: Open your house for the day to parents/children/educationalists who want to know more .
 - Arrange with other families a ceilidh/party/craft morning/workshop.
 - Hold a public forum .
 - Invite the local press, T.V and Radio to do an article/interview.
- There are lots of other possibilities but what we need-if this is to happen-is grass-roots support. It's no use having any sort of media day if no-one wants one or is prepared to get involved. Is there something YOU could do in YOUR area? The benefits may also extend to those of us already 'e.o.ing'. A National Home Education Day could stimulate local interest, contact and support which in turn will make it easier for new families to start out. Please contact us and let us know what you think (if you really dislike the idea let us know why), and if you feel you can help-any suggestions would be very welcome!
- We hope to discuss all responses at the Unstone Grange meeting in June. Thanks! Gordon and Liz Ramsay, 1, Stanford Hills Coots, Stanford on Soar, Loughborough, Leics. LE12 5GL. Tel (0509) 856604.

AND FROM U.S.A..... AARON BEVERLY WRITES.....

Dear Fellow Homeschoolers, I am writing to ask you if there are any e.o.ers in your area, that may be interested in writing to me as a Pen Pal ? I am in the 8th Grade, and am 13 years old and enjoy stamp collecting, reading, drawing and I like to study history. I also enjoy drama and I am currently involved in the Rodgers and Hammerstein production of South Pacific. I live on a farm and I like horses, rabbits and cats. I would like to have a male Pen Pal, although I would not mind a female. If there are any children that you know of that might be interested in doing this, please ask them to write to me at Apartment 1, Box 1191, Chattahoochee, Florida, U.S.A. Fla.32324.

Continued.....

Open School depends on charitable donations, sponsorship from the private sector and fees from the LEAs and schools with which it co-operates in service provision and resource development. In the long term it is for you to identify the areas which Open School should address. Open School welcomes contract from all involved in the educational process-LEAs, schools, parents, pupils, students and teachers. Open School activities are administered from Dartington in Devon, where residential facilities will be available from 1991. The Chairman of the Open School Trust is Lord Young. Contact: Peter Davies, Open School, Foxhole, Dartington, Devon, TQ9 6EB. Tel: 0803 866542.

FLEXIBLE LEARNING DIRECTORY FOR CHILDREN UP TO 16. In my work with families educating their children either alongside school or at home as a full-time alternative to school, the continuing message seems to be that what would be the ideal is more flexibility. I already have a limited amount of information to pass on to parents concerning the educational resources in their own area but would like to add more and compile a 'Flexible Learning Directory For Children Up to 16' (Published by Apronstrings Education). I am looking for information on: Any schools, centres, schemes, projects, colleges, groups, workshops, etc., working with children IN ANY CONTEXT (in school hours and terms or outside them). Full-time schools, fee paying or otherwise. Schools, colleges, centres, etc., offering 'Flexischooling', 'Open Learning', 'Distance Learning' or any other flexible approach including post 16 colleges and centres. Tutors, or any other individuals tutoring children, who would like to be included in the directory. Anything that may be useful to such a publication. The directory will cover all ages from pre-school up to 16+ and I would welcome any information, no matter how sketchy. Thanking you in anticipation of a hefty post bag. Pip Rupik, Apronstrings Education, 14, Basil Ave., Armthorpe, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN3 2AT. Tel: 0302 833596.

%%%%%%%%%

LEARNING LINK..... We have now distributed Issue Two of our list and newsletter, which included free tickets to the BETT Educational Computer Exhibition at the Barbican in London. Also a 0% finance scheme from Research Machines and a whole host of other information. If you are using a computer why not send us an SAE and we'll send you details of what Learning Link can offer, and what YOU can offer Learning Link:..... Paul Bentley, 83, Manor Park, London, SE13 5RA.

①

Publicity Report

SPRING INTO ACTION!

Trust me to mention in the February Newsletter that things were fairly quiet on the media front! On 5th February the HMI report on the state of schools was published. For those who didn't hear about this, the main issue picked up by the press was that 33% of children in schools were not receiving an adequate education. (Failure by the DES/LEA to fulfil their duty of the 1944 Education Act?)

On 6th February the home-education of my boys had to be put on hold, as I dealt with over 20 calls from national newspapers, TV and radio. The 7th February was much the same, then the 8th.....

Most journalists were asking the same thing. What statistics could I provide which would show that more people were leaving the state system of education because of their dissatisfaction with it.

Here lies my dilemma - threefold:

1. We keep no detailed statistics of our new members reasons for joining.
2. Even when people are fed up with schools, most still don't realise they can home-educate.
3. If I don't give the journalist something to print, home-education won't be in print as an alternative, and those parents in ignorance will remain so.

Against all the odds (and after 24 phone calls) I found three new members to EO prepared to talk to a Sunday Times journalist. Thanks to the Trueman family in Cambridgeshire, the Kendrews in Yorkshire and the Graysons of Derbyshire an article was written in the space of two days. Then what happened? Nelson Mandela was released. All articles on education were suspended to make way for news from South Africa.

