

education otherwise



Newsletter Autumn 2018

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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NEXT ISSUE: DEADLINE *December 15th*

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Submission does not guarantee publication. EO reserves the right to edit or reject contributions in line with editorial policy.

PLEASE NOTE: *We normally print only first name and Town or County of adult EO members. If you wish you may use a pseudonym, but we still need your full name and address for administrative purposes. For **CHILDREN'S CONTRIBUTIONS**: We print first name and age – but again, we also need family name and contact details (of parent). We do not print anonymous contributions.*

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please notify us by email: membership@educationotherwise.org, or by post to:

Membership Secretary, Education Otherwise, 2 Senlac Green, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1NN

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Co-ordinatorial

Emma has had to stand down as Newsletter Co-ordinator due to a family illness, so I'm here just for this issue to take her place. We'd all like to thank Emma for everything she's done in the role—and we'd love to hear from anyone who might be interested in stepping into her shoes. Please email eonl@educationotherwise.org to find out more.

Change is afoot, and this issue's main news items concern the future of both Education Otherwise the charity and this newsletter. Sadly there is no young writers' page in this issue as we had no submissions this quarter, but we're hoping to expand that section of the newsletter in its new incarnation, and to offer a prize in each issue for an essay or short story submitted by a young writer. Look out for more details in your inbox soon. And if you have news to share with other members, a feature proposal, or would like to contribute to the new 'Readers' Letters' page, we're standing by to receive them on eonl@educationotherwise.org.

Please send us your feedback and help us to fill your new member magazine with the kind of content you enjoy. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sarah Willans, Trustee

EO Notices

New weblink category: Activities for HE groups

Have you checked the EO website's Links pages recently? We're constantly updating them, and newly added this month is a category for 'Activities/workshops for HE groups'.

If your group has run a successful workshop or activity with the help of an outside provider, please let us know about it and we'll add the provider to the list. If you're offering such activities yourself, please also get in touch.

One of the first entries in the new category is 'Mini Map-makers': activities for 4 - 18yr olds centred around maps and mapmaking – see the website for details, and if you run a mapmaking session at your own group please do write and tell us how it goes.

For all comments on or additions to the Links pages, including notification of broken links, please email webmaster@educationotherwise.org.

Volunteer needed for Local Groups Liaison

This post would suit someone who enjoys keeping accurate records and is comfortable communicating by email and telephone. The time commitment required is small and very flexible. The main tasks of the Local Groups Liaison volunteer are:

- To maintain the list of local HE groups published in the newsletter and on the EO website.
- To be the main contact, via email, for local groups wishing to join the list, or to make changes in their entries.
- To contact listed groups, on a regular basis and a minimum of once per year, to check that the details we hold for them are correct.
- To liaise with the EO HE Group Insurance contact and the Membership Secretary, verifying the status of applicant groups.
- To provide the Trustees with updates about any significant matters relating to local HE groups.

This is a voluntary post, but agreed expenses will be repaid. If you'd like to know more, please contact trustees@educationotherwise.org.

The EO newsletter is changing

This will be the last issue of the Education Otherwise newsletter in this format. Please keep an eye on your email inbox for the first issue of its replacement, *Otherwise Magazine*—a quarterly magazine-style e-newsletter containing longer features and reports on all aspects of home education and family life.

The older-style newsletter isn't disappearing completely, though. Instead it will become an occasional email bulletin containing time-sensitive news items and EO business, produced as and when there's something to report. Both publications will be delivered electronically by default, but it will still be possible for those members who don't have web access or simply prefer print to opt for postal delivery of a printed copy of 'Otherwise Magazine', for a small extra payment to cover the cost of printing and delivery. And up to the expiry of your current membership you can choose to have the magazine delivered by post at no extra charge: just email us at print@educationotherwise.org with your name, address and membership number or write to the Membership Secretary with the same information (see 'Who does What in EO') and we'll do the rest.

The News and EO business bulletins will not be available by post, but all content will be uploaded to the member area of the website—so if a bulletin escapes your inbox you can catch up with it there.

Why electronic?

The print newsletter has several big disadvantages:

- It has to be commercially printed and posted, and that's expensive.
- There's a long lead time to each issue, and many of the news items we receive would be out of date by the time the newsletter arrives and so have to be left out.
- The environmental impact of a printed newsletter is much greater than that of an electronic one.

What will happen to the money saved?

