

First – apologies for absence of scheduled Newsletter. Several of the volunteers concerned with its production are unable to make their contributions at the moment. So trustees have decided to issue a bulletin to members, with as much information about the November gathering and AGM as is available now, and we aim to produce a proper NL later in the autumn. This applies also to ThT/Penpals – more apologies to young family members. Though it does mean you can ignore previous deadline, and send in your contributions any time over about the next month ...

Secondly – apologies for delays in processing membership applications and renewals. This is one of the key administrative jobs, and we have been trying to get it to work automatically. However, at present processing still has to be done manually, since it has proved impossible to get the new website system to 'talk' to the existing database, and the extent of the bottleneck has at times become overwhelming. This impacts on many other areas of our operation, e.g. the new Public Liability Insurance scheme for EO Local Groups. In addition, we had decided to move to welcome letters with integral membership cards, and have run into printing problems with these. Hence, members who have recently joined in order to take advantage of the Local Group Insurance still do not have their membership numbers.

We have had some successes – articles for the newsletter have been sent in spontaneously, and we know that members appreciate hearing about the HE experiences of others. The Public Liability Insurance scheme for Local Groups has meant that they are able to fulfil this requirement for their venues at a much lower cost than arranging insurance individually. However, both these services require a great deal of input from trustees and from other volunteers, who also have other commitments within EO, as well as their own HE/family/work lives.

And now a plea for more members to take an active part in running EO. Not just the areas mentioned above, but all parts of EO's administration really do need more input than can be managed by the current group of volunteers. EO was set up as a membership organisation, run by members, and until a few years ago this worked reasonably well with teams of volunteers covering the various activities, and jobs being split where possible. When some jobs became too large to be done on a voluntary basis we tried using paid staff, firstly on a contract basis and then employment, but that became unwieldy and – in the end – too great a financial drain on EO's resources. It also meant that the former volunteer teams disintegrated.

Several of the current trustees who took on administrative jobs that for a while had been done by paid staff, are really struggling to fit everything in – and in some cases close to collapse. Modern technology leads new members, and other enquiries that arrive every day, to expect an immediate response; and often this is impossible. It's got to the point where we're running so hard trying to catch up, that even urgent work isn't always getting dealt with, and although some new volunteers have come forward, it's difficult to know how to involve other people without spending even more time in sorting out how they can help.

Please attend the AGM if possible – even if only for the day (Saturday 24th November). It is vital for the future of EO that more members take part in the overall decision-making process. If you can't attend, and if you are (or are prepared to become) a Guarantor/Signed Up Member, then please appoint a proxy so that your vote can still be counted.

Those members who attended the Gathering in February can tell you that the Coalbrookdale Youth Hostel is a lovely venue, and comfortable – and even the teenagers had a good time. But it wasn't well attended and unless more members show that they want gatherings, this one in November is likely to be the last.

At the time of writing, we do not know how many of the current trustees are able to continue, and nominations (under our present M&As) can be received up to 4 days prior to the AGM, or even from the floor of the meeting itself – so it's not possible to produce a proxy form with voting list at the moment. Nor do we know, until the vote on the Special Resolution, how many trustees we shall be electing or exactly how those elections will work. Nearer to the AGM date, a mailing will be sent to all SUMs with as much further detail as then available, and draft accounts for the year ended 30th June.

This bulletin is being produced at short notice, and I have not been able to seek input from all trustees, so please regard it as a personal statement of how I see the situation. You may or may not receive it before I go to visit family in USA (son, d-I-I and grandson rising 5) for 2 weeks from 19th September ...

Anne Rix (Chair, Publications Secretary, NL Co-ordinator and general buckstopper)

NOTICES

The Welsh Government is proposing to change the law in Wales to permit compulsory registration and annual monitoring of home educated children. It is also proposing that there should be qualified expert assessment for home educated children with special/additional needs. There is a consultation running from September to November where you can put your views forward. The Welsh Government has also said it intends to consult separately on a definition of "suitable education" for home educated children. Since the referendum in March 2011 the Welsh Government has been able to make its own laws on education. <http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/education/registeringandmonitoring/?lang=en&status=open>
A second workshop for home educators to discuss these proposals is to be held at the Emmanuel Christian Centre, Lloyd Street, Llandudno LL30 2YA on October 16th. Please contact EO member Kath Sadler <kathsadler21@googlemail.com> for further details or to confirm attendance.

