

EDUCATION
OTHERWISE
NewsLetter.

Issue 87
August 1992

Education Otherwise Newsletter: no 87 **August 1992**

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Notes for contributors

Contributions for the next issue should be sent to the appropriate editor by 1st August, clearly marked 'For Publication', and include your name and address, and, if possible, telephone number. Late/unused submissions are forwarded to the next editorial team for possible later publication.

Please note that requests for pen-pals are in future to be sent to the Children's Pages Editor.

Please write or type clearly and indicate if you do not want any changes made. Otherwise the editor will retype, possibly for entry into a word-processing system, to correct mistakes in spelling, punctuation, etc, as well as making minor changes to fit on the page. Please do not make such requests lightly, extra work may be involved. Material that is too faint will have to be retyped anyway.

If you refer to a previous article or letter, please indicate the reference by Newsletter number and date.

Contributors should note that any published item may be reprinted in other Home Educating magazines at home or abroad. Please include a note with your submission if you do not want yours reproduced.

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Advertisements are accepted from members, when space permits, and if they are of interest to EO in general, at 10p per word. Make cheques payable to 'Education Otherwise'.

Editorial



Welcome to another Newsletter, this time from Backwoods Bedfordshire. The layout was almost entirely by James, the typing in by Michael ('Joe' to the initiated) and the management by Margaret. The work was executed using the latest home computer equipment, or perhaps it would be safer to say the latest as of three months ago, and we think it shows. But is it better? It makes two-finger typing an acceptable proposition, but unless one has a reasonable degree of skill and experience with both the software and hardware, it is too easy to allow the task to become mechanical with none of the flair for composition that marks out the good from the indifferent, or as I write, what may in our case turn out to be the downright awful. In this issue the flair has had to be provided by the contributors. Thank you, one and all; perhaps our little contribution will be better next time. All this is a roundabout way of saying that we would hate to be the people who pushed this job towards ever-increasing sophistication, we have an undying admiration for the cow-gum brigade, long may they reign!

Although we cannot claim to be knowledgeable enough about the particular issue to comment constructively, we do think that the discussion under way regarding National Gatherings is of itself an indication of a lively association which cares about its objectives and the means to achieve them. Join in, it matters and it is all good fun, too!

One last point, a couple of letters point towards the problem some people have with establishing contact, despite what is clearly a lot of work by members to obviate this. We ourselves found out about E.O. by chance, and in the nick of time, through BBC Woman's Hour. We can suggest no magic solution, but think that members should be alert all the time to the need to "get 'em in and keep 'em in". And the need, you should understand, is more theirs than yours.

Caiger, Tara, The Green, Souldrop, BEDFORD. MK44 1HG

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editor nor those of Education Otherwise as a whole. This newsletter is edited by a volunteer member of Education Otherwise and its primary purpose is to provide support and communication between members.

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ON THE SUBJECT OF NATIONAL GATHERINGS.

In the last newsletter Stephanie informed us of some of the financial problems which occurred as a result of last January's gathering at Cliff College. Some of us have been thinking about the subject of EO's get-togethers for a while, so we read Stephanie's report with interest. After considerable discussion with a number of members in different parts of the country, we offer the following thoughts and proposals and we would like to hear your views.

Why do we meet together nationally as members of EO? We do so for our own benefit (social contact for our children and ourselves, and mutual support and inspiration) and for the benefit of the organisation (we are obliged by the terms of our constitution to have meetings). At present we try to fulfil these aims at the same time by having a long weekend together in the winter and a week's holiday in the spring and also in the autumn. During these gatherings EO's AGM and members' meetings are held.

We think that the present system of holding EO's members' meetings during family social gatherings is not in the best interests of the organisation. We propose that in the interests of fairness, efficiency and democracy it would be better to have separate, weekend business meetings which

could be held at venues in various parts of the country. These are our reasons:

1. DO PEOPLE WANT AN EO HOLIDAY?

Many families are not willing (understandably) to give up a week of their annual holiday to come to a national gathering. For some families with a child in school or for those who have a parent who can't take holiday in term time, even the long winter weekend is impossible. A weekend visit is impossible at gatherings like the next one (bookings are for the whole week only) and unfair at others (accommodation may be left empty for the rest of the week). Unless such families live near enough to be day visitors, effectively they are barred from taking part in the running of EO by the nature and timing of our meetings. Weekend business meetings would solve this problem.

2. CONDITIONS AT FEATHERSTONE.

Stephanie's report suggests that Cliff College, the most civilised of our recent venues, is now closed to us on grounds of cost. Last year two out of three gatherings were held at Featherstone because no other suitable venue could be found. We know that Featherstone is unacceptable for many families because of its reputation for

squalor and discomfort. Those of us who have been there have found that this reputation is entirely deserved. We have heard of families who have felt so alienated by the conditions that they have left on the same day, and of others who have been driven out by the lack of sleep after a couple of nights. We are concerned that unless families are able to cope with the lifestyle and conditions at Featherstone, where so many of our meetings take place, they are prevented from taking part in the organisation of which they are members. EO exists for all of us, whatever our lifestyle, and it is not right that the ability to survive Featherstone should be a condition of acceptance into active membership of the organisation.

3. THE LOCATION OF OUR MEETINGS.

54% of EO's members in England, Wales and Scotland (1,242 families) live in the South of England, south of a line drawn from the Wash to the Severn. It would be fairer to have some meetings in this part of the country so that more people could have the chance to attend. If we had EO's business meetings as weekend events mainly for individuals, not families, venues could be smaller and therefore more affordable. Clearly some members (for example, one parent families) would need to bring their children and it is not suggested that they should be banned, but if fewer children were present there would be fewer distractions. A weekend meeting would still allow some

time for informal chat as well as business. Perhaps local members would be willing to provide overnight accommodation for members who live too far away to travel home, thus saving on accommodation costs?

4. THE MEMBERS' MEETINGS - DO WE REALLY GET DOWN TO BUSINESS?

Some of us have been to a number of members' meetings over the years and we have often found that these meetings have become bogged down in lengthy and often heated debates about matters which are entirely irrelevant to the running of EO. When a group of people lives together in close proximity for a week it is inevitable that differences of lifestyle and parenting will cause problems from time to time. We are concerned that the present mixture of business and pleasure results in a dilution of our effectiveness as an organisation. The short time that we have together in which to plan how to promote the cause of home education should not be wasted upon acrimonious debates that have nothing to do with the running of the organisation. The kind of problems that cause these bitter disputes would not arise if we were to have meetings which were specifically geared to business.

5. EO'S DIVERSITY - IS IT REFLECTED IN THOSE WHO ATTEND GATHERINGS?

We are very concerned about the fact that the cross-section of lifestyles, interests and attitudes found among the members in any local area simply

is not represented at national gatherings. This means that the decisions which are made on behalf of EO's members are likely to reflect the attitudes and preoccupations of a minority, and the interests of large areas of the membership are not represented.

Recently there have been anxieties expressed about the lack of democracy in EO and some members think that this can be put right by abolishing EO's company structure (together with its important legal safeguards) and changing to a system of "one member, one vote". This attempt at democracy will be costly and totally ineffective as in practice the only members who can really participate are those who come to meetings. Workers' cooperatives and Industrial and Provident Societies can only involve all their members in decision making when the number of members is very small. An organisation the size of EO will always need some kind of management committee, so we cannot avoid the necessity of making decisions on behalf of others. If we genuinely want to make EO more democratic we should be looking at ways of enabling more members to participate in our meetings instead of proposing to spend hundreds of pounds on abolishing the present structure, which will not achieve anything.

We propose:

1) that the business meetings of EO should be held separately from the holiday meetings.

2) that there should be a variety of

different kinds of meeting (e.g. a Featherstone week, more regional workshops and meetings, some meetings to which journalists and members of the public can be invited, some camping gatherings... and a Featherstone week as well) to meet the needs of our diverse membership.

3) that the business meetings should be held in a variety of different locations to enable more people to be involved in the running of EO.

Finally we would like to say that we are sure that social gatherings are important and enjoyable for many, and this is not intended as a criticism of the hard work and dedication of all those families who have organised gatherings in the past. We are very grateful for all their efforts but we think that we must draw attention to the limitations of the present system.

Jane Lowe, Herts.

Paul Lowe, Herts.

Sarah Taylor, London

Bob Taylor, London

Sandie Cottee, Essex

Eleanor Stapleton, London

Jose-Luis Alcaraz-Perez, London

Jeff Bengel, London

Heather Martin, West Midlands

Charles Moore, Herts.

Paul Bentley, London

Elizabeth Bentley, London

Susan Long, Essex

June McDonald, Beds.

Belinda Reid, London

Alan Reid, London

Sonia Turner, Essex (unable to get

to Featherstone)
Christine Bassan, Herts. (ditto)
Chris Shute, Staffs.
Kate Freeman, Wilts.
Gill Crippen, Herts.
Steve Crippen, Herts.
Barbara Lillford, London
Christine McNiff, London
Steve Glynn, London
Maurice Watts, Devon

Yvonne Watts, Devon
Isobel Hewitt, Beds.
Jude Ashley-Walker, Isle of Wight
(I acknowledge that some people
feel strongly about the
conditions at Featherstone. I
don't share their feelings, but
I do agree with the rest of this
letter.)

Many others have agreed but have not had the opportunity to add their names to this letter. PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK. Write or phone Jane (0707 335825), or Sarah (081 808 3200).

WES HOME SCHOOL UK



The World-wide Education Service has moved!

Information about our Home School UK courses for primary-aged children may now be obtained from:

35 Belgrave Square
London
SW1X 8QB
Tel. 071 235 2880

STOP PRESS!

We are now able to offer a comprehensive range of courses for 5-7 year olds.

Co-ordinators Needed

Bristol
Cleveland
Cumbria
North Manchester
East London
Ireland
Scotland- Borders

Dumfries & Galloway
Highlands & Islands
Lothian
Please contact Stephanie Fitcher
(0246-239048), Coordinators' Secretary
50, Springfield Avenue
Chesterfield
Derbyshire S40 1HL

Official Notice of:

Annual General Meeting of Education Otherwise Association Limited (by guarantee)

Registered Office - 25 Wyndham Road, Dover, Kent. CT17 0BH.

Notice is hereby given that the seventh annual general meeting of the members of the above association will be held on Saturday 12th September 1992 at High Close Youth Hostel, Near Ambleside, Lake District, at 10.30am for the following purposes:

- ◆ 1) To receive and consider the Income and Expenditure Accounts and Balance Sheet for the 12 months ending 30th June 1992, and the Auditors and Treasurers Reports thereon.
- ◆ 2) To appoint Auditors
- ◆ 3) To receive Reports from Officers
- ◆ 4) To Elect and Rotate members of the Council of Management
- ◆ 5) A.O.B.