The following, however, is a list of EO publicity I have managed to secure:

- BBC TV 'CLEAN SLATE'
- EO members are helping with a programme about how children learn to read.
- BBC RADIO 4 'EDUCATION MATTERS'
- Featuring the Yardley family in Wales, Nick Everdell and myself.
- BBC 'OPEN SPACE'
- An entire programme on School Phobia, organised by Pat Knox.
- CENTRAL TV 'DOCURAMA'
- A programme on bullying in April, with help from Liz Ramsay.
- BEST magazine
- feature on home education
- PRACTICAL PARENTING magazine
- Home education with families in Sussex
- SUNDAY EXPRESS magazine
- EO feature on the Johnsons in Cornwall, the Barsons in London, Nick Everdell and the Rusts (Oh no, not again!)
- SUNDAY TELEGRAPH magazine
- A general feature on EO
- TAKE-A-BREAK magazine
- Feature on the Turnbulls of Durham, the Fearnleys of Whitby and

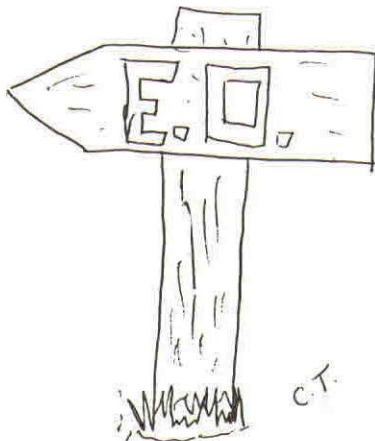
EO Publicity report continued.....

possibly the Walkers of North Yorkshire.
SUNDAY TIMES magazine, London supplement
Paul Bentley and the Wades of London providing information.
THE OPEN UNIVERSITY
is to change text in its course publication "The Pre-School
Child" after I pointed out to them that it said "...school
was a legal requirement for all children". Thanks to
Richard Chaff of Scotland for pointing this out.

Because of the number of times newspapers and magazines say
those awful words "School is compulsory", and make other wrong
assumptions about the Education Act, with regard to home-education,
I am considering taking the matter up with the Press Council.
If I can supply the Press Council with sufficient cuttings from
erring publications, they will issue a Memo to newspapers insisting
that in future they do not make such wrong statements of the law,
which will be apt to misinform the general public. Please could you
all act as monitors and SEND me articles containing erroneous statements
saying which publication they came from, and the date of publication.
The more proof I have to show the Press Council that this is a common
problem the better. Please note, I must have an actual copy.

Thanks again to all those who continue to get themselves, and EO,
into their local newspapers, and send me copies of the articles.

Jo Rust, Publicity Officer for EO,
Gamlingay, Cambridgeshire.



32

MEMBERS MEETING OF EDUCATION OTHERWISE ASSOCIATION LIMITED.
BEAUMANOR HALL, LEICESTER, 27th January 1990.

PRESENT - Bruce Wallace, Anne Wade, Rob Wade, Pam Stevenson, Lois Cook, Mike Cook, Guy Morse-Brown, Sue Lyon, Stephanie Fatcher, Valerie Gommon, Isobel Bogucki, Miryam Bush, Rachel Sanger, Steven Parlowe, Vicky Chesterton, Collette Bradley, Bob Taylor, Sarah Taylor, Jo Rust, Kay Day, Patricia Knox, Julie Turnbull, Jude Ashley-Walker, Liz Ramsay, Lucy Charlton, Jill Hornsby, Lesley Cooper, Pierre Vettori.

APOLOGIES were received from - June Grant, Meg Robertson, Christine Wallace, Jennie White, Mick White, Rachel White, Lesley Kilbride, Peter Edwards.

MINUTES

The minutes of the last members meeting were agreed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

Re-cycled paper - Bruce Wallace reported that there had been a slight increase in the cost of the last newsletter - partly due to the higher cost of using re-cycled paper, and partly due to the rise in postage rates.

We discussed the new appointments system proposed at the last meeting. It was decided a job description be drafted by each officer and taken to the next meeting. Jo, having recently edited a newsletter, suggested there be guidelines as to the number of pages in each issue. She will contact Lesley to discuss it.

ROTATION OF OFFICERS

June Grant resigned as Co-ordinators secretary.

Bruce Wallace, who has been 'acting' treasurer, handed over to Mike Cook, whose position as treasurer has now been formalized. Thanks were expressed to Bruce for all the hard work he has done.

The following Officers wish to announce that they will resign from their respective posts, at the meeting at Featherstone, in September.

Christine Wallace - Membership secretary

Lesley Kilbride - Publications secretary

Jennie White - Chairperson.

The new signatories for cheques will be - Jennie White, (chairperson)

Pam Stevenson (general secretary) and Mike Cook (treasurer).