Public Liability Insurance for Local Groups – This is up and running, but if you are waiting for your membership number please complete the forms without it and send to the treasurer anyway. We should be able to identify you as a member in other ways, and process your application in anticipation.

Change of Webmaster – Sarah has now retired and Louisa has taken over. We are most grateful to them both. Louisa can be contacted via webmaster@educationotherwise.org

AGM/Gathering – Please see following pages.

Amendment to Memorandum & Articles – The proposed working group never got under way, but we are bringing a resolution to reduce the number of trustees (see following pages). This won't reduce the work, but should avoid our having to co-opt people who don't have time to make much contribution, just to make up numbers.

Local Contact Update – We have new Acting Local Contacts for North & West Yorkshire: Judith Hargreaves, Liverpool: Fe Mukwamba-Sendall, Doncaster: Cheryl Moy
Many thanks to new volunteers and to LCs in adjacent areas who have offered to extend their area of operation. It would be very helpful if LCs would please find a replacement & contact LCCO when stepping down.

We currently have vacancies for Local Contacts for the following counties:-

ENGLAND	Rutland	WALES
Cheshire	Shropshire	Anglesey
Gloucestershire	Somerset	Ceredigion
Hampshire	Suffolk	Pembrokeshire
Herefordshire	Wiltshire	Powys
Northamptonshire		

For more information and to volunteer (N.B. all EO volunteers are eligible for a reduced membership subscription, and receive a complimentary paper copy of the newsletter), please contact Lei Ashe, our Local Contact Co-ordinator <lcco-ordinator@educationotherwise.org>

Volunteer Vacancies

Newsletter Co-ordinator – contact Anne <arix@educationotherwise.org>
Helpline – contact Edwina <e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org>
EO Amazon Store – contact Anne <arix@educationotherwise.org>
Anything Else – contact Wendy <vol-coordinator@educationotherwise.org>

ADVANCE NOTICE

The **Annual General Meeting** of Education Otherwise Association Ltd
will be held at Coalbrookdale Hostel, TF8 7NR
on Saturday 24th November 2012 at 11.30 a.m.

The ordinary business of the AGM is to consider the accounts for year ended 30th June 2012, to receive reports from officers, to elect members to the Council of Management and to appoint auditors/independent examiners.

Under our present Memorandum and Articles of Association (M&As) the number of Council Members (Trustees) is set at between 14 and 19. However, Trustees are proposing a Special Resolution to reduce this number to between 8 and 15.

At September 2012 there are 16 Council members in post, five of whom must stand down (under our present M&As), but may seek re-election. At the time of writing (September) we are unsure how many trustees are willing to stand for re-election. The Council may recommend other candidates for election.

Should the Special Resolution be passed (and it needs a 75% majority) then the intention of Trustees is that all should stand down and elections be held for all candidates. More details will be circulated to Guarantors (SUMs) three weeks prior to the AGM. Family members who wish to become SUMs should complete the form elsewhere in bulletin.

Signed-Up Members (i.e. guarantors) of EO may also propose candidates. In this case, written notice from the proposer and signed consent from the candidate (who must also be a SUM / guarantor) must both reach the

EO Trustees, P.O. Box 3761, Swindon, SN2 9GT

no earlier than Thursday 1st November and no later than Thursday 22nd November 2012 if by post, or be brought to the meeting venue by 10.30 am on Saturday 24th November

In the event of a vote at the AGM, guarantors (SUMs) present at the AGM are entitled to take part, provided that they have paid their EO subscription fee for family membership.

If you cannot attend, you may appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf.

If you wish to become a guarantor of EO, please complete the form on the last page, *as soon as possible*, to ensure that you receive full AGM information prior to the meeting.

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**Agenda for AGM:**

1. Minutes of the previous AGM
2. Consideration of the accounts.
3. Auditor/Independent Examiner’s Remuneration
4. Appointment of Auditor/Independent Examiner
5. Vote on Special Resolution (text overleaf)
6. Election of new Council Members

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Please arrive at 10.30 if possible as the AGM will start promptly at 11.30. Members presenting forms of proxy or for nomination of trustees MUST register by 10.30 am.