Dated this 30th day of June 1992. on behalf of the Council of Management.

Pam Stevenson
General Secretary.

Provisional Agenda for:

Members' Meeting
to be held on Sat. 12th Sept. 1992
at High Close Youth Hostel, Near
Ambleside, Lake District,
at 2.30 pm.

- ◆ 1) Quorum
- ◆ 2) Apologies
- ◆ 3) Minutes
- ◆ 4) Matters Arising
- ◆ 5) Steering Committee Report
- ◆ 6) Co-ordinators' Sec. Report
- ◆ 7) Future Venues
- ◆ 8) Information Packs - Charges/Standardisation
- ◆ 9) Structure of E.O.
- ◆ 10) Business meetings/Social gatherings
- ◆ 11) A.O.B.

Anyone wishing to add an item to the above agenda may do so by writing to the General Secretary as soon as possible. Anyone doing so should either attend the meeting or send as much information as possible, to enable the item to be discussed in their absence. Opinions on the above items may also be sent to the General Secretary for discussion at the meeting, if you are not able to attend. Copies of the minutes of previous meetings are available on request - please send a large stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Pam Stevenson.
General Secretary.

SOUTH EAST REGIONAL MEETING 24th-25th OCTOBER 1992, WELWYN GARDEN CITY, HERTS.

Come and join us for a great weekend!

SPEAKERS:

SARAH GUTHRIE (one of EO's earliest members): "EO - how it all began, and our family's story"

DR. ROLAND MEIGHAN (home educator, former Senior Lecturer in Education, Birmingham University, now freelance educational consultant and writer): "Learning at home, and a look at research into home education"

BETTY BALL (Maths specialist, with experience of GCSE at home): "A practical guide to GCSE"

ANNE WADE (EO's Legal Group): Legal Workshop

Plus a CURRICULUM WORKSHOP: share information about your successes, favourite books, materials and projects - and discuss any worries.

FEATURING informal talks and discussions - workshops - activities for children - resources display (a chance to buy, or just browse) -time to talk, make new friends, swap ideas - fun, music and dancing - food and drink - accommodation available if required. Come for one or both days. Cost: £4 per person per day, £2 for under 12's, under 2's free. (meals extra, or bring your own).

DON'T MISS IT! Our advance notice in the last newsletter sparked off a lot of interest, and places are limited. Don't delay - send for a booking form now

(PLEASE ENCLOSE SAE)

Jane Lowe, 5, Elm Gardens, Welwyn Garden City, Herts. AL8 6RX

Further details from: Sarah Taylor 081 808 3200 Sandie Cottee 0268 733259

**** CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF BOOKINGS: 24 SEPTEMBER! ****

Regional Diary.

Avon

Bath Information re Small School Project, Flexischool and workshops - Carole Hayes 0225-339419

Open Learning Group - Zilla 0225-427759

Bristol Co-ordinator needed, contact Stephanie Futchter (see notice in this issue for details)

Hanging Gardens Learning Centre/
Flexischool

0272-738433

Seed Circle Education Group -
Trudie 0275-333251 for workshops
and outings.

Buckinghamshire

Please telephone Valerie (0908-511247) before coming to ensure that there have been no last minute changes!

● Tuesday 8th September: 10.50 for 11 am. Weston Underwood Zoological Park. Home to over 100 species of rare birds and mammals. Cost £2.50 adults, £1.25 children. Meet at entrance.

● Wednesday 9th September: Our regular monthly visit to the Oasis Swimming Pool in Bedford - with Bedford E.O. Meet 1.20 for 1.30 pm. Cost £1.50 adults, £1.00 children

● Monday 21st September: Swimming at Bletchley Leisure Centre.

● Friday 28th September: Visit to

Cotton Valley Sewage Works, Milton Keynes.

● Wednesday 7th October: Oasis, Bedford

● Thursday 15th October: Visit to Stoke Bruerne Canal Museum & possible narrowboat ride.

● Monday 26th Swimming at Dolphin Splashdown, Shenley, Milton Keynes. Cost £2.00 adults, £1.00 children.

Devon

Meetings:

Plymouth

During the summer months we are meeting every three or four weeks at outdoor venues for picnics etc. We've been to Mount Edgcombe House and gardens and will be going again and to other places too.

Everybody welcome! Please join us.

After the summer we'll be meeting at Efford Community Centre again.

Telephone Sammy & Nick 0548 830716.

Totnes

We are meeting every month at Ellie's (E.O. member), just north of Totnes. Big house & garden & fields around. Really lovely. Bring food to share. Everybody welcome.

Telephone Sammy & Nick 0548 830716.

Three drama students from Dar-

tington drama studies have been working with a group of non-schooling young people ranging in age from 5 - 15. The young people worked on all areas of the production and the show, called *The Saga of The Kiss-Me-Quick Hats*, was very successful.

Crediton

We are meeting monthly at Beech Hill Community, Morchard Bishop, near Crediton. Another beautiful place to meet. Bring food to share. £2 per family. During the hotter months we have the use of the outdoor swimming pool. Please come and join us.

Telephone Sammy & Nick 0548 830716.

We have enjoyed contacting families all around Devon but cannot keep doing this. So please telephone or write to us about anything regarding E.O. in Devon.

Sammy & Nick Vidal-Hall, Homecroft, Brownston St., Modbury, Devon PL21 0RQ. 0548 830716

Derbyshire

We try to get together most Wednesdays but do not have a programme planned in advance. To find out what's happening phone Chesterfield 239048 (Steph, Peter, Michael & Rosie)

Also if you have any ideas for gatherings, visits, activities for the coming months.

Dyfed

● Sunday 20th September: Autumn Equinox Gathering at Cwmrhaffau,

Sarnau, Nr Aberporth. Bring some lunch to share and some old clothes for clay modelling. Seasonal songs, poems or stories also very welcome. Phone 0239-811118.

East Midlands

● August 2nd. Beaumanor Hall 10.00 am. Abseiling and erecting the Windmill followed by a barbecue. Bring food.

● August 9th. The Bass Museum, Visitor Centre, Horninglow Street, Burton on Trent. Bas'n'Folk day with Cuckoos Nest Ceilidh Band Costs: £3.25 per adult, £1.75 per child. Not an EO ceilidh and anyone who wants to 'do a turn' gets in free. Ring Pat Balfe (0533-374948) for more information.

● August 13th. Botanical Gardens at Oadby 1.00 pm. Meet for a picnic lunch then visit the gardens. Cost: Free.

● August 27th. Eco-House, Leicester 2.00 pm. The Eco-House is a working example of minimalist energy usage. Cost: Free but a contribution is requested.

● September 6th. Whatton Gardens, near Loughborough 12.00. Meet for a picnic lunch. Ring Pat (0533-374948) or Liz (0530-560460) for details.

● September 9th. Swimming at Beaumont Leys 12.30 onwards.

● September 27th. Warwick Castle. Ring Liz (0530-560460) for detail and costs.

● September 29th. Haymarket Theatre to see 'Mowgli'. In French. Ring Liz (0530-560460) for details and costs.

● October 3rd. Open House with Calligraphy at Lucy and Keith's. Ring Pat Balfe (0533-374948) for details of the calligraphy.

● October 8th. John Doran Gas Museum, Aylestone Road, Leicester 2.00 pm. Afterwards at Pat and Alan's. Bring food.

● October 14th. Swimming at Beaumont Leys 12.30 pm onwards.

● October 18th. Cardboard Village workshop. Provisionally at Trinity Drop-in Centre, Loughborough. Ring Kevin (0533-302504) for details.

● November 1st. Jorvik Museum, York. Meet there at 9.00 am (We must be mad!) as we need the whole day there. Ring Liz (0530-560460) for details and costs.

● November 5th to 7th. Bonfire Weekend at Beaumanor Hall. This is a residential weekend, in the cabins, and there is a charge per bed per night. Ring Liz (0530-560460) for details and costs.

Proposed Event. It has been suggested that we visit Cadbury's World at Bournville sometime in November. It's a half day tour. Cost £2.45 per child, £3.60 per adult - that's assuming we have more than 20 people. Can't be a Monday. We need to book soon so please contact Pat Balfe (0533-374948) if you're interested or want more information.

East Sussex

We have Parent's Evenings once a month, and several activities for families every week. However, details are not usually finalised in time to include

in the national magazine. We publish a local newsletter every month which gives full details (subscription £8 a year, cheque payable to E.S.E.O. to Lyndon Pugh, 37 Nevill Road, Rottingdean, Brighton, BN2 7HH). You might prefer to telephone Ian Lawes on 0273-559275 or Anne Rix (local co-ordinator) 0435-862794. As well as visits to museums historic buildings etc., we meet for swimming, ice-skating, CB orienteering, survival techniques, craft and games activities, wheelies, bonfires ... you name it! Look forward to seeing you.

Greater Manchester

This is the only way in which we can communicate with EO members locally because I cannot afford to phone or write to everyone on the contact list individually. I know it's a bit less personal but please get in touch if you are out there!

Ed has been running a Science Workshop at our house for the 5-6 year olds (a group of about 6) which has been thoroughly enjoyed by all. The children have found out about air, mixing things including red cabbage indicator, movement and friction, electrical circuits, levers and balances. We had an informal picnic lunch and time for a play and socialize too.

We hope to do further workshops (playshops really) on lots of different subjects. Please get in touch if you have any ideas. (I don't mind providing the venue if you want).

Also a reminder that if you want to

get involved in the Parr's Wood events during the Summer Holidays please contact me. This is open to all EO people in the area. If you are visiting the Manchester area in the summer please phone if you'd like to join us for one or two events. Cost will be £6 for the over 4's and £3 for the 3 year olds, under 3 free. This is for 6 WHOLE DAY sessions (10 - 3) during which there is plenty of time for play and fun making things sessions. We will do a repeat of the very popular North American Native day, Taking plant cuttings, DIY puppets, parachute games, non-competitive games, and lots of running about and shrieking in the Jungle Dash no doubt.

The days are every Wednesday during the holidays.

For those interested in the money side, of things... we pay 50p per child per day for the use of Parr's Wood facilities. We have to pay for Peter Adshead's time for the plant cutting session £4 per hour x 2. The rest of the money pays for materials. This unfortunately means that we have to ask for the money for all sessions rather than pay as you go. Most of the places are taken so please phone soon if you intend to attend.

Phone Gill Wilson 061 442 8723

Hampshire

Events, gatherings and picnics now happening once or twice monthly in Solent Area.

All in reach of area welcome. Age range of young people represented to date: 6 months to 17 years.