There are several important projects that could benefit from the money saved when the newsletter goes electronic:

- We are planning a new phone system for the EO Helpline, providing more flexible working for volunteers and cheaper calls for enquirers.
- We'd like to reissue a number of useful EO publications that have gone out of print, such as 'School is Not Compulsory', a handbook for new home educators.
- We want to invest in training and support for our volunteers, who are the backbone of EO.

The considerable savings achieved on the newsletter will enable us to push ahead with these projects and others like them.

Other changes

The newsletter was established at a time when print was the only real way of providing information for members, but times have changed and there are now better ways. For example, the Local Groups list that has appeared at the end of each newsletter issue will now be delivered solely through the website's Local Groups Directory pages rather than the magazine or bulletins. This single web location will reduce the burden of upkeep on our overstretched volunteer resources, and mean that we can provide more information about each group. And we can use the space saved to provide more interesting and relevant content for all our readers.

What should I do next?

Watch your email inbox for the first issue of the new *Otherwise Magazine*. In this sampler issue you'll find examples of three new regular features, an invitation to tell us your own stories, and details of what to expect from future issues.

If you'd like to receive print copies of *Otherwise Magazine* up to the end of your current membership subscription, please email print@educationotherwise.org or write to the Membership Secretary with your name and membership number and we'll arrange it. **Please note that this will be a black and white printout of a full colour magazine.**

When your membership renewal comes around, there will be an opportunity during the renewal process to opt for print copies of *Otherwise Magazine* at a small extra cost.

If you do neither of these things, you will continue to receive *Otherwise Magazine* by email, plus additional bulletins as and when they are produced.

If you don't receive the first issue of *Otherwise Magazine* to your inbox, it may mean that we have the wrong email address for you. Please follow these instructions to check and update your contact details:

1. Log into the site using the login form at the bottom of the home page at www.educationotherwise.org
2. Under 'Member pages' in the top menu, choose 'Member area'.
3. From the Member menu, choose 'Update your details'.
4. Enter your new details and click 'Save'.

Forgotten your login details?

If you've lost your password, you can reset it by clicking the 'Forgot your password?' link below the login box and then following the instructions. But you'll need your username to complete the process. If you've lost that too, get in touch via webmaster@educationotherwise.org using the email address for your account, and we'll send you a reminder.

EDUCATION OTHERWISE BUSINESS

Change to CIO status

At the 2016 AGM, members voted to instruct the trustees to prepare for changing the legal structure of EO from a charitable limited company (CLC) to a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). As you will appreciate, changing the legal structure of an organisation is not a simple matter. However, we are now at the point where we are ready to put this to a ballot. As a signed-up member, this is your chance to have a say in the future of EO (If you are not yet a signed-up member, you can become one by filling out the application form and sending it to the membership secretary).

We will be holding a postal and email ballot in October. The ballot will consist of three resolutions:

1. To agree that the organisation should apply to the Charity Commission for conversion to a CIO
2. To agree the constitution of the charity, which will replace the memorandum and articles as the governing document
3. To confirm that the existing trustees of the CLC will be the founding trustees of the CIO.

If you, our members, agree with these changes, we hope to complete the process in time for the next AGM which we are planning for January.

Why change?

There are a number of benefits to CIO status which mean that EO is easier and cheaper to manage. Currently, we have to follow two sets of rules—company rules and charity ones—and we have to make regular reports to both Companies House and the Charity Commission. A CIO has to follow simplified rules designed specifically for small charities like EO and files reports only with the Charity Commission. This will result in cost and time savings which means more time and money is available for our charitable work.

There has not been a significant revision to our governing document for many years and the current document does not allow us to make full use of technology such as email, social media and audio/video conferencing. The current governing document also imposes on us a structure that worked well when the organisation was bigger but no longer really fits us. The new governing document closely follows the Charity Commission's own recommendations for a charity of our size, and provides flexibility whilst retaining the essential safeguards to ensure the charity is well governed.

What is not changing?

Most importantly, the new structure does not change the fundamental aims of EO. The "charitable objectives", which define what trustees must seek to achieve and what resources can be spent on, have been preserved word-for-word in the new governing document. As such, your trustees will continue to provide support for home educating families and to promote home education. In fact, we are looking to do much more of these things.

If you want to know more about the proposals, go to the members area of the website where you can find the proposed constitution, and also a discussion in the members forum about these proposals. If you don't have internet access, you can request a printed copy of the constitution by post.

As trustees, we recommend that you vote in favour of these proposals and help us to future-proof this amazing charity.