Lunch and drinks will be provided on the day of the meeting; please let us know numbers attending and if you have any allergies or access requirements at least 48 hours in advance. Contact: Janet Simpson:

HE@hubblesimpson.co.uk Postal requests (please include stamped SAE) 45 Morton Terrace, Gainsborough, Lincs, DN21 2RG

Special Resolution – Number of Members of the Council

N.B. Existing Article 23 reads:

23. Until otherwise determined by a General Meeting, the number of the members of the Council shall not be less than fourteen nor more than nineteen.

Special Resolution:

THAT: Article 23 shall be amended to read:

“23. Until otherwise determined by a General Meeting, the number of the members of the Council shall not be less than eight nor more than fifteen.”

AND THAT: in Article 25 the words “between eight and ten regional representatives and up to three other members” shall be deleted and the words “between two and seven other members” shall be added.

Intention of resolution

To bring the number of Trustees (Council Members) more in line with Charity Commission recommendations, and to avoid the necessity for co-opting additional members simply to maintain the current minimum of 14. It is anticipated that this will also assist in the decision-making process on Council, while still enabling sufficient Trustees to be elected to cover the essential work of Council.

The relevant section of the M&As would then read:

COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT

23. Until otherwise determined by a General Meeting, the number of the members of the Council shall not be less than eight nor more than fifteen.

24. The first members of the Council shall be the subscribers to the Memorandum of Association.

25. The Council shall consist of a Chairperson, General Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Publications Secretary, Enquiries Secretary and between two and seven other members.

26. The Council may from time to time and at any time appoint any member of the Association as a member of the Council, either to fill a casual vacancy or by way of addition to the Council, provided that the prescribed maximum be not thereby exceeded. Any member so appointed shall retain his office only until the next Annual General Meeting, but he shall then be eligible for re-election.

27. No person who is not a member of the Association shall in any circumstances be eligible to hold office as a member of the Council.

[note: in this context the term 'member of the Association' means a guarantor (Signed Up Member) rather than a family member. Please consider becoming a SUM in order to ensure you can vote on the resolution and in trustee elections. Form at end of bulletin – please complete and return as soon as possible, to ensure that you receive full AGM documents in good time.]

GATHERING – EO Coalbrookdale Gathering – Fri. 23rd to Mon. 26th November 2012
With EO AGM and Open Council Meeting on Saturday 24th November

Prior to the Gathering in February at the same venue, it had been 4 years since the last EO Gathering, so members who have never attended one might like to know what to expect. Members who attended in February were enthusiastic about the hostel, its facilities, and the activities available. There certainly seemed to be a number of teenagers who got on well with each other and found plenty to do (apart from washing-up duties!). Those who remember enjoying previous gatherings look forward to catching up with old friends and making new ones. Due to the short notice, not many members were able to attend in February, but we hope that with plenty of advance information this time around, many more members will take advantage of this opportunity to meet trustees and other members, and join in the decision-making process of the organisation.

SO – WHAT HAPPENS AT AN EO GATHERING?

EO used to hold Gatherings throughout the country as social occasions; families would attend as a way of meeting home educators from across the UK and staying together in a hostel. At a gathering cooking and cleaning is done on a communal basis using a rota (everyone volunteers where they feel most comfortable) and everyone eats together in the dining room. Special diets and allergies are catered for and we will be serving both meat and vegan options. Bedding is provided by the hostel but not towels.

A limited number of cots are available for those who require them. Coalbrookdale has lots of family rooms with ensuite facilities as well as a few eight-bed ensuite rooms for those wishing to share with friends. Parents are responsible for any children they bring while staying at the hostel. There are two disabled access rooms available but they are available on a first come, first served basis. So please book as soon as possible if you require one or both of these rooms.

While no formal activities are arranged there are some funds available for anyone with an interest or craft activity that they would like to share with other families. We're in the Ironbridge area so some families might like to go out for the day and explore the area. Or there is just hanging out in the hostel chatting to new friends, swapping stories, home education information and suggestions, and sections of the weekend papers.

Members may attend for the meeting only, but if staying at the hostel will need to book in advance. Rates are shown below, but please request a booking form as soon as possible if you are interested in attending.

Please give as much notice as possible of any special requirements or disabled-access (rooms are limited - first come, first served).