Events tend to combine a focussed activity with free time to socialise and play.

Forthcomind events include:

Science week at Southampton University - local discounts available, end August.

Roman Army at Porchester Castle, end August.

17th Century living history village, Gosport, 6th September.

Baking Day, Field household, Southampton.

Kite Making Day, MacDonald household, Gosport.

Life in Medieval Household, Southampton, September

The Saxons at Porchester Castle, September

Shakespeare (Bard's Best Bits) Netley Abbey, October

Science, maths and art days at Fort Brockhurst, Gosport, September/October.

For fuller details, SAE marked 'EO Events' to Day-West Family, 46 Windsor Road, Cosham, Portsmouth PO6 2TG.

Hertfordshire

We are meeting regularly - approximately once a week - in various parts of the county, and even North London.

Our activities include a visit to a wildlife park, a picnic, outdoor team games, walks in the countryside, gym sessions and more as detailed in our bulletin. For more information, please phone Christine Bassan on 0442-

866640. New members and families from other areas are welcome.

Kent

● Thursday 6th August: Outing - venue to be confirmed. Phone Amanda Mackenzie for details (0634-814680)

● Mondays, 10th, 17th & 24th August: Friends Meeting House, Union Street, Maidstone, 12 - 4pm. Bring lunch, drinks available. Various activities. Everyone welcome.

● Thursday 3rd September: Outing - venue to be confirmed. Phone Amanda Mackenzie for details (0634-814680)

● Monday 14th September: Friends Meeting House, as above.

● Thursday 24th September: Open House, Adele Bright's, 84 Island Wall, Whitstable (0227-265583) from 1pm. Bring lunch to share. Very close to beach - come equipped.

● Monday 28th September: Friends Meeting House, as above.

For further details of any of these activities, phone Joy Lyon (0795-530499) or Sue and Keith Burchett (0732-870344).

Kent-North East

Anyone out there interested in regular local group meetings? Ring Adele 0227-265583, or Geraldine 0227-792226

● Wednesday 26th August: Get-together at Brambles Wild life Park. Canterbury - Herne Bay (A291), on local bus route. Come and chat, feed

animals, play in adventure playground. Meet at covered picnic area by tea-shop, elevenish. Look for E.O. sign.

● Thursday 24th September: Open house at Adele's, by beach at Whitstable. Ring for directions, 0227-265583.

North London

1) Change of co-ordinator

At present Sarah Taylor, 23, Whitely road, Tottenham, N14 6RS (081-808-3200) and Eleanor Stapleton, 21, Central Avenue, Edmonton, N9 9RQ (081-884-1368) are acting co-ordinators for North London. Jeff Bengé is now Enquiries Secretary for the London Region.

2) London Newsletter

There is now a new newsletter covering the London area. It lists activities, local news plus much more. To obtain your copy, please send an A4 envelope + 28p stamp to Sarah Taylor (address as above).

3) Dance class

This is presently held in Muswell Hill and led by a contemporary dance teacher, aimed at the 4 - 10 age group. It will re-commence after the summer break some time in the autumn. If you'd like to know more, please contact José Alcarae or Eleanor Stapleton (at above address).

4) August arrangements:

● Sunday 2nd: Riding Horse Parade, Rotten Row, Hyde Park, W2. 1pm. Lots of horses, and a variety of events. Please phone Sarah for exact details of where to meet.

● Wednesday 5th: Picnic on

Hampstead Heath. Meet on the grass outside Kenwood house, near the cafe. Hampstead tube, 210 bus. Phone Chris McNiff, 081-340-3271

● Thursday 13th: Get-together at Veronica's from 11am. Ring Veronica Griffin for details.

National Portrait Gallery. Meet for a session talking about colour and how paints and pigments have been made over the centuries. For 7 - 11 year olds. Phone Sue Petschaft 0892-661319 to book your place.

● Tuesday 18th: Meet at Sarah Taylor's home between 12.30 and 2 pm (bring picnic lunch). Then we shall pay a visit to Tottenham's Bruce Castle Museum (3 minutes walk), and the park (with playground) in which the museum is situated.

● Thursday 27th: Meet at the adventure playground for over 5's in Holland Park, between 11 am and 1 pm. We could visit the Japanese garden or the Commonwealth Institute later on. There is a good sand pit for younger children. Phone Chris McNiff 081-340-3271 for details

There will be lots of get-togethers in September. Please send 28p s.a.e. for the London Newsletter!

North/Inner London

We meet the first Sunday of every month, these meetings are especially for new members and people thinking about deschooling, we usually arrange a craft activity.

Place: Burghley Road Centre, 23 Burghley Road, N8, off Turnpike

Lane, nearest tube Turnpike Lane (Piccadilly Line)

Times: 2pm - 4pm

Bring: Food and drink. Coffee & Tea provided.

Cost: We ask for a contribution, if affordable, suggested £2.00 per family.

Welcome: Everyone interested in E.O. is very welcome. Wheelchair access is good inc. toilets.

Dates: Sun Aug 2nd, Sun Sept 6th, Sun Oct 4th, Sun Nov 1st, Sun Dec 6th.

Contact: Telephone numbers as below for details, please phone if coming for the first time.

Monday Outings

We generally meet every Monday at about 12 pm, usually at a museum, park or ice skating rink. Bring a picnic, often there's a café nearby.

Please phone- Jo and Roy, 081-883-8052; Helen and David, 071-284-2124; Belinda and Alan, 081-343-1061 or Audrey and David, 081-806-5393 for details of Monday outings - they are often only arranged the week before. Everyone is welcome especially new people.

Some E.O. families go to Family Craft Workshops at

Fleet Community Centre

Times and Days: Tuesdays and Thursdays 3.30 - 5.30 pm term time.

Address: Agincourt Road NW3, tel. 071-485-9988, phone for charges.

London Outings

● August 13th: 1.30 to 3.00. National

Portrait Gallery Session for 7 to 11 year olds, talking about colour and how paints and pigments have been made over the centuries. Ring if you want to come as there are minimum numbers. We will go to the National Gallery and Trafalgar Square pigeons in the morning.

● October 8th, November 6th, December 10th. Meet 11.15 in Foyer of Natural History Museum, or in schools' picnic area at 1.00.

We will go to some sessions at the Commonwealth Institute and if anyone would like to come please ring in the Autumn when I will know what is happening. Or send s.a.e. to me, or even get list from the Commonwealth Institute about their activities.

I haven't arranged any teaching sessions at museums or galleries because I need to know who is going to be interested in coming. Last year we did some excellent things - making chinese lanterns with Chinese artists, listening to a Mexican woman talking about her country, a Canadian talking about Canada, re-enacting the Civil War, making Mod-roc heads, Commonwealth Day festivities. There is a wealth of opportunity waiting to be taken up, but I had to cancel many activities due to lack of numbers and I am loathe to contract myself to it again at the moment. Please respond if this is something you want.

Sue Petsaft, 2 Leyland Manor, Tubwell Lane, Crowborough, E.Sussex TN6 3RH Tel. 0892-661319.

South Yorkshire

Programme for July to December 1992

Trip to Matlock for Natural History Museum travelling road show. Angie to ring and fix either 16th or 23rd July

● Sunday 2nd August: Bike trip from Tissington. Meet 10.30 - 11.00 Gary

● Thursday 6th August: Circus skills with Matthew at Dinx's. Gary to confirm

● Thursday 13th August: Walk at Bradfield - approx 3 miles - if weather good. Gary organising. Meet at Dinx's as usual if wet.

● Thursday 20th August: Meeting at Dinx's on cooking. Children to cook things they want. Bring own ingredients.

● Thursday 27th August: Circle dancing at Dinx's. With Dinx and Hannah

● Thursday 3rd September: Trip to Cresswell Crags and Dukeries Garden Centre and adventure playground. Meet there at 10.30.

● Thursday 24th September: Sewing at Dinx's. Bring materials that you need.

● Thursday 1st October: Trip to Twycross Zoo. Meet there. Sian has information.

● Thursday 8th October: Junk modelling at Dinx's. Bring your own junk (also take it away!).

● Saturday 31st October: Hallowe'en Party at Mary, Stewart and Fergie's allotment.

● Thursday 12th November: Origami at Dinx's.

● Saturday 28th November: Wood working at Paul and Dinx's. 2.00 pm

(Small charge for materials). Bring food for evening meal, then story telling in the evening.

● Thursday 3rd December: Friendship bracelets at Dinx's

● Sunday 13th December: Shadow puppets (on a Christmas theme?) at Dinx and Paul's. Bring food if you want to.

● Sunday 10th January 1993: Planning meeting at Angie and Ian's.

If you need any more information, phone Dinx (553836).

Strathclyde (Scotland)

We are trying to arrange monthly get-togethers for anyone who is interested. Everyone is welcome and all suggestions for other venues/activities for the future are also welcome.

● Fri. 28th August: Museum of Transport, Kelvin Hall. 041-357-3929 Admission free. 11 am at door. Large collection of all types of land transport. Layout of street in the 50's. And a planetarium. Café and nearby park.

● Thur. 10th September: 11 am. Open House at my house, 130 Greenock Road, Bishopton. 0505-862122. -with a view to starting crafts/music club. We are on Gourock/Wemyss bay railway line from central Glasgow, or exit 29 (after airport) on M8 Glasgow-Greenock. Phone to say you are coming if possible, and bring lunch.

● Fri. 18th September. People's Palace, Glasgow Green. 041-554-0223. Admission free. 11 am at the door. Display of all sorts of things of

local interest, from Stone of Destiny (could it be the real one??) to Billy Connelly's Bananawellies. Includes exhibition of Reformation period and of Glasgow's industrial past. Also large glassed gardens. Bring packed lunch or eat at wholefoods café.

● Sat. 3rd October. Is anyone interested in a parents' get-together in the evening somewhere?

● Fri. 30th October. Dome of Discovery, South Rotunda, Govan Road, Glasgow 041-427-1792 Phone for time. Guided tour round Glasgow's small but interesting Science Museum. Cost £1.41 per child (5yr+) Adults free. Phone museum and they will send you a teacher's pack beforehand with explanations of exhibits. No café. Packed lunches can be eaten outside, weather permitting!

● 28th November. Museum and Art Gallery, Kelvingrove, Glasgow 041-357-3929 11 am at information stand. Exhibits of natural history, Scottish history and large art gallery. Café, restaurant, and nearby park.

Times stated are when I will be at entrance wearing an E.O. badge. If you can't come 'til later, none of the places is particularly big and I'm sure you will be able to find us. Only at the Dome of Discovery are we tied to a time for the guided tour.

If you need transport, please phone me.

If you can help with transport, please phone me.