Local contact update

Local Contacts needed

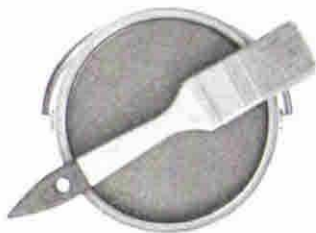
The work of Education Otherwise is supported by a network of Local Contact volunteers – EO members who have explored the opportunities for home educating families in their locality and are happy to share their local knowledge with new HE families and those who have recently moved to the area.

Most LC volunteers move on when their children finish home education, and we always need new volunteers to take their place. All that is necessary is first-hand experience of home education in your own family, some local knowledge, and a desire to help others who are taking the first steps on their HE journey. EO membership fees are waived for all active volunteers.

If you'd like to know more about becoming an EO Local Contact, please get in touch via eolc@educationotherwise.org for more information.

Musings of a Permanently Frazzled Mummy: Static on the move!

Hoping you've all enjoyed the Indian-like temperatures this summer and are back into the swing of all things home-ed. Our summer didn't quite go according to plan – I'm starting to think this is just the way of life for the permanently frazzled crew – with a very delayed, and very over-budget building project, that is still waiting to be finished as I type. I know Kevin McCloud of 'Grand Designs' fame always recommends having a spare 10% of the estimated costs as a contingency, but we would never have dreamt that we'd be in the region of £12,000 short. All we asked for was a wooden box attached to the side of the house, to provide a much-needed 2nd bathroom, and a music room where I can attempt to regain some of my teenage musical talent on the flute and piano (I'm hoping it's just like riding a bike!) and perhaps even teach myself the guitar in honour of my late dad. I have no idea where I'm going to get all this free time from, but I'll worry about that when the extension is finished. We've chosen and bought the shower room floor tiles, laminate for the music room, and all the paint, so are just waiting on the builders to finish the electrics and fit the architrave and doors.



It will all be totally delicious when it is finally finished, but in the meantime, our family den is piled high with new furniture and building materials, and covered with an increasingly thick layer of dust. We will, however, have added value in the form of a potential annexe for a granny/teenager, replaced the storage heaters with central heating, exchanged our old cesspit for a very swish (and pricey!) sewage treatment plant, and had my dream kitchen installed. Having spent years having to manage with the house in the condition we bought it in, unable to afford to do any of the jobs that many families do a bit at a time, it will be a relief that all the big stuff is finally achieved—but it does mean we are totally out of money: another aspect of life that I've become resigned to, although we are very blessed to have been able to achieve everything eventually.

To be fair to the builders, the delays have been largely unavoidable and the standard of work is great, but my patience is starting to be overtaken by frustration, because until the project is finished, we can't move the boys' static caravan into place. The static has been living at a friendly neighbour's who has lots of land, because we couldn't fit it and a 7 tonne digger in the garden at the same time. It took us 3 hours to manoeuvre it out of the rear of our garden and tow it 200 yards up the road, on one of the hottest days of the year and unfortunately coinciding with rush-hour. Getting the static onto our neighbour's land proved interesting, especially trying to edge a 12 foot wide caravan through 13 foot wide gateposts – needless to say we now owe him new gateposts— and involved me racing, as much as I ever race anywhere, from the growing traffic jam on one side of the static to the other side, apologising, explaining, and pointing out an alternative route around the block because we'd managed to totally cut off the road. Fortunately the end is in sight, with the static bleached from top to bottom, freshly painted in every room, and all the required new furniture purchased and ready to install. We gave in to the boys' pleas to choose their own colours, and whilst they will never win any awards for home design, they have created a rather interesting home for themselves. As soon as it's back in the garden and in position on the purpose-built base, our eldest is good-to-go with laminating all the floor, then they'll be moving in. They're starting to make noises about a moving-in party, but we're yet to be persuaded that's entirely necessary, purely for selfish reasons: we're ready for a rest!

Due to our building project being off-plan, we ended up needing to be on site for most of the summer so that we could explain and make decisions on each issue/choice as it arose. We did manage to escape for a

few nights here and there though, starting with a weekend in Nottingham for Splendour family music festival. Headlined by Paloma Faith (incidentally, the name chosen by number 3 for her birthday hamster) and ably supported by The Charlatans, Bjorn Again, Toploader, The Stranglers, Marc Almond and Sophie Ellis Bextor, it was an amazing day out, especially as we were joined by relatively new home-ed friends, who rose to the occasion by painting nearly every available inch of skin with fluorescent body crayons, and were happy to embarrass themselves in impromptu, crazy group dancing—which yes, did at times include ‘the floss’, much to the delight of the slightly more mature group of ladies relaxing behind us. It was our 3rd attempt to make it to the festival without any mishaps, and whilst we don’t believe in luck, we were glad that the weekend finally went smoothly.