It was queried whether or not a co-ordinators secretary was needed. We discussed the various tasks involved - keeping a list of current co-ordinators, taking names of proposals to meetings, keeping co-ordinators notified of guidelines for expenses etc. It was decided that we did need someone to do this work and Stephanie will stand in temporarily until the next meeting, when a support group will be set up for the post.

Lucy will now take charge of all stationery.

REPORTS

a) TREASURER - Bruce Wallace

The Barclays Bank account has now been closed. At the beginning of this year, there was a balance of £11,000 in the current account with the Royal Bank of Scotland. There will be bills to pay in the next two years for the re-printing of SINC, Early Years and Later Years. E.O. may be liable for corporation tax. Mike will contact the auditors on this matter. As our present current account does not earn any interest, Mike will discuss possible alternatives with the auditors and the bank.

b) STEERING COMMITTEE - Liz Ramsay, Jennie White, Bruce Wallace.

Liz reported that the only recent decisions made by the steering committee were that the membership cards should be printed by Trade Craft for £5 less than the previous proposal, and that Poppy Green's travelling expenses be paid for her to bring her exhibition to this meeting.

c) MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY - Christine Wallace

On January 20th membership stood at 2014, this being an increase of approx. 150 in the last year. There is always a large turnover in the membership, many not re-newing after the first year. The rise in membership fees did not have any effect on the number joining.

d) ENQUIRIES SECRETARY - Janet Everdell

Janet received a total of 2966 enquiries (written and telephone) in 1989, which was slightly better than 1988 (2561) but not as good as 1987 (3052) There are now 8 regional enquiries secretaries, so the overall number would be a lot higher.

e) PUBLICITY OFFICER - Jo Rust

Jo reported that although this is a relatively quiet time of year, she is still receiving an average of one telephone call a day from the press, t.v. or radio. There is an article coming up soon in the Sunday Express, and possibly a mention of E.O. in the Indy, at the end of an article on school exclusion, and a programme on British Broadcasting Satellite, about parenting and E.O. Patricia Knox has just completed her work with the B.B.C. for a programme on school phobia. This is due to be shown on OPEN SPACE on 27th March, on B.B.C. television. E.O. is now listed in the childline files - see pages 11 and 12 of the Feb. newsletter. Poppy Green has an exhibition displaying information on alternative education. We discussed the making up of a more permanent exhibition which could be transported around the country, wherever publicity events were being held. To have this done professionally, could cost between £300 and £500. We could have several identical exhibitions, which anyone could borrow, or one professional one, and several cheaper copies, possibly one in each region. Bruce suggested the possibility of getting the articles made up into posters - a very much cheaper alternative, and we could have more copies, and they would be easier to transport around. Poppy will investigate costs and several people offered to help plan it, and they will meet later to discuss it further.

f) PUBLICATIONS SECRETARY - Lesley Kilbride.

Editors are urgently needed for newsletters and supplements. There are approx. 1000 copies left each of SINC, EY, AND LY. This number of copies of Sinc and Ey. should last about one and a half years, and the copies of Lys. about two years. All these publications need updating. Sarah Guthrie has volunteered to do Early Years again. Bruce proposed that her offer be accepted as she did the previous edition, Jo seconded this and the meeting agreed. The cost of printing these would be 63p each on an order of 3000 copies, and they would be sold at £2.50 each inc. postage to members. Bruce suggested that a 'reasonable' sum of money be paid to persons updating these publications, as they 'make' money for E.O. and there is a lot of work involved, for the editors. We discussed whether a fee should be paid, or an honourarium payment be made or whether a percentage of the profits be paid on each issue sold until further amendments were made. There were varied feelings on this matter. Many held the view, that E.O. being a charitable organization, ALL work should be done on a voluntary basis. Many members are putting in many hours of hard work every week of the year, not just for a limited period of time. Others felt that the amount of work involved in the updating of these publications came in a different category, and therefore justified payment. Decision will have to be made at the next meeting as to whether or not a payment should be made, and if so how much this will be, and the editors will have to be selected. A notice to this effect will be put in the next newsletter, so that any members not able to attend the meeting can still get their views aired, by writing to Pam, who will bring all correspondence received, to the next meeting.

CO-ORDINATORS SECRETARY

The names of new co-ordinators must be given to the co-ordinators secretary, who will take them to the next meeting to be put forward for formalization. In the meantime they can be 'acting' co-ordinators. The names of new and resigning co-ordinators must be sent to Bob Emmett. We discussed whether co-ordinators needed to be home-educating at present, and it was felt they should be, but in some cases a person with reasonable experience of home-educating could be considered.

Sue Petszaft resigned from East Sussex, and Anne Stace will take over.

Rose Wilson has taken over from Jo Fletcher in the Strathclyde region.

Jane Lowe has taken over from Frances Howard in Hertfordshire.

Susan Eldred and Toni Cushman have taken over from Pat Longman in East London.