If you need directions or details of public transport, please phone the museum.

It would be wise to phone me a

couple of days before any trip to make sure there is no change in the arrangements.

Some of us go swimming once a week in the Paisley area. Please phone for details if you would like to join us.

Lorna Brown 0505-862122 (From Glasgow, use local code 7)

Suffolk

● At Wetherden Hall on Friday September 18th. Lots more to be arranged. Phone Sarah Jones on Quidenham 8681 if you can come.

Warwickshire

All are most welcome to join us for the following events:

● August Mon 17th. Visit to Stratford-on-Avon. Meet at the statue of Shakespeare in the riverside gardens at 10.30am. Various activities are available in Stratford including boat trips, a butterfly farm, Shakespeare's birthplace. Please bring a picnic. Any queries 'phone Lesley Mckenzie 0203 318401

● September Wed 2nd. Visit to Twycross Zoo. Meet at 10.15am by the main gate. There will be a talk on young animals as well as all the facilities the zoo has to offer. Please bring a picnic. Names and numbers going will be needed so please 'phone Lesley Mckenzie 0203 318401, by 25th August. She will also be able to give you an idea of cost and answer any other queries you may have (hopefully!)

West Midlands

The next meeting will be held on Saturday 19th September at 2pm at Birmingham Science Museum.

For further details ring 021 455 9742

Contact Carol & Paul Willis

West Yorkshire

Activities;

● 26th August; Visit to Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Meet at 11am by the Totem Pole, near the Car Park and Picnic tables.

Lifts will be available from Wakefield BR station.

Members from other E.O. groups welcome.

Please phone Alison Tribe (0484-606618) for further details.

● 2nd September; Sports and French day at Kim Wark's house, 21, Drummond Avenue, Leeds 16. 10.30am onwards. Please contact Kim in advance if you plan to come.

(0532-757473). Bring your lunch, drinks provided.

● 1st October; Parent's Meeting at Kim Wark's house, 8pm onwards.

Details as above.

● 8th October; A visit to Ashton-under-Lyne, on the Oldham side of Manchester, for a performance of "Poor World", a "60 minute piece of music theatre which uses laughter and irony to explore the gap between rich and poor, West and Third World". Suitable for 12 - 16 year olds. No charge.

Further details from Alison Tribe

(0484-606618)

Sorry that two meetings are being held at my house, but I had to sort them out in a hurry! We need volunteers for hosts for Parent's Meetings in early December, February, April, etc. Hosting a Parent's Meeting is a good (and easy!) way to meet other E.O. parents. It only involves providing a room, drinks and biscuits. If you find travelling to these meetings difficult, why not host one instead?

Celia Yates is now organising the social activities and Parent's Meetings. Please contact her with all suggestions for future activities, and to offer to

host meetings of various types - on 0274-640127.

I have enjoyed arranging activities (on and off!). Many thanks to everyone who has hosted meetings and arranged activities during my 'stint'.

Kim Wark.

Wiltshire

● Monday 26th September: Canal walk, starting at All Cannings. Meet at Liz Legg's, 10.30 am. Bring packed lunch. Ring 0380-860470

HELP YOUR CHILD WITH THEIR EARLY LEARNING

Professionally produced audio-cassettes.

Multiplication Tables, Alphabet, Counting, Musical Sounds of The Orchestra, Nursery Rhymes and Songs, Party Songs and Games, Primary French,
£ 2.95 each (postage 60p, subsequent copies, 30p)

Money refunded if dissatisfied.

S.A.E. for list of helpful products including reading games.

Martin Evans, (EO)

16, Thistle House, Dee Street, London, E14 OPD (071-515-1797)

Were you bullied?

Hurt by school?

A school refuser?

Even now, many other young people are suffering in this way. We know, because we are being swamped by phone calls from their parents, who have been referred to us by the Anti Bullying Campaign.

These young people are often made to feel weak, and to believe that no-one else has such problems. This is why we would like to explore the idea of a contact list specifically to enable them to support each other. Perhaps they could also be identified by a code letter in the main EO contact list.

One problem is that we often lose contact with home educated people when they reach the age of 16. How can we maintain access to their experience?

If you have had problems at school and are willing to share your experiences with others, please let us have your name, address, phone number, date of birth, a brief indication of your experience, and any other comments. Try to contact us by the *first week of September* so that we can tell the next EO meeting how many people are interested. (Sorry, we can't reply individually to letters. If you'd like to discuss anything, please phone us!) Anne & Rob Wade,

19 Perkin Close, Wembley, Middx
HA0 2LY. Tel. 081-904-7155.

Dear E.O.ers,

The October supplement will be a Special Needs Supplement as usual. I

was hoping to include details of books, resources, software, etc. which other families have found useful or are willing to recommend. I requested this information in my April 1992 Supplement, but have had no replies, except one from a lady who had read a poem she thought others may like to read.

I have always tried to recommend suitable books when asked, but although I try to keep up to date with recent publications, it would be nice to get some "feedback". This would help in advising new members, many of whom are at a loss to know "where to start".

Also - what about writing something about your experiences with your "special" child? (Don't worry if you feel you "can't write". I'm a practiced "ghostwriter"!)

The deadline is 1st September. I hope for lots too much material!

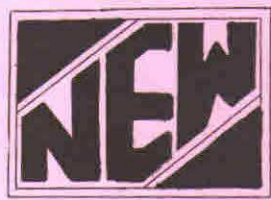
Calling all 10 - 14 year olds!

We are gradually getting somewhere in gathering a group of 10 - 14 year olds. Meetings on August 20th, September 24th, October 22nd, etc. at 2, Leylands Manor, Crowborough. Activities include parachute and cooperative games, trust and communication games, cooking on fires, trampolining and general fun. Bring along an activity if you want. (I don't want to exclude any age who thinks this sounds appealing, but would like a concentration of 10 - 14 year olds if possible!) Transport from stations available.

Ring Sue Petzaft on 0892-661319.

C.A.C.S.

COMPUTER AND CONSOLE SECTION



WELCOME TO COMPUTER AND CONSOLE SECTION-THE SUPPLEMENT BRINGING YOU NEWS, VIEWS AND REVIEWS FOR YOUR MACHINE. THE BASIC IDEA BEING TO CRAM AS MUCH INFORMATION ON THE HOTTEST GAMES INTO THE 4 CORNERS OF EACH PAGE WHILE MAKING THE SUPPLEMENT AS ENJOYABLE AS POSSIBLE! WE ASSUME THAT MOST OF YOU OWN AN AMIGA, BUT ALL YOU CONSOLE, PC, C64 AND WHAT-HAVE-YOU OWNERS CAN PROVE ME WRONG BY FILLING IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE-MORE ON THAT LATER. FOR NOW THOUGH, I HOPE YOU WILL ENJOY READING THIS AS MUCH AS I HAVE ENJOYED WRITING IT.

- NATHAN WHITE - EDITOR OF C.A.C.S.

THE REVIEWING SYSTEM-WHAT ALL THOSE BOXES MEAN

PRESENTATION GRAPHICS SOUND PLAYABILITY LASTABILITY

A- B+ D- B C

OVER
C+
ALL

COMMENTS
HERE

A EXCELLENT B GOOD C AVERAGE

PRESENTATION- 2 PLAYER, INTRO SEQUENCE, GOOD MANUAL ETC.

GRAPHICS-HOW SUITABLE THEY ARE, ANIMATION, SCROLLING ETC.

SOUND-GOOD SOUNDS OR MUSIC

PLAYABILITY- CONTROLS AND GAMEPLAY.

LASTABILITY-HOW LONG THE GAME WILL LAST.

D POOR E AWFUL



THE C.A.C.S. CLASSIC IS AWARDED TO HIGH QUALITY GAMES.

C.A.C.S. Questionnaire

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE FOR YOU TO SUGGEST WHAT GOES INTO C.A.C.S. - WHAT YOU WANT TO SEE AND WHAT YOU DON'T BASICALLY. GO ON THEN, GRAB A PEN AND GET IT FILLED IN!

YOU MAY PHOTOCOPY THIS FORM

NAME* _____
 ADDRESS* _____

AGE* *YOU MAY LEAVE BLANK

WHICH COMPUTER MAGS. DO YOU BUY? GIVE THEM A RATING OUT OF TEN.

_____	/10
_____	/10
_____	/10
_____	/10
_____	/10

WHAT MACHINE DO YOU OWN?

C64, SPECTRUM, AMSTRAD

AMIGA S.T. P.C.

N.E.S. MASTER SYSTEM

SUPER N.E.S. GX4000

MEGADRIVE NEO GEO

P.C. ENGINE ATARI 2600(HA!)

RATE 0(AWFUL) TO 10(BRILL) ACCORDING TO WHAT YOU THINK OF C.A.C.S..

WHICH OF THE ABOVE DO YOU INTEND TO BUY? _____

ANY FINAL COMMENTS ABOUT C.A.C.S. CAN BE WRITTEN ON A PIECE OF PAPER.

PHEW! GOT ALL THAT? GOOD! RIGHT THEN, CUT IT OUT AND POP IT IN AN ENVELOPE. SEND IT TO:

C.A.C.S. QUESTIONNAIRE, C.A.C.S., 3 NEW STREET, CHASE TERRACE, WALSALL, W. MIDLANDS, ENGLAND W57 8BT.
 DON'T FORGET A STAMP AND I'LL BE EXPECTING AN AVALANCE OF ENTRIES THROUGH MY LETTERBOX SOON...

HOT NEWS ALERT! READ THIS NEWS SECTION BEFORE IT GETS COLD. GOOD, JUST IN TIME...

NEWS SECTION

THE SUPER N.E.S. IS HERE AT LAST! BUNDLED WITH MARIO 4 IT SHOULD SELL WELL. PRICED AT A VERY REASONABLE £149.99, IT SHOULD BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW WELL THE S.N.E.S. DOES AGAINST THE £20.00 CHEAPER AND MOST OBVIOUS RIVAL - THE MEGADRIVE.

BRILLIANT, FANTASTIC!

COMING SOON FOR YOUR AMIGA (1 MEG ONLY) AND S.T. IS ZOO - A NINJA ANT TYPE THING WITH MORE THAN A TOUCH OF SONIC IN THE WAY HE CAN RUN AND SPIN. IT'S LOOKING VERY PLEASANT AT THE MOMENT AND ZOO COULD JUST BE THE GAME THAT KNOCKS A VERY FAMILIAR HEDGEHOG OF HIS PERCH. THE PRICE? £25.99.