We then returned to Nottingham a few weeks later to enjoy a variety of activities at Holme Pierrepont, the National Watersports Centre, to celebrate ragamuffin number 2 becoming a teenager: kayaking, high ropes, crazy golf, and Segway. We’d booked a couple of camping pods for the night, and after a little tour taking in the sights of the city—all our old homes, the school where we met as teachers, the registry office where we got married and some of our favourite country parks – we caught up with a load of old friends and their families. It was interesting that whilst we both felt a little wistful about having left so many truly wonderful friends behind 13 years ago, permanently frazzled hubby and I both agreed that we didn’t miss the crazily busy roads, not just at rush-hour but at all times of the day, and we are still in agreement that we’re living right where we’re meant to be for now. The kids were all quite shocked at the business and noise, and proclaimed they were relieved to be back in the peace and quiet of the middle of nowhere: no doubt our long-suffering neighbours wished we’d stayed away for longer than just 1 night.

I think the highlight of the summer, for me at least, was a long weekend spent at a PGL site near Grantham, with two lovely families we already knew and a whole heap of wonderfully individual and interesting home-ed families from around the country. The ragamuffins amazed us with their determination to conquer all the activities, many of which involved heights—very high heights at that—and I came away with a new-found respect for their attitudes and approach to difficult tasks. I’m afraid I wasn’t quite as brave when faced with heights, and poor hubby wasn’t able to attempt some of them due to his mobility issues, but I got pretty handy at belaying and hubby was a dab hand at the archery. It was an amazing time of forging new friendships with a fantastic bunch of people, led by experienced staff for whom nothing was too much trouble, and even the torrential rain couldn’t dampen our mood. Take a look if you’re into challenging outdoor activities: www.pgl.co.uk

Our final little venture away from home was a night in our new tepee at our favourite little site near Holt, just so that I could spend a day on the stunning Mundesley beach. Although it was a bit too chilly for me to venture onto my body board, I did get a little time to sit and reflect on the past year and try to collect my thoughts for the academic year we’re about to start.

So, what does the next year hold in store for us? Well, it’s going to be our final year of home-ed as we know it, with our eldest ragamuffin starting monthly taster sessions at college as preparation for going full-time next September. I’m finding it incredibly difficult, and painful, to recognise the burgeoning young man in front of me, rather than still seeing him as my chubby firstborn who wanted to feed 24/7 and couldn’t bear to be parted from me. I am very relieved, though, that at least he’ll get the extra support he needs at college, thanks to our successful application for an EHC plan, so I’m a little happier handing him over to the care of others than I was before. The EHC plan also means that if he needs to take his time with gaining qualifications and going at a slower pace than the other students, he’ll be eligible for free education until his mid-20s, so he can deal with his broadening horizons at his own speed and will have the opportunity to change course if he decides carpentry is not for him. He’s looking forward to a few days’ work experience later next month with our amazing family friend carpenter, and his jobs list for home includes building a

wood store and a new chicken run, so we're hoping his carpentry skills will be advanced enough for him to skip level 1 at college and go straight onto the level 2 course.

Our daily life has become far more structured than it's ever been, with the teen boys doing English, Maths and spelling every morning, then we're racing out around lunchtime to a variety of sports and activities every day of the week until Friday, when I generally feel like pressing 'pause' on life and taking some time to recharge. Not easy to get time to myself with a big family, as many of you know. I've started working on Functional English with our eldest so that we can build up to GCSE level slowly, and have introduced KS3 Geography to number 2 and 3 children (hoping that our 9 year old little genius can have a positive effect on number 2, who's rather inclined to be a little lazy – nothing wrong with a bit of sibling rivalry!) with a view to studying that at GCSE level in the future as well. The baby of the bunch, now aged 7, is still not reading or composing, but has the most beautiful cursive penmanship, which she enjoys practising most days. She's increasingly interested in language and sounds, so we're sure it will happen when she's ready. She has just achieved another distinction in her latest dance exam and is easily the most athletic of the bunch, so we figure her brain is just busy with other stuff at the moment and will get round to reading and writing when it has time. I think the one thing we've learned from 11 years of formally home-educating is that every child genuinely will achieve what they need to achieve when their brain is ready to deal with it—but it can still feel a little risky to leave them to their own devices at times, especially when their peers are racing ahead with formal learning and achieving amazing GCSE results from only 1 year of study. It's a bit like our building project: all good things come to those who wait. But whilst I'm incredibly impatient to race through the next few weeks to the end of the project, I would do anything to slow down time and have my gang still racing about on their little toddler legs, rather than heading towards adulthood.