Children under 2 years old are free, if they don't require their own bed. Otherwise costs are:

For those staying one night only – Adult (18+) £25 - Child (11+) £12 - Child (2-10) £8

Anyone staying two nights or more – Adult (18+) £17.50 - Child (11+) £12 - Child (2-10) £8

All prices are per night. This includes all meals during your stay: evening meals, breakfast in the mornings and lunch on Saturday and Sunday. A wide variety of drinks and snacks are available at any time.

For booking forms & further information please contact Janet Simpson: HE@hubblesimpson.co.uk

Postal requests (please include stamped SAE) 45 Morton Terrace, Gainsborough, DN21 2RG

Coalbrookdale Youth Hostel Address: 1 Paradise, Coalbrookdale, Telford, TF8 7NR

Tel: 0845 371 9325 (YHA Coalport) directions and more information about the venue can be found at: <http://www.yha.org.uk/find-accommodation/heart-of-england/hostels/Coalbrookdale/index.aspx>

Forms of Proposal for Trustee & Acceptance of Nomination:

PROPOSAL

Name of Proposing Member:

Memb No (if known):.....

Address.....

I, being a Signed Up Member of Education Otherwise Association Limited, hereby propose

(Name) (who is also a Signed up Member of EO Assoc. Ltd).

Memb No (if known):..... of (address).....

for election as a Trustee of Education Otherwise Association Ltd.

Signed: Date:
(proposer)

N.B. This form (or each part separately) must be sent to *arrive between 1st and 22nd November 2012*, to: **EO Trustees, P.O. Box 3761, Swindon, SN2 9GT**

ACCEPTANCE

I, Name of candidate:being a Signed Up Member of
Education Otherwise Association Limited, hereby confirm that I accept the nomination by
..... [name of proposer] and am willing to stand as a Trustee.

Candidate's Memb No (if known):.....

Candidate's Address.....

Signed: Date:
(candidate)

N.B. This form (or each part separately) must be sent to *arrive between 1st and 22nd November 2012*, to: **EO Trustees, P.O. Box 3761, Swindon, SN2 9GT**

EDUCATION OTHERWISE ASSOCIATION LIMITED
SIGNED-UP MEMBERS (SUM) FORM (Guarantor Declaration)
N.B. Please Complete Form in BLOCK CAPITALS

I (FULL NAME)

of Home Address (print in full):

.....
wish to become a guarantor (Signed-up Member) of Education Otherwise Association Limited ('the Association'). I confirm that I am over the age of 18 and a paid-up family member of the Association. In the event of the Association being wound up I agree to contribute up to £10 in payment of any debts and liabilities it may have incurred.

I understand that the details I give on this form will be entered on to the Association's Register of Members and that under the Companies Act 2006 it is possible for someone to request sight of or a copy of this Register for a proper purpose. The Association may then disclose the details I provide on this form.

I further understand that in the event of my ceasing to be a paid-up family member of Education Otherwise, or if at any time I resign as a SUM by written notification to EO's correspondence address, I will cease to be a guarantor and Signed-Up Member of the Association one year later.

Signed: Date

Communications by email

I consent to Education Otherwise sending or supplying any document or information (including any notice) to me using electronic means. My email address for this purpose is:

Email address:

Signed: Date

Make Sure You Have a Vote at EO General Meetings

Only Signed-up Members are entitled to vote at EO General Meetings. These include Annual General Meetings (AGMs) where Trustees are elected, and Extraordinary General Meetings (EGMs) which may take place between AGMs. Even if you are unable to attend a meeting yourself, you can still have a vote by appointing a proxy to vote on your behalf.

Education Otherwise will continue to send any correspondence related to your Signed-up Membership to the email or postal address given on this SUM form until the Association is advised in writing by the SUM of resignation or that the address on the Register of Members should be changed. Such changes should be notified to:

Education Otherwise SUMs, PO Box 3761, Swindon, SN2 9GT

Please return this form to: Education Otherwise SUMs, PO Box 3761, Swindon, SN2 9GT
[please note that SUM/Guarantor forms CANNOT be sent electronically]

education otherwise

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;
- reaffirm that parents have 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;
- promote knowledge, understanding and acceptance of education otherwise than at school in the world at large.

Helpline: 0845 478 6345

Website: www.education-otherwise.net

Education Otherwise Association Ltd., Registered Charity No. 1055120 A
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