TALKING OF ANTS, SIM ANT AND PUSHOVER ARE BOTH OUT ABOUTS NOW. SIM ANT IS MEANT (GETTING SICK OF THESE ANT-TYPE PUNS? ME TOO!) TO BE A STRATEGY (YAWN!) GAME IN THE SIM CITY VEIN ALTHOUGH IT'S FAR TOO SLOW (DOUBLE YAWN!) AND NOT WORTH BOTHERING WITH. PUSHOVER IS AN INTERESTING DOMINO PUZZLER THAT'S WORTH A LOOK.

GALACTIC'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ANTS BEING A BIZARRE DEFENDER CROSSED WITH BUBBLE BOBBLE CLONE.



ZOO TRYING TO KEEP HIS BALANCE ON THIS LETTERING



ANOTHER LEM HERE TO WASTE SPACE
I THINK I'LL STICK

IT INVOLVES KING RUDOLPH SHOOTING CARDS AT SOME STRANGE CREATURES(!) IN AN ATTEMPT TO GET EACH ONE BACK INTO THEIR PACK(!) SO THAT THE PACK FALLS DOWN TO THE GROUND AND TURNS INTO COLLECTABLE GOODIES!!! IT SOUNDS BIZARRE AND BELIEVE ME - IT IS! PRICE HAS YET TO BE ANNOUNCED AND IF I CAN BE BOTHERED I'LL REVIEW IT SOON.

SUPER SONIC SPEED

COMING **SOON** TO YOUR MEGADRIVE, GAMEGEAR AND MASTER SYSTEM IS A CERTAIN COOL HEDGEHOG WHO MADE HIS DEBUT LAST YEAR AND IS NOW BACK AGAIN FOR HIS SECOND APPEARANCE. RUMOURS SUGGEST THAT THE GAME WILL BE SIMILAR TO THE FIRST ONE, WHICH MEANS IT MUST BE GOOD. EXPECT TO SEE IT JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS, SO START SAVING THAT CASH...



SID THE SPYDER-FUTURE ON OCTA LEGS

AMAZING! EXCLUSIVE! SOME MEGA HOT NEWS HAS JUST COME BURSTING INTO THE **C.A.C.S.** (SORT OF) OFFICE! SID THE **SPYDER** IS ON A SECRET MISSION FROM MARS! GAME FEATURES: DIGITISED SPEECH, PARALLAX AND ANIMATION; UNBELIEVABLE SPEED AND ROTATION EFFECTS; MUSIC THAT WILL BLOW YOUR EARS OFF; BRILLIANT 4096 COLOUR GRAPHICS AND OUTSTANDING GAMEPLAY! CAN'T WAIT? ME NEITHER! WE'LL BE REVIEWING THIS LITTLE GEM SOON! AMIGA ONLY.

5
COMPO. AMIGA ONLY - SORRY...

Jimmy White's 'WHIRLWIND' SNOOKER



BEING DEAD IMPRESSED WITH
ARCHER MACLEAN'S 3D SNOOKER
(**C.A.C.S. RATING - A**), I THOUGHT I'D
ORGANISE A COMPETITION. JUST SEND IN
YOUR BEST TRICK-SHOT(S) TO:



(S) POT THE BALL **COMPO, C.A.C.S.**, 3 NEW STREET,
CHASE TERRACE, WALSALL, W. MIDLANDS WS7 8BT
BEST ENTRY GETS A BRILL PRIZE SO GET 'EM IN NOW!

GAME: RAINBOW COLLECTION
FORMAT: C64
PUBLISHER: OCEAN
PRICE: £10.99

THE RAINBOW COLLECTION



THIS PACK CONTAINS **BUBBLE BOBBLE,**
RAINBOW ISLANDS AND **NEW ZEALAND STORY.**

ALL 3 ARE FIRM CLASSICS AND SHOULD ALREADY
HAVE A PLACE IN YOUR COLLECTION IF NOT

(AND WHY NOT?), HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO SNATCH UP THIS
GOLD BAR FOR JUST OVER 3 ENGLISH POUNDS A GAME -
BARGAIN CITY OR WHAT? I'M NOT GOING TO TELL YOU
ABOUT THE GAMES BECAUSE YOU'LL FIND OUT WHAT TO DO
WHEN YOU BUY THIS COMPILATION AND
BESIDES I HAVEN'T GOT THE ROOM
ANYWAY; ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT THIS
PACK CONTAINS THREE BRILL PLATFORM
GAMES THAT YOU WOULD BE CRAZY TO MISS.

A

BEST 10 QUID
YOU'LL EVER
SPEND.

SEGA'S ANSWER TO MARIO...

SONIC

THE HEDGEHOG



YES I KNOW THIS REVIEW IS A TAD TOO LATE (ABOUT HALF A YEAR ACTUALLY), BUT SO WHAT? ANYWAY,

THE GAME... AND WHAT A GAME THIS IS- LUSH PARALLAX, RELAXING MUSIC, COOL GAMEPLAY - MORE OF THIS SORT OF THING LATER. FOR NOW THOUGH, THE PLOT WHICH HAS NO RELEVANCE TO THE GAME WHAT SO EVER. DR. ROBOTNIK HAS IMPRISONED SONIC'S PAIS AND TURNED THEM INTO MEANIES. SONIC'S MISSION IS TO JUMP INTO THEM TO TURN THEM BACK TO NORMAL.

SPEEDING ALONG THE 18 LEVELS GIVES A REAL SENSE OF DEPTH. THE GAME ITSELF IS DREAMY WITH NEAT GRAPHICS AND SOUND AND AMAZING CONTROL. THE GAME IS PACKED WITH ORIGINAL TOUCHES LIKE THE LOOP THE LOOP, ROTATING BONUS ROOM AND TELLIES THAT GIVE YOU SOMETHING USEFUL. ALTHOUGH A TAD TOO EASY, SONIC'S DEFINITLY WORTH BUYING.

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG THE BEST GAME EVER...? NOPE.



GAME: SONIC...
FORMAT: MEGADRIVE
PUBLISHER: SEGA
PRICE: £34.99

JUST TO REAR THIS, EHE
THIS WAS UPSIDE DOWN
A WASTE OF TIME TURNING
DON'T YOU THINK IT WAS

PRESENTATION GRAPHICS SOUND PLAYABILITY LASTABILITY

B A A A A-

A

BRILL ALL ROUNDER,
TOP NOTCH
PLATFORM FUN.

OH NO! MORE

Lemmings

GAME: OH NO! MORE LEMMINGS
 FORMAT: AMIGA
 PUBLISHER: PSYGNOSIS
 PRICE: £19.99 / £25.99

PRICE PUZZLER

OH NO! COMES WITH 2 PRICES. IF YOU HAVE THE ORIGINAL LEMMINGS, YOU CAN BUY THE OH NO! DATA DISK FOR £19.99. OTHERWISE IT'S THE FULL 26 I'M AFRAID.

LEM COMPARISON

	ORIGINAL	OH NO!
LEVELS	120	100
2PL. LEVS.	20	10
GRAPHICS	V. GOOD	GOOD
SOUNDTRACKS	2.1	APP. 6
S/TRACKS RAT. EXC.		GOOD
INTRO.	GOOD	NONE
RATINGS	A	B

LEMMINGS, THE BEST AND MOST ORIGINAL GAME OF '91 IS BACK. DMA (THE DESIGNERS) HAVE KEPT TO THE ORIGINAL FORMULA, THE RESULT BEING SLIGHTLY DISSAPPOINTING.



LOOK AT THE LEM COMPARISON BOX TO THE LEFT (RAT. STANDS FOR RATING, BY THE WAY)... YOU CAN SEE THAT OH NO! GIVES YOU LESS FOR YOUR MONEY. THE DIFFICULTY

CURVE IS WRONG TOO AND THE END SEQUENCE IS EXACTLY THE SAME AS THE ORIGINAL LEMMINGS - WHAT A COP-OUT EH? MY ADVICE? IF YOU LIKED THE ORIGINAL LEMMINGS

THEN BUY OH NO! OTHERWISE GIVE THIS A MISS.

PRESENTATION GRAPHICS SOUND PLAYABILITY LASTABILITY

A-	B-	B	A	A-
B		110 MORE LEVELS OF FUN.		

**BUDGIES GOING CHEEP-
ER, I MEAN BUDGET GAMES
GOING CHEAP. 2 AMIGA NEWIES...**

BUDGET SECTION

**TURRICAN 2
KIXX £7.99**

THIS BRILL SHOOT 'EM UP WAS WELL RECEIVED WHEN IT WAS FIRST RELEASED. IT INVOLVES TURRICAN-A MEAN MACHINE WHO HAS A WIDE RANGE OF WEAPONRY AT HIS DISPOSAL USED TO DESTROY THE WORLD OF MORGUL.

EVERYTHING IS SLICKLY PRESENTED AND THE GAMEPLAY IS VERY ADDICTIVE. BUY IT. (A)

**PANG
HIT SQUAD £7.99**

SOME PEOPLE HATE THIS, BUT NOT ME. PANG'S SIMPLICITY MAKES THE GAME HIGHLY COMPULSIVE. SHOOTING BALLS OVER COLOURFUL LANDSCAPES IS A LOT OF FUN ESPECIALLY WITH 2 PLAYERS. A PERFECT ARCADE CONVERSION AND WELL WORTH BUYING. (A)

THE END...

OF THIS SUPPLEMENT ANYWAY. NEXT TIME **C.A.C.S.**

PROMISES TO BE EVEN BETTER! IF YOU'VE GOT A QUESTION OR POINT TO DO WITH ANYTHING COMPUTER RELATED-A LETTER IN OTHER WORDS THEN JOT IT DOWN AND POST IT TO: **BE CAREFUL POSTMAN,**

THIS LETTER IS SO HOT THAT THE ENVELOPE'S ON FIRE!, C.A.C.S., 3 NEW STREET,

CHASE TERRACE, WALSALL W57 8BT. REMEMBER THAT IF THE RESPONSE IS BIG THEN **C.A.C.S.** WILL BE REGULAR TO

THE E.O. MAG AND YOU WANT THAT DON'T YOU? SO GET WRITING!

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Featherstone Castle, April 1992

Our annual gathering here was again a lively and productive one. On behalf of everyone who came I'd like to appreciate the hard work and good thinking of the organisers, especially Christine and Bruce Wallace.

Featherstone Castle is clearly the favourite venue for many of the young people who come regularly, so it's not surprising that they were keen to express their concerns. They called a meeting for all young people on the first full day and asked me to facilitate it. I decided that it would not be appropriate for me to advise or make suggestions about what they might do. Instead I encouraged every one of them to say how things should be for the week to be just right for her or him. This worked well; those who have some timidity about speaking in a big group were heard as well as those who find it easier. I also got them to agree that everything said in the meeting was confidential, that they would later discuss what was said only without the individual being named. This made it safe for everybody to say what was really going on for them and what they wanted.