Jill and Malcolm Hornsby resign as joint co-ordinators for Leics.

Sue Lyon reported a problem in her area arising from a former co-ordinator, Peter Williams. He has been using E.O.'s name and acting as a representative for E.O. in the area, charging for letters he writes to schools, E.W.O.'s and the L.E.A. Sue with the assistance of Mick and Jennie White will deal with this personally, and Anne and Rob Wade will also contact him.

h) LEGAL GROUP - Anne and Rob Wade

Anne and Rob reported that they are still overloaded with work. They can cope with telephone calls, but more co-ordinators need to support families in their regions. Anne and Rob can discuss cases on the phone with co-ordinators, and send out any information they may need, but they really would to avoid supporting members at a distance as they have enough of this to do in their own area. Co-ordinators really do need to mediate with their own L.E.A.'s. Many are already doing this.

In several areas work is being done on changing the forms and information sent out by L.E.A.s to parents considering home-education. Avon have now improved theirs and also send out a leaflet on E.O.

The Childrens Bill was amended as desired, so that under an education supervision order, consideration is given to the wishes of the family as to the place at which the child be educated, rather than the school at which the child should attend.

A report has been received from the D.E.S. about flexischooling. The national curriculum could be a problem. A child can be registered, but only attend school part-time by arrangement with the head teacher, but the head is now obliged to see that the child is provided with the full national curriculum. An alternative would be for the head to accept a child without registering him or her. The D.E.S. does not see any problem with this, but it is unlikely to happen due to the lack of money in the schools.

If the Labour party get into government, the situation regarding the national curriculum will not improve. They have already stated that they intend to extend it to private schools. Anne and Rob suggested and the meeting agreed that we should start now to persuade them that it is not relevant to E.O. Rob read out a letter that has been drafted by David Deutsch, and it was agreed that it be sent to the Labour party now. It will be published in the next newsletter.

Anne and Rob attended the Anti-Bullying Campaign meeting in October. Strategies are being developed to handle bullying in the same way as they have been recently for sexual abuse. Anne and Rob provided information on E.O. as an alternative option, and had a lot of phone calls and media interest as a result. They always need families with experience of bullying and school refusal for T.V. programmes and other publicity.

Jude reported having recently received three phone calls from children, and also requests for membership forms from social workers in Dorset. Guardian editorials who are involved in court cases have also been sent membership forms and leaflets.

A family in Kent who were already undergoing court proceedings before they joined E.O. are still having problems. Mike has set them up in home education, but it is not being accepted by the L.E.A. Mike is liaising with their solicitor and supporting the family. It is hoped that the threats of a care order will be dropped soon.

Srenda Holiday is dealing with cases in Scotland.

(.35)

6) STEERING COMMITTEE - REVIEW OF DECISIONS.

A letter was read to the meeting from Julie Lyons. She was concerned that there had not been a report from the steering committee at the last members meeting or at the A.G.M. as the steering committee was set up to take decisions which could not be deferred, between meetings, and then report back to the next meeting so that all members were informed. These decisions would normally be financial, but sometimes controversial. She proposed that the meeting re-establish the expectation that all steering committee decisions be reported to the next meetings. She was concerned that this may not have been done, and referred to the Peter Williams case as an example. He was removed from being West Yorkshire co-ordinator because his activities as a private tutor were not compatible to his status as a co-ordinator. The steering committee agreed that this should have been reported back to the next meeting, and there had been an oversight on this. They also pointed out that this case had been discussed in length at previous meetings, and it was only the final decision that was made by them.

In future records will be kept of all decisions made by the steering committee and a report will be given at each meeting.

7) NATIONAL HOME-SCHOOLING DAY

Liz reported that she had not received the enthusiastic support she had hoped for. There needs to be sufficient response from all regions, not just a few. It will be advertised in the newsletters to see if there is any more interest shown, at present there is not enough to go ahead with it. A conference would be too expensive, and only cover one area. Liz stressed that we do need to advertise the availability of E.O. and people do need to know that they will be supported at a local level. It will be discussed further at the next meeting.

8) THE TRAVELLERS SCHOOL

Pam has received a letter from the travellers school, in which they have asked for an affiliatory membership of E.O. The meeting did not feel that this request could be met at present. They also requested that they be allowed to carry E.O. publications. Pam will write to them and suggest they ring Bruce to negotiate possible terms on which this could be done. They have also asked if a couple of their team could be trained up as legal advisors, by our legal group. Anne and Rob are already supporting them and will continue to do so. They will discuss this with them.

9) E.O. HELP- LIFE

Adjourned to the next meeting.

10) NEWSLETTER DIGEST

Bruce reported that there is a digest at the printers now, covering the period 1990 - 1996. 2000 copies are being printed. Anne Wade proposed these be sold at £1.50 to member and £2.00 to non-members. Sue Lyon seconded this, and the meeting agreed. Pierre and Keith will prepare the next digest - from 1997 onwards.