[name and address supplied]

Autumn 2018 Book Reviews

Hi everyone, this time we have four books with fictional stories about children facing challenging life events. Probably suitable for older readers (upper primary +), the reviews are by Grace, 10.

Counting by 7's

by Holly Sloan Piccadilly Press £6.99

This is a story about a genius twelve-year-old girl called Willow who lives with her adoptive parents at the end of the San Joaquin Valley. Willow is obsessed with the number seven, medical conditions and plants. She was evaluated as 'highly gifted' and was called a 'weirdo' by the children. Willow loves looking after and studying plants and is very knowledgeable, but when she takes a standardised test and gets one hundred per cent everyone thinks she cheated, so she is sent to a behavioural counsellor named Dell Duke. While with him she meets Vietnamese Mai and her older troublemaker brother Quang-ha. One day Dell takes them all out for ice cream and when she comes home she discovers that her parents have died in a car crash with a truck. So Mai says that her mum will take care of Willow, but when she arrives at the Nguyens she finds out that they live in the garage outside their store, where Patti, (Mai's mother), does people's nails. When there is an inspection to make sure that Mai's home is suitable for Willow to live in, Willow asks Dell if they can live in his apartment for a few weeks, but when they go there it is a tip. Once they clean the apartment up Willow gets to work – she fixes the TV, makes a community garden and helps Quang-ha with his homework. When she finally settles in, her social worker says that she has to come with her to a foster home, but while she is waiting she faints on to a coffee table and injures her head. Whilst in hospital she sneaks out, and when she returns she learns that she will go to a courtroom. She feels scared

and nervous whilst in the reception and hacks into the court system and is almost caught. When she goes in she realises that Pattie and Jairo, (a taxi driver Willow helped get into university and get a wart removed as she thought it could be cancerous), have both applied for permanent custody over her and it is granted.

I liked how when Willow came into their lives she changed the characters. One woman's drive and determination changed their whole lives.

Little Bits of Sky

by S. E. Durrant Nosy Crow £7.99

This is a story about a shy girl called Ira and her always-running brother Zac, who are foster kids. When Ira and Zac's social worker says that there is a room in a children's home for them they start the two-hour drive to East London to arrive at Skilly House. The man who runs Skilly is called Silas and has ringlets in his hair and wears an old leather jacket, but he is very nice. One night because of a really big storm, the enormous tree in the garden blows over. Then one day Ira looks under her bed and finds a letter from a girl who had lived in Skilly a long time ago, so she writes a letter back. After finding the letter she starts seeing Glenda, (the girl from the letter), once she even sees her and some other children dancing in the garden at night and joins them. The Zac and Ira go on holiday to see a nice woman called Martha. They soon discover she is an artist, then she takes them out into the garden to have a shot at painting. When they leave, Martha says she would love to have them back. Back at Skilly they have an Easter egg hunt with eggs that have their names on. When they get back to Martha she has a puppy named Dash, who they play with and teach to count. When they go home, they think that they see their mum on the TV, so when they go back to Martha's, Zac is in a huff. When they are at the market Zac gets on a bus with Dash to try and find their mum, but Dash ends up dying. Back at Skilly they receive word that Martha still wants to adopt Ira and Zac and Ira finds out that Glenda is actually Mrs Clanks, the mean old secretary at Skilly. When they are back at Martha's, they find that she has a new dog and the book ends with them all living happily together.

I liked Ira the most because she is shy, kind and she acts really grown up as well. Even though she's had quite a difficult life she is still a happy, positive person who helps others.

A Room Full of Chocolate

by Jane Elson Hodder Children's Books £6.99

When Grace's mum finds a lump under her arm on Grace's tenth birthday, her life is turned upside down. When her mum goes to hospital she has to travel three hours to go and live with her boring old grandad in Yorkshire. When her dad picks her up half-way through history, the only bright side is