It was clear that they all wanted broadly the same things and that the principal concern for this gathering was access to certain spaces in the castle for different age groups.

I asked them to get together in pairs, in what I called "listening

partnerships". The way this works is that one person listens while the other talks for a fixed period of time (in this case five minutes) then they swap roles for the same period of time. My experience is that working in this way enables people to think clearly about the issues and come up with elegant solutions. I encouraged them to work with someone of a different age as far as possible. We had three of these "listening sessions" during the meeting.

The result was a new respect between the different age groups and unanimous acceptance of a strategy to eliminate apparent difficulties between them around the communal rooms available to them.

For the rest of the week they were a model of good relationships. They implemented what they had decided and made it work. I noticed that they were more respectful around each other and that there was little of the usual conflict, bullying and put-downs.

Well done, all of you!

The Member's Meeting

took place on Saturday 25th April. I will summarize the main points:

Structure of E.O.

Stephanie Futcher reported that the group set up to look into possible alternative structures is making good progress. It continues to gather the information on which a decision can be based and is clearly thinking well

about it.

Membership Cards

There was still some confusion about these. Some people have evidently not been informed of the decision at the previous meeting that the cards should be issued to all members. The correct information about membership cards appears in the "Where To Get What" section of this issue. (Back Page)

S.I.N.C.

Anne Wade told us that the new edition of S.I.N.C. is nearing completion. Until it is ready photocopies can be made as necessary.

The general feeling of the meeting was that all new members should receive a free copy of S.I.N.C. Bruce Wallace pointed out that the expense of sending free copies to all new members might prove an intolerable strain on E.O.'s current financial position.

The meeting finally agreed that the initial membership fee be raised to £15, to include a copy of S.I.N.C., and that the renewal fee be £12.50.

Liz Ramsay proposed that E.O. adopt a commitment to issuing free copies of S.I.N.C. to all new members without increasing the membership fee, and that this commitment be implemented as soon as our financial position allows it. This proposal was accepted by the meeting.

Contact List

There was some discussion about cost and distribution of the Contact List. Bruce Wallace told us that it costs £3,200 to print 2,200 copies and

that 1,500 copies would cost £1,600. The meeting decided that we should print 1,500 copies and that these will be automatically sent to all new members, to co-ordinators and to Officers of E.O. Free copies will be sent to existing members on receipt of a s.a.e.

Fact Packs

Eleanor Stapleton reported that she is down to only four Fact Packs. The meeting agreed that 200 more should be photocopied and that we should discuss printing them when we have a clearer picture of the demand for them.

Children's Pages

Hannah Bush said that she is receiving plenty of contributions to fill the extra pages, though few come from older young people. The meeting agreed that the Children's Pages should remain at eight pages.

Subsidies

There was some discussion about subsidising families who could not otherwise afford to come to national gatherings. There was a suggestion of bursaries being made available. I am working, with Paul Hodgkin, on the idea of a sliding scale of payment whereby every family pays according to its means. This is a complex thing to work out. We will have our ideas put together for the September meeting.

I think it's important that all members should have access to national gatherings regardless of their income. How can this happen? What's your thinking? Let's hear from you.

Relationships

I reported briefly on what had happened at the young people's meeting on the previous day. There was some discussion about it. Stephanie Fitcher said that we also need to think about relationships between adults and between adults and young people at national gatherings. I agreed with her and suggested that we might hold workshops with the aim of improving these relationships. There seemed to be a general acceptance that this was a good idea.

Human Scale Education Conference

Jane Lowe went to this conference on behalf of E.O. She reported that the Human Scale Movement is interested in and respectful of E.O. and would like closer links with us, possibly with one of our members on their committee. The meeting decided that E.O. should affiliate to the Human Scale Movement for a fee of £15 and that Sarah Taylor should be the person to deal with them on our behalf.

Re-use of Newsletter Items

Les Enfants D'Abord, our sister organisation in France, have asked if they might use articles from our Newsletters in their own. Various concerns were expressed, as well as approvals, and the meeting finally agreed that Les Enfants D'Abord should be able to benefit from our experiences and thinking.

Membership Secretaries

Valerie Gommon has decided to resign as Membership Secretary for S.E.England. Under our Articles of Association at least one Membership Secretary must be a Director of E.O. Association Ltd. Valerie is currently the only Membership Secretary who is a Director. She has therefore been asked to stay as Membership Secretary in name only until another Director can be elected at the next A.G.M.

This is not a complete report of the Member's Meeting. If you want a detailed report copies of the Minutes are available from the General Secretary.

Keith Charlton

The Society of Young Mathematicians. (SYMS)

Set up in 1991 to promote interest in mathematics for students aged between 5 and 18. Membership is £6.00 per year and for further details write to:

The Membership Secretary, 5 Tower Road,
Orpington,
Kent. (Enclose s.a.e.)

We have just been to an excellent Maths Carnival run by them, 50p per ticket for a day's workshops. We did 'The Probability Circus', 'Mechanics in Action', 'Puzzles from the North', 'Challenges in 3 dimensions', 'Calculator Games', etc. There were 24 different workshops and what we did was great fun - no need to be a genius, all ages worked together.

Sue Petszaff.

What Is Good Education, Anyway?

IN something I wrote a while ago I said that schooling is compulsory for most children, and things which are compulsory have no business to fail. That seemed to me a powerful argument against the complacent assumptions our society makes about education. However, on reflection I saw that, true though my statement was, it could not stand alone as the basis for an attack on schooling, because most people to whom I might be tempted to address it believe that schooling does in fact succeed.

This may be simply because adults see schooling as the agency which removes from them responsibility for a great part of their children's development, and insofar as it is expensive and run by professionals everything which results from it must be the best which can be. As Voltaire's egregious twerp Dr. Pangloss said: "All is for the best in the best of all possible worlds." Too bad if thousands of children in this superb system are incapacitated mentally for the rest of their lives. The system works: it's the children who don't.

I should like to think that we could drive a coach and horses through that idea, without losing the sympathy of the average parent. In order to do so, it seems to me that we need to develop a clear, consistent notion of what we mean by success and failure

in education.

To me, education means the effect produced by all those influences upon a person's mind which contribute to determining the course of its development. By that definition, as it stands, even thoroughly corrosive experiences, such as being tortured or starved, could be called 'educational', because they certainly tend to impress themselves on the character of the people who suffer them, so we need to speak more specifically of 'good' education, or perhaps 'socially valuable' education. If success in educating children is judged by criteria which stem from our common understanding of what is 'good' or 'socially valuable' we shall at least avoid the temptation to model our schools on the lines of 19th Century Public Schools, where a certain amount of torture and starvation were, in fact, rather common, and the brutality which they engendered in many of their pupils came to be seen as virtuous, at least when used against the lower orders, and natives of the Empire!

To begin with, then, we must say very strongly, that a successful education is one which makes a pupil more, not less concerned about the feelings of other people. Its effect must be to situate the child accurately in his own social world, so that he has a clear, reasonable understanding of how his behaviour affects the rest of his group. It must place him in a position where he can say: "I know what I am, what you others can ask

me with justice to do, and what I must avoid, because it hurts you."

Above all, education must equip a person to know clearly the difference between Authority which exists because real people have chosen to allow its operation, and the dangerous, demagogic power which claims the right to govern because it is louder, more ruthless or simply crueller than others are prepared to be. An education system which will not tolerate a pupil asking why it works the way it does, nor allow him to reject its provisions is, therefore, a bad system, offering bad education.

Good education also builds upon the child's natural curiosity. It may leave him more or less knowledgeable about school subjects, but at all costs it has to avoid killing his curiosity.

Education is bad if children come out of it - as many do at present - convinced that they know nothing worth knowing because they did not do well at school, and unable to learn anything much for the rest of their lives. We live in a world where people no longer learn a trade and live by it for forty years. The laboratories constantly turn out new processes and more economical ways to manufacture goods. Only people with flexible minds, people who can trust themselves to change their profession frequently, will be able to profit from the technical revolution by seizing all the opportunities it offers.

So good education fosters self-confidence by encouraging children to find their own approaches to learning,

the methods which suit them and make it easier for them to study. It emphasises not how far the pupil is from perfection but how successfully he is progressing. Its standards reflect what the pupils have attained, not the Government's futile intellectual machismo.

At present schools prepare children to live in the present, to go on being what they are now for ever. Let a pupil, even one who is very close to leaving school and bearing adult responsibility, decide to seize his full rights and choose for himself his part in the life of the school, and the adults will turn on him. They will not treat him as a worthy newcomer but as a dangerous rival who must be crushed. This is why schools often fail in their larger duty to form citizens who can be trusted with their own future.

We must make a habit of testing the schools our children have to attend - if they do - by these criteria. The list is not exhaustive, of course. Many other aspects of schooling deserve to be challenged, too, including the evil nonsense of compulsory testing, the worthless habit of dressing children in a school uniform whether they want it or not, and the oppressive custom of setting compulsory homework and punishing the pupils if they do not do it. However, in all our questioning of schools, we must, I think, concentrate on one question: "Does this that you do to our children, supposedly for their own good, contribute directly to making them more confident, kinder, more soberly critical citizens of a

mature advanced democracy, or not? And if not, why in Heaven's name are you doing it? Our children are not

there for your convenience. Stop treating them as if they were!"

Christopher R. Shute

Educating John-Paul.

We are educating our delightful Downs Syndrome son, John-Paul, at home.

John-Paul is now 7 years old and we decided to home educate nearly two years ago when we moved to North Wales from Cambridgeshire.

John-Paul spent his first year of schooling at the local primary school where he had a super welfare assistant and great social life. However, as the teacher freely admitted, John-Paul was lucky if she was able to spend 10 minutes a day with him. We did not want him to attend a "Special school" as he is quite a bright D.S. child and we felt that it was not in his interests to mix with other handicapped children.

We set up a school room for

John-Paul which looks very much like a primary school classroom. He does 1½ hours of formal schoolwork every morning. It can be hard work especially if neither of us are in the mood! But we stick at it and he is making good progress. The one to one attention he receives has really paid off and his reading is coming on nicely.

We are very fortunate in that we have access to a lot of educational expertise. My husband is a Headmaster of a High School in Chester and our eldest daughter is training to be a junior school teacher. Our L.E.A. has been supportive and offered us the services of their special needs advisor.

As a family we are very pro-school and regard John-Paul as a special case where at the moment home education is best. We could not imagine educating our "normal" children at home as we feel that school is the best place for them.