11) PUBLICITY JOURNAL

Jo is still working on a draft copy and will take it to the next meeting. Rachel Sanger suggested a membership form could be included in some of the newsletters. We discussed whether this was needed and it was decided it could possibly be included in the journal instead. It was thought that maybe more information could be printed on the back cover of the newsletter for prospective new members, and Jo will contact Lesley on this.

A.G.M.

REGIONAL LEGAL WORKSHOP

A request was made for a grant of approx. £220 to cover the expenses of this event to be held in Hants. in May. Mike proposed, Liz seconded and the meeting agreed, that this could be paid.

36

FAIRPLAY FOR CHILDREN

Liz has discovered that this organization has a logo almost identical to that of E.O. We have been using our since 1975, but do not know how long they have been using theirs. Liz will investigate, and liane with Jo and Diane Cox, and report back to the next meeting.

A letter was received from Julie Lyons, commenting on the apparent mistakes in the list of directors for the year 1988-1989. Pam is already trying to get the information needed from companies house to put the records right. She wrote to them after the meeting at Featherstone and again in November, but has not had any reply. The meeting authorised her to telephone them to try and get the information needed.

Patricia Knox offered E.O. a discount of 40 per cent on 100 copies of her new book. This offer was gratefully accepted. Thankyou Patricia.

Betty Ball is still working on the G.C.S.E. update.

The A.C.E. Bulletin subscription has gone up to £9.50 per annum.

Sarah and Bob Taylor offered to photocopy and send out copies of the co-ordinators guidelines, to all co-ordinators.

We thanked Kay Day for standing in at such short notice and chairing the meeting for us.

Our thanks were expressed to Liz and Gordon Ramsay for organizing the weekend.

THE MEETING WAS CLOSED

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF EDUCATION OTHERWISE ASSOCIATION LIMITED.
BEAUMANOIR HALL, LEICESTER. 24th JANUARY 1990.

quorum - Over 20 signed-up members were present, therefore we had the necessary quorum

CONSIDERATION OF ACCOUNTS 1988-1989 from September 1989

The accounts have now been approved by the auditors.
Stephanie Fletcher proposed we accept this, it was seconded by Jo Rust, and approved by the entire meeting, without any opposition.

THE MEETING WAS CLOSED.

(37)

EDUCATING ARCHIE

by SEG

Does Archie EVER do anything? Here's his chance to recap for the inspector:

SO WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO LATELY MY LAD?



UM NOTHING MUCH JUST MESSING ABOUT



SILLY ARCHIE! OF COURSE YOU HAVEN'T

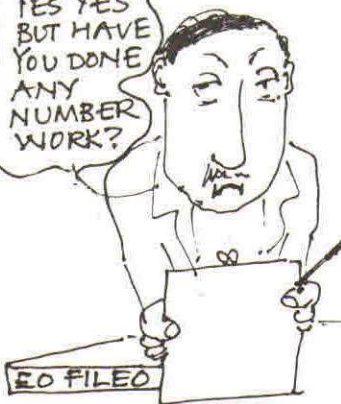


WELL I DID WELD THE CAREXHAUST AND INVENTED A SAFE CHIP-FRYER... WENT ON THAT SPONSORED SWIM, BAKED BREAD & GAVE A TALK TO THE W.I. ON ETHIOPIAN STAMPS



THEN I WROTE THAT PIECE FOR YOUNG GUARDIAN & STARTED MY OWN ORGANIC VEG BUSINESS... DOES REWIRING THE HOUSE COUNT?? OH AND I DEVELOPED & PRINTED MY OWN PHOTOS ON THE THEME OF "EDUCATION"

YES YES BUT HAVE YOU DONE ANY NUMBER WORK?



4/90

EDUCATION THROUGH THE PRESS

Education Through the Press

compiled by Sue Melton and including contributions from Sarah Butrie, Janice Swan and Children's Rights in Education.

Bullying

As a result of increased media activity around bullying, calls to ACE have shot up. Many of the callers are very distressed, revealing the extent to which bullying effects the whole family. For some the bullying had happened some time ago while others had only just realised what was happening to their children. The need for counselling as well as practical advice was clear, as was the failure of those in authority to respond to the obvious needs of the victims and the bullies.

It was striking that even when parents had taken their complaint right through to the Head and Chair of Governors, they had encountered disbelief and unconcern. In one case an LEA, on receiving a letter of complaint, had referred it straight back to the very headteacher who had refused to acknowledge that there was a problem.

In another case where the police had been called in and there were witnesses to incidents and even forensic evidence, the case had been dropped by the prosecution service, the bullies had continued at school while the victim was forced to leave.

Two parents rang to say that their children had made suicide bids after being bullied. One had, as his mother said, 'been mercifully successful'. The other, now 18, is so badly emotionally hurt that he is unable to leave home, to go to work or to see his friends. His is a catalogue of abuse from primary school through secondary.

Daily Telegraph

19.12.89

NEARLY one in five children is bullied at school and, although most of it is just teasing, about a quarter of incidents are more serious, a survey of 1,000 children discloses today.

Parents do not realise the extent of bullying because more than half of the bullied children keep it to themselves.

The findings are to be presented to the British Psychological Society's annual conference in London by Dr Peter Smith, of the department of psychology at Sheffield University.

He says that more than one in 10 secondary schools pupils admits being bullies and most of these are boys. Two-thirds of the bullies said they had not been "told off" by parents or teachers.

Examples of bullying include saying "nasty things", being hit or kicked, threatened, locked alone in a room or sent to Coventry.

Dr Smith says: "Bullying can be very serious for its victims. These children are likely to feel isolated at school and many spend their breaktimes alone."

He calls for a national commitment to overcome bullying and suggests video films or materials for teachers should be produced to deal with school bullies.

ACE Bulletin

FN 90

39

Blaming the victim

One mother of a 6½ year old boy had been told that he could 'avoid it if he wanted' while another had been told 'all the boys are a bit wild'. Unforgivably, a mother had been told by a teacher that her son was really annoying and she wasn't the least surprised that other children 'got upset with him'.

There are an estimated six million people in the UK who, after 11 years of compulsory schooling, still have to master essential skills such as reading, writing and basic mathematics. A further 500,000 adults — who did not go to school in this country and whose first language is not English — need help to speak, read or write the language.

Yet expenditure on this large group — taxpayers, community charge payers, consumers, voters — is minimal. If resources for education and training are going to be just as scarce in the next decade as in the last one, isn't it time to adjust the balance of what we do spend?

Observed 14.2.90

The way to create a good school is to exclude bad children. The quality of a traditionally good school has depended largely on the children who don't go to it. Days will be found of keeping 'bad' schools open because 'good' schools will not want to take their children.

Mr. Richard Wilkins, gen. Sec. Assn. of Christian Teachers writing in his association's magazine ACT now.

Beaulieu, Lord Montagu's place in Hampshire, has launched an "educational programme" whereby groups of schoolchildren come for the day, are taught servants' etiquette and drill as well as how to dust, polish silver, clean boots, lay a fire and set a table. Whereupon they are assessed by

Alex Hamilton
The Times 25.1.90

Stephens the chauffeur and Paterson the first housemaid on their aptitude for domestic service, and are given a certificate stating to which menial post they would be most suited. I suppose it is harmless fun and the children will no doubt love it, but I wonder if in these days of supposed equality under the National Curriculum we should be perpetuating the class system in such a manner. Mind you, my dear, it is so difficult to get servants these days.

Ten comments from school reports

- MAR 11.2.90
- 'He has done very good work and gave an interesting lecture to the form on a tour abroad' (Sir Geoffrey Howe)
 - '[She] is a co-operative member of her form who applies herself seriously to her work' (Pamela Stephenson)
 - 'A little girl of tremendous will and staying power' (Bonnie Langford)
 - 'Fair progress, but is capable of better results' (David Steel)
 - 'He is a boy with a character and a will of his own' (Bruce Kent)
 - '[He] has gifts, but lacks the self-discipline and humility to use them' (Jeremy Beadle)
 - '[He] must stop telling me that Keats and Longfellow can't spell. Neither of them is taking O-level this year' (Jeffrey Archer)
 - 'A very good school librarian' (Glenys Kinnock)
 - 'Too easily influenced by bad elements in form' (Paul Daniels)
 - 'A good little worker who is never any trouble' (Peter Gabriel)

Truant check finds schools not keeping registers

By Paul Marston
Education Correspondent

REGULAR class-by-class attendance checks on pupils have fallen into abeyance in many schools following the period of teachers' industrial action, a report on truancy from Her Majesty's Inspectors said yesterday.

It used to be commonplace for attendance to be totted up in the class register for every day and every week, the study said. Schools could then easily analyse the figures for individuals, classes or year groups.

But more recently—and particularly during the disruption of 1984-87—such practices had been abandoned and remained much less usual than they were.

Registers were too often kept inaccurately or less than fully, and frequently did not provide an adequate basis for seeking to monitor or combat absenteeism.

The inspectorate blamed some heads for not providing clear guidelines on attendance or insisting on meticulous registers.

Some teachers also failed to pursue reasons for children's absence; some education authorities did not require regular statistics from schools, and some council officers concentrated too much on "social case-work" at the expense of attendance enforcement.

The inspectorate's own estimate of average attendance was 92 per cent for primary schools, and 90 per cent for secondaries. The secondary rates were, however, thought to be falling slightly, and in some schools were as low as 77 per cent.

Daily Telegraph
29.11.89

We have always seen education as a partnership between home and school. Oddly enough, when the girls were younger we often felt we weren't being given credit for our considerable part. We would be told: "She's got a good vocabulary," as if this were something you picked up like chicken pox. Of course she has a good vocabulary. I would think, we've talked incessantly to her since she was no age at all. Don't I get a housepoint for effort?