Rose-Mary Gower

Dear Cardiff EOers

Is there a family in the Cardiff area who might be willing to occasionally either swap houses or put us up for a few days? We would be happy to put you up in return. The reason is that my parents are unable to put us up in their house. We have a sofa bed and air beds etc and there is plenty to do in the Manchester area. We are fairly near to the Peak District, nice museums and nature parks. We are nearly vegetarian (we eat fish) and non smokers. There are lots of things to do in our house. We are Gill, Ed, Martin (6) and Evan (3) Wilson. If you can help out we could arrange to meet up first. Please phone or write. 20 Brook Road, Heaton Chapel, STOCKPORT, SK4 5BZ. 061 442 8723

Diolch yn fawr.

educating ARCHIE BY SEG



Letters

Dear E.O.

The following is extracted from a letter I received from a single mother in Spain, where home-schooling is illegal.

"Dear Friends,

I am living in Spain with my four children and none of them are taught in a school. So far, and for three consecutive years, we have somehow managed to be discreet and we haven't been bothered by any educational authority yet. But, logically, we are living under a certain threat..... So, taking into account the fear I'm having regarding our 'legal' situation (They can take the children away from me, from one day to the other), and also the fact that the children are not really happy the way we live, I've started considering the possibility of moving to any country where home-schooling is not a crime. Obviously, I would very much appreciate any help, any advice, any suggestions from anyone. I'm bi-lingual French - Spanish, and my English is quite fluent. I would consider sharing a house or even living communally with people who have children and have the same ideas as me about education."

If anyone can help, could they write to:

Silvia Muñiz Gadea,

care of me, Jenny Blower (one parent family contact),
15a Athelstan Road,
Hastings,
East Sussex TN35 5JB.

Finally,

after a year I am getting pen to paper!

Firstly, let me say how much we enjoyed the May-June edition of the EO - the layout was excellent & it was so visually pleasing, ie, no eye-strain!

I was pleasantly surprised at the volume of enquiries I had in answer to my ad offering Super Workbooks & Jumbo Math Yearbooks. It was nice to chat to E.O. members from all over, and to widen my horizons, make new friends.

Unfortunately I only had two sets of these books to dispose of & not everyone got the grades they wanted, so here is the publisher's address for a catalog, etc:

ESP Publishers Inc
1201 E. Johnson Avenue
P.O. Drawer 5080, Jonesboro
AR. 72403-5080, USA

Be prepared for a slow response - my catalog took 2 mos. to arrive by 4th class sea mail! However, I'd be happy to answer any questions regarding their usage, contents, etc. since

I've been using them for some years now.

Happy EO'ing to all and have a wonderful summer!

Zarine Gillingham
P O Box 1066
Swindon SN1 1ZA
Ph: 0793-845167

Dear E.O.,

Thank you Liz Rogers for your moving obituary for Raymond Laifearthaigh in last NL, no.86.

It seems timely to draw attention to the interesting work of "The Natural Death Centre" set up in Spring 1991 to help improve 'the quality of dying'. Their aims include:

"Helping to break taboos about freely discussing death and dying.

Workshops - 'Exploring our own Death'

Courses for 'death midwives' preparing for people dying at home.

Collecting and publicising accounts of near death experiences and dignified natural deaths.

Helping draw up 'living wills' stating how much use of high tech intervention they would agree to if terminally ill.

Support for home deaths. 'Natural Death Handbook'. Cheap funerals. DIY death. Green Funerals. Useful Booklist.

New funeral rituals etc."

I have written suggesting children's needs should also be covered, particularly in section of their handbook. Perhaps other families and children

would like to contribute ideas for this section eg. accounts of experiences to help others, books, tapes, songs on theme of death to support breaking taboos and stimulate educational discussion.

Information and details of activities from:

The Natural Death Centre,
20, Heber Road,
Cricklewood,
London NW2 6AA
081-208-2853 fax 081-452-6434

Sincerely,

Poppy Green

15, Bellevue, BS8 1DB

PS. Could some kind member in Lothian send the Lothian Children's Rights Charter for publication in next E.O.NL. Well done Lothian!

Dear Homeschooling Friends,

You may remember a short letter which appeared in the April issue of E.O. Newsletter in which we expressed interest in meeting some fellow homeschoolers during our springtime travels to Britain. We received several letters in response and we did meet some wonderful people as a result. We are just now back in Canada, feeling richer from the places we have seen in your beautiful Country and from all the new friends we have made.

We wish to thank the many people who have written and opened their homes to us during our visit. Our six-week long stay, subject to many limitations, unfortunately did not allow us to visit all of you who extended an invitation to us. We tried

to at least stop by and say hello for a couple of hours, when we could not make it for an overnight visit. But we missed many of you. To those who wrote and whom we could not meet, we wish to say thank you again and how sorry we are indeed. The loss was very much ours.

To the many friends we did see, we wish to express our thanks once again. Thank you for the great conversations, discussions, sharing of ideas. Thank you for the local tips on what to see, for the glimpses of the history of your area, for taking us around. Thank you for sharing in your family life and for all the new friends (and pen-pals) our children have made when playing with yours. Thank you for the wonderful meals you have served us (I have brought back home with me several new recipes!). Thank you for being instant friends.

We hope all of you can one day live this most rewarding and educational experience that travelling in a foreign country is. If any of you fellow homeschoolers some day come to Canada, and if you wish to stay for a night or two and visit our area, our home will always be opened. We are always eager to make new friends. We'll keep the kettle on...

All our best wishes,
Michael and Louise Atfield,
P.O. Box 413,
Deep River,
Ontario KOJ 1PO,
Canada
June 29th 1992

Dear Education Otherwise,

Those of your readers who are interested in the work of Dr. Maria Montessori, may wish to know of a new lending library which specialises in the Montessori Method of Education.

I first became interested in Montessori Education when my own family started to arrive, and as the years have passed and the children have increased in number, I have collected a very large number of Montessori and related publications.

I am now a fully qualified Montessori teacher, running a small home school. Our family have been E.O. members for some years.

The Montessori library will be, I hope, a lifeline to others who wish to know more about the Method. I have never personally bought a book unseen, and would strongly recommend previewing publications in this way. It is an exciting opportunity to read out of print earlier editions and a very good way to bring interested Montessorians together.

There will be a newsletter twice per year which will update the books available. There must inevitably be a small fee charged per book lent in order to make the library a viable proposition, and a fee of about £1 per book per fortnight will be levied (depending on the weight and rarity of the publication). The lender must pay the return postage; many of the modern editions are paperback and weigh very little.

I am always interested in buying

Montessori publications in good order. Does anyone have a copy of the following books to sell?

"Anything School Can Do You Can Do Better" by Maire Mullarney.

"For the Children's Sake" by Susan Schaeffer MacCauley

For details please send a large s.a.e. to:

Mrs Wendy B. Fidler. Mont. Dip.,
Wildwood Montessori Library,
3 Wildwood Close,
Ramsbottom,
Lancashire BL0 9SF.
2nd July 1992

Dear EO Folks

Some thoughts of mine. Following on from my sister's thoughts in the last EO Newsletter (Issue 86, June 1992) re: Devon and life. We are thinking of moving to Devon, somewhere between Exeter and Totnes. We have just stayed in Devon for 2 weeks for Alan to 'sus' out the work prospects down there (he's a computer man). If they're favourable we will move, or if they're not (which so far seems to be the case), maybe we should do some major life moves and consider other options, and decide not to rely solely on computing for our income.

I'm writing this letter to ask fellow EOers whether they would also like to move. My son Gus wants to dig heffalump pits as in Winnie-the-Pooh, hunt wild boar as in Asterix and make magic potions as in Roald sexist/racist Dahl's George's Marvellous Medicine. The idea of doing all this

in the Devon countryside (oo-ahh) with kids from other like-minded families, for us just seems like heaven. It would be great to have a core number of families living in and around the Totnes/Exeter area - whom we could rely on and become friends with, and the kids can form close relationships and play in gangs, if they so wish. They could grow up together doing what they want, when they want, how they want, leading completely autonomous lives. Our family is supposedly what one would call self-regulating, but we fall short of our ideals every day. We would love our children to be completely in charge of their own lives, but too often 'know it alls' (e.g. mothers and fathers) interfere - 'For Your Own Good' are 4 little words used too often (from Alice Millers' (psychotherapist) book of the same title).

I'm wondering if there are any families out there who on the whole don't bother their kids too much and let them get on with their lives. If so - where are you, and will you do a major life move and move? I personally can't think of a nicer place for my kids (and me) to grow up. I have dreams of Alan computing less, he is a freelance computer analyst, so we have him home a lot anyway - me making pots (ceramic ones) more and setting up voice workshops, or even learning how to thatch. Dreams, dreams, which we will try to make a reality. And our kids making bonfires and dams on the beautiful Devon beaches with their mates.

I live in North London (nearly suburbia, Yuk Yuk) with my two lovely children, Gus (5 1/2), Barnaby (1) and my lovely husband Alan (31).

If you'd like to talk or want encouragement or are very excited about the idea please contact me - Belinda Reid (28),

9 Dickens Avenue,
Finchley,
London N3 2AL
(081 343 1061);

or my lovely sister: Sammy Vidal-Hall and Family (Nick, Arran and Willow) who are the Devon Coordinators;

Homecroft,
Brownston Street,
Modbury,
South Devon.
(0548 830716).

Divna OMALJEV.BONGARTE
Halmsharf 4 b
5202 HENNEF 41
GERMANY
tel: 010 49/2248 43 25
London, 14th April 1992

Dear members of the "Education Otherwise",

I am french, but living in Germany. In France, I heard from your organisation, and now, because I am in London for a few days, I am trying to get in contact with you.

At first I'd like to hear more about you, could you send me some Information, perhaps a number of the "new letter"?

At Second, could you tell me the adress, or the phone number of someone who lives in London to contact to; because I will come in a few months in London again and Cambridge it's too far away to meet you.

At third: I am 24, my friend (German) Uli 39, and our son Dimitri is three years old. I am looking for a young family anywhere in England to visit, to write and later to send my Children (?) when they grow up, naturally they would visit, write and send their children to me too! An exchange!

We are living in the german country 20km from Bonn, 50km from Cologne. I am writing and drawing children books (about Health) but my principal activity is to educate my son, it is for me a real pleasure, and I don't want him to give to school at all! Uli is (I don't know how do you say for it) diplomated in Pedagogy, Yoga (meditation) teacher, and Heilpraktiker (complimentary medecine?).

I am speaking german, french -a little bit english, Uli german and english, and Dimitri is learning from birth french, german, & english too. It is difficult to tell our hobbies or Interests because they are so many: sciences, History, langages, Philosophy, raising (travel), music, cinema, painting... meeting people it's very important for us!

If you know families, who have some interest tell it to me.