But now it seems to be acknowledged that without our co-operation in essential coursework, our children's school progress would suffer severely. Studying at home is not easy for all children though. Some homes have no books and no easy access to libraries. Some have nowhere for a child to work in peace and some have no supportive adult member who has the time and the ability to help.

It is not that I am opposed to the whole idea of topic-based exploration; it is entirely proper that this approach to learning is at last achieving recognition and being incorporated in the assessment of GCSE and of the national curriculum. Nor do I think that the problems are all the fault of the schools, who have had little time to adapt to these sweeping changes. But I feel it will be the schools who will have

to try to minimize the damage.

First, they will have to involve parents in more workshops and talks about education, explaining how they can best help. And second, more reference materials must be made available on school premises and in school time, with staff to help pupils use the resources. If children from disadvantaged backgrounds are not to suffer even more under the new system than they did before, the schools will have to avoid relying too heavily on parental talents, time and goodwill.

In the meantime, I shall carry on playing my part: the girls are demanding a map of Britain, and information about the workings of a microwave oven.

Marjorie Clarke is a parent-governor and a former teacher in West Sussex.

TES 26.1.90

A recent request for copies of some back issues had us looking through a January 1974 issue. Front page story at that time was headed: 'Part-time Schooling — Urgent Advice Needed', and the cover reproduced an excerpt from a letter sent home to parents from a secondary school which ran: 'Owing to the current teacher shortage, this school like others in the area, has just introduced part-time schooling, which is expected to remain in operation for the whole of the present school year. All the children in one year will remain at home totally (except for dinners if required) for one week out of six. The prospect is a gloomy one from every angle. If you can offer any guidance or suggestions as to how to deal with the situation generally, or any aspects of it, we should be most grateful'.

ACE Bulletin NOV 89

The article accompanying this letter described ways in which parents could protest against this failure of the school to provide sufficient full-time education — just as did the feature on the Teacher Crisis in the September/October 1989 issue of ACE Bulletin, although in 1974 ACE was more optimistic about the prospect of taking the LEA to court. The piece ended by saying that if all protest at LEA level failed, then parents should go 'to the top' and write to the Secretary of State for Education and Science, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, at DES, Elizabeth House, York Road, London SE1 7PH

Some things never change, do they?

E.O WEEKEND AT UNSTONE GRANGE.....22-24 JUNE 1990.

<u>NAMES OF THOSE FOR ACCOMMODATION.</u>	<u>AGE, IF UNDER 16.</u>	<u>SEX, M/F.</u>
-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----

WE WOULD LIKE TO STAY FOR: TICK.

FRIDAY NIGHT () SATURDAY NIGHT () SUNDAY () BY SPECIAL REQUEST
IN ADVANCE.

ACCOMMODATION.

	<u>NO OF ADULTS.</u>	<u>NO OF CHILDREN.</u>
<u>IN BEDS.</u>	----- @ 26.00	ONE NGT. ----- @ 25.00 O.NGT.
	----- @ 19.00	TWO NGTS. ----- @ 17.00 T.NGTS.
<u>ON THE FLOOR.</u>	----- @ 24.00	ONE NGT. ----- @ 13.00 O.NGT.
	----- @ 16.00	TWO NGTS. ----- @ 14.00 T.NGTS.
<u>CAMPING IN TENT</u>	----- @ 13.00	ONE NGT. ----- @ 12.00 O.NGT.
	----- @ 14.00	TWO NGTS. ----- @ 13.00 T.NGTS.
<u>IN VAN.</u>	----- @ 13.00	ONE NGT. ----- @ 12.00 O.NGT.
	----- @ 10.00	TWO NGTS. ----- @ 13.00 T.NGTS.

PAYMENT.

TOTAL CHARGE FOR EVERYONE £-----
 PLUS BOOKING FEE. £ .50p.
 TOTAL PAYABLE. £-----

PLEASE SEND ME A
MAP, TICK. ()

I ENCLOSE CHEQUE/P.O. FOR THE ABOVE AMOUNT, PAYABLE TO EDUCATION
OTHERWISE LTD, TOGETHER WITH AN S.A.E.

SIGNATURE ----- ADDRESS-----

TEL NO-----
WE ARE NEW TO EO GATHERINGS (). WE COULD SHOW PEOPLE ROUND ().

UNSTONE GRANGE

22-24th June 1990.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE E.O. WEEKEND AT UNSTONE GRANGE.

On the following page you will see an applications form for accommodation for this weekend. Please fill this in and send it off as soon as possible to avoid dissatisfaction.

Unstone Grange is a large country house set in spacious grounds near Unstone Village, between Sheffield and Chesterfield (map ref 381776). We have found that the change in date from May to June has been of benefit.

The weekend is self catering. Milk will be available for sale and there will be communal supplies of tea and coffee. Beds have pillows, blankets and eiderdowns. Bring your sheets, or sleeping bags, and pillow cases. Arrival time is from 4.30pm on Friday.

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

BOOKING..... Please fill out the form opposite. Note that Sunday night will only be available by SPECIAL REQUEST IN ADVANCE. Volunteers are urgently required for workshops and activities, so please let us know when booking if you can help. Please send booking with an S.A.E. and payment as soon as possible and before MAY 15th 1990.

SEND TO JUNE AND IAN GRANT, 25, CHIFFERFIELD ROAD, THE MANOR, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, HERTS, HP3 0AH. TEL. 0442 64020.

DAY VISITORS..... You do not need to book, but you will be charged £2.00p per Adult, per day on arrival, Children free. Please bring a picnic.

Where To Get What

The following publications are available from the Membership Secretary, Christine Wallace, 25, Diablag, 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.

Learning for older children, plus GCSE.....£2.50

TEACH YOUR OWN.

By John Holt-philosophy of home education.....£3.65

SCHOOLS OUT.

By Jean Bendell-a good why and how book by an EO member and long term home educator.....£5.95

THE ABUSE OF CARE AND CUSTODY ORDERS AND UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL PHOBIA.

Results of extensive research by EO member Patricia Knox.....£6.50

EO NEWSLETTERS.

Back copies for 89 and 90.....£1.00

EO NEWSLETTER BARGAIN BASEMENT.

Any four copies (our selection) from 35 to 38.....£1.20

EO NEWSLETTER DIGEST.

Selected articles from the newsletters 30 to 36 (34 pages).....£1.50

HOME EDUCATION AND THE LAW.

By Woolf and Deutsch-the law in England and Wales with regard to children who are 'de-registered'.....£2.00

EO STATIONERY, RE-USE LABELS, MEMBERSHIP FORMS, EO LEAFLETS AND HANDBILLS: available from Lucy Charlton, 2 Wistow Lane, Newton Harcourt, LE8 0FT. For RE-USE LABELS send £2.00 for 100.

GROWING WITHOUT SCHOOLING: the Newsletter of EOs parallel organisation in the U.S.A. (six issues a year, starting in March) send £10.00 to Jill Gillings, Ballaglenny Farm, Quayles Orchard, Ronague, Castletown, Isle of Man.

EDUCATION OTHERWISE OFFICERS.

GENERAL ENQUERIES 25 Common Lane, Hemingford Abbot, Cambridgeshire, PE18 9AN. Telephone Helpline: 0480 63130.

GENERAL SECRETARY Pam Stevenson, 25 Wyndham Road, Dover, Kent, CT17 0BH.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARIES Christine Wallace, 25 Diablag, Achnasheen, Ross-shire, IV22 2HE. Telephone: 044 581 225.

SOUTH EAST Valerie Gommon, 19 New Road, Castlethorpe, Milton Keynes, MK19 7EH. Telephone: 0908 511247.

WALES AND MIDLANDS Gillian Murely, 84 Witney Road, Stafford, ST17 0BP. Telephone: Stafford 48753.

LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES Lois Cook, 34 Beacon Road, Herne Bay, Kent, CT6 6DJ. Telephone: 02273 67059.

SOUTH WEST Maggie Swatridge, 32 Canrey Park, Polperro, Cornwall, PL13 2JP. Telephone: 0503 72087.

PUBLISHING SECRETARY Leslie Kilbride, Fearnmore by Shieldag, Strathcarron, Wester Ross, IV54 8XX. Telephone: 052 05278.

TREASURER Michael Cook, 34, Beacon Road, Herne Bay, Kent, CT6 6DJ. Telephone: 02273 67059.

CHAIRPERSON Jennie White, Wensley Mill, Wensley, Leyburn, N. Yorkshire, DL8 4HR.

SPECIAL NEEDS Sylvia Jeffs, 16 St. Bernards Road, Solihull, B92 7BB. Telephone: 021 706 6460.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS/MEMBERSHIP LIST/CHANGE OF ADDRESS Bob Emmett, 12 Taylor Avenue, Dolgarnog, Conway, Gwynedd, LL32 8JN. Telephone: 0492 69355.

PUBLICITY OFFICER Jo Rust, 8 Church End, Gamlingay, Nr. Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2EP. Telephone: 0767 50032.

REGIONAL SECRETARIES... EAST ANGLIA. Sandie Cotte. 0263 733239

THE NORTH. Mick & Jennie White 0969 25544

SOUTH EAST & SOUTH WEST. Jude Ashley-Walker 0963 78680

WALES. Miryam Bush 0269 341049 MIDLANDS. Hazel Crawley 021 772 7163

SCOTLAND. Brenda Holliday 0736 832042

LONDON. Genevieve Bridgman 01 341 0751

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

.....

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 about their education

.....

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Send a 9" x 4" s.a.e. to:- 25 Common Lane
Hemmingford Abbots
Cambridgeshire
PE18 9AN

.....