Thank you very, very much, I hope to read you soon.

Divna

P.S Our House is not very beautiful but we have a big adventure garden!

Editor's Note: *With the humility that becomes poor linguists, we decided to leave this letter un-corrected, lest we destroy it's charm...*

Dear E.O.

It's taken about 3 years to finally get around to writing this.... I hope it's been worth waiting for!

We (Julian & I) have been Home Educating our 4 girls since birth (!!)

Amy is 7, Abigail 5, Jessica 2 and Natalie 6 months.

The event that has prompted me to write is the visit of my Educational Advisor. We had a great time - he made the coffee and I breastfed. We shared ideas on education, and discovered I'd been on one of his training courses when I was a governor. The girls made him feel at home; Jessie brushed his hair and tried to put a ribbon in it! Amy and Abi sat on his knee & read to him, and he enjoyed himself.

After much discussion, I said I wished we had the option of opting into school for various activities. He didn't see why this should be a problem: "The school is here to serve the community". I then asked if he thought I should visit some local schools and see if any would be happy for me to opt in. Then came the miracle... he had just resigned this position (he needed to get back to grass roots to appreciate the problems, he said) and had become

Head Master of the local school. He said 'Give me a couple of weeks to settle in, then come and see me.' I murmured something about resources being a problem, 'No problem,' he said 'anything the school has, you may borrow'.

Hesitantly, I did contact him, I wasn't sure how feasible all this was. His first words were 'I've discussed this with senior management, and we're all agreed that it is our educational responsibility to serve you in any way we can - with no strings attached. You call the shots, and we'll oblige.'

I was overwhelmed! He then gave me a tour of the school, gave me some paper, 'You must find this expensive', showed me the resource centre, 'Just go & help yourself to what you want'.

I asked if the girls could join into P.E. lessons - but what about insurance? He said he would accept *loco parentis* for them. He also encouraged me to bring the other 2 youngest in if I wanted to stay with them.

After much thought, I decided to forget about P.E. for the moment, and just concentrate on arranging a convenient time for us all. I chose Weds afternoon, when the Mums & toddlers meet in a classroom 2 doors away from Amy & Abi. So for the last two weeks we've all spent one afternoon in school, with Abi in a reception class, and Amy in with the 7 year olds. (Amy's teacher greeted me with - Oh, I've got two friends who home educate!). The girls love it, and said

they would like to go more often (!?!?!). I've struggled with the 'Mums & Toddlers' group, but we jointly decided to give it a go until the summer - the only one in danger of giving up is me! Abi's quote of the week is 'Oh, we don't have to do any work today - we're going to school'.

My aim in writing? To encourage you that flexi-school is an option!! My Head Master reckoned that many Heads would be willing to oblige E.O.ers. How about making inquiries? I must confess to feeling that I've got a real gem, and I am so grateful.

I couldn't finish without thanking E.O....the letters, articles, are inspiring, challenging & encouraging. It's the only mag I read cover to cover!!

Love -- The Watsons (by Sandy)

Dear E.O. Members,

I used to be a member three years ago, I rejoined late last year, although I had contact before I have had none since - with other home-educators. I wrote to my co-ordinator and a nearby member, no replies!

I thought E.O. was a good idea at first, but if none of us communicate how can we give and receive support. One other thing, I have met the LEA Advisor for this area, although at first I was cautious in my dealings with her, we now know we both have my son's education at the top of our priorities. She was amazed, however, to discover I was not alone in Berkshire. Whilst understanding there is no legal obligation to inform LEA's of your intentions to home

educate, I feel let down by other educators, by being the only one to inform them - thus being also the only one to incur meetings where I'm called upon to justify my wishes. I am beginning to wonder if you have to be fairly rich and elite to achieve anything with E.O.

If there are, however, other members who, like us, are on a low income (husband unemployed) and of average status and intelligence I'd love to hear from them.

We are a family of 6, myself and husband with four sons, aged 8years, 3 years, 2 years, and 11 months.

Please get in touch, wherever you live, help prove I haven't made the wrong decision.

Best Wishes

Valerie Cross (Mrs)

6, Welbeck Rd

MAIDENHEAD

Berks. SL6 4EB.

Hello to everyone in Lincolnshire and Humberside.

We, the Rhodes family who include Linda, David, Jason aged 10 years, Andrew aged 7 years and Judy who is 4, moved here to Grimsby on 30th April. Unfortunately I did not have time to get a letter written and posted by June 1st for inclusion in the last newsletter but things have settled down now and time has permitted for me to put pen to paper.

We came from a very active E.O. group in Derbyshire which began as only a small group but after a while became a very active and supportive

group with almost everyone participating either by organising an educational meeting/workshop, guided tour etc.

It would be nice to think that there may be E.O.ers in either Humberside or Lincolnshire who would be interested in organising together different activities. For some it may seem rather daunting approaching a company or whatever to arrange a demonstration of something or guided tour, but if everyone tried to organise just one thing or make a suggestion before long you would be surprised how well things could develop.

Distance can sometimes be a problem especially if income is limited or transport is difficult but sometimes just asking for or offering a lift can make a lot of difference between someone getting perhaps some much needed support and encouragement and not. If there is anyone who feels like "having a go" then perhaps they could contact me and we could arrange something.

The Derbyshire group first got started by a meeting just being suggested and waiting to see who turned up. So may we suggest Normanby Park, Scunthorpe, Sunday 6th September, 11 am in the car park. If people can't make it or could suggest an alternative then please don't hesitate to say so.

A family in Market Rasen said people sometimes met at Brigg for a swim meeting if anyone is able to get there. There are several places around

Grimsby which could be used as well as Lincoln being quite historic. It's surprising what your area has to offer once you start looking, so why don't we all have a go. Meetings can be as frequent or infrequent as people want so there is no need to feel obliged.

Before we left Derbys. I discussed the vacant position of Co-ordinator for Lincolnshire with Stephanie Fitcher and she agreed that since the post had been vacant for some twelve months now there was no reason why we shouldn't have a go. Yes! We know Grimsby is in Humberside, but only just. We have lived here twice before and also in Lincoln so we know the area fairly well. We also realise that Lincolnshire is a very large county but it doesn't have to be a stumbling block from the start. Perhaps if we all got our "Thinking Caps" on we could get something going, our children really miss the E.O. contact and it would be nice to form new friendships for both adults and children.

We try not to be judgemental about the people we meet including things like politics, religion, looks, dress, or diets, so don't be held back. Everyone has something to offer however small it may seem to us individually.

If any Derbyshire/Nottinghamshire E.O.ers have read this then "Hello", we hope you are O.K. We are settling in fairly well now. Jason, Andrew and Judy are happy too. Despite the fact they have around 15-20 school attending children to play with daily they are set on not going, it is amazing

how well they have been accepted.

Hopefully we look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes from:

The Rhodes Family,
6 The Cloisters,
Wybers Wood,
Grimsby,
S Humberside DN37 9QX
Tel. 0472-882074

Dear EO,

We are Sharon, Doug and Daniel (9 years old) and would love to make contact with other E.O.'ers in the South Gloucester - Northavon areas. *

Is anyone out there interested in meeting on a regular basis for swimming/ outings etc. If so please make contact at:

16, Fitzhardinge Way,
Berkeley,
Glos.
Tel 0453 511361.

P.S. Daniel would love a pen-pal, preferably a boy of his own age.

Dear E.O.

We are the Watts family - Yvonne, Maurice, James (4¼) and John (2), and although we are fairly new to E.O., we would like to extend an invitation to all Dorset members. We are holding an "Open House", on Monday 31st August, and if anyone would like to join us for a cup of tea and a chat, etc, please feel free to just drop in any time from 10 am onwards. We could visit the Abbey and grounds, or the local farm park, (a small fee is charged), or go for a walk in the woods. If anyone has any ideas for activities, please let

us know on 0258-881196. We look forward to meeting you.

PS If you are staying all day, then bringing your own picnic lunch would be very much appreciated !!! (Hope nobody minds).

Yvonne and Maurice Watts,
21 Catherines Well,
Milton Abbas,
Blandford,
Dorset DT11 0AT

Dear E.O.

We are a family with 5½ year old twins, Olive and Cherry living in Stockwell, South London. We would welcome contact with any other EO families living nearby who might like regular get togethers/workshops/swaps. Also as vegans we would like contact with any EO vegan families.

Bridget Meadows,
9 Priory Grove,
Stockwell.
London SW8 2PD.
Tel 071-622-3998

Dear E.O.

Calling all 7 year old(ish) boys!!.....We're not sexist, or 'age-ist', honestly, but Steven, 7, would really like to meet more boys of around his own age. He has been out of school since last October, and is very happy, but wants the chance to make new friends. We will travel just about anywhere in the London area. Anyone out there?

Barbara and Steven (7),
19 Hardwicke Road,
London N13.
Tel: 081-881-1794

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Writer/family, ie fellow members,
seeks unfurnished property to rent in
either Devon or Cornwall, location
immaterial. Large mobile home
would suffice. Your help and consi-
deration would be greatly appreciated.

Milton Damerel
(0409 261) 639.
M R Ellis, Esq.,
Orchard Hill Cottage,
Bulkworthy,
Holsworthy,
North Devon, EX22 7UP.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Rachel Sanger, Steve Glynn, Helen
Sanger, and Adam Glynn have moved
to 36 Mayfield Avenue, Ealing, Lon-
don, W13 9UR
Tel. 081 579 0466

Adam Glynn was born on 3rd
March 1992

Beech Hill is a rural housing
co-operative in mid-Devon looking for
new members to rent, co-own or buy
their own units. We share the six-acre
grounds which include a paddock,
lawns, vegetable and flower gardens, a
vineyard (all organically cultivated)
and a swimming pool.

We have two units for sale,
A courtyard house for £57,500
A flat for £55,000
Interested? For details telephone
Nicholas or Lucy on:
03637-228 or 587

For Sale:

In the Highlands Of Scotland.
Large stone cottage, 3 bedrooms, large
playroom; workshop. 2/3rds acre.
£55,000 o.n.o. Further Info:

Kevin & Rosalind Ramsay,
96 Torroble,
Lairg,
Sutherland
0549-2212.

The Education Inspector here is
reasonable - We've had no problems
so far.

WANTED: Newsletter & Supplement...

Supplements can be on the practicalities of a curriculum subject or on a
much wider/looser subject that you feel might be of interest to members.

Please contact: Lynne Greenhough,
Publications Co-ordinator,
18 Park Street,
Alfreton,
Derbyshire DE5 7JE

...EDITORS

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education otherwise

Education Otherwise is a membership organization 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;
- ◆ reaffirm 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 an A5 s.a.e. to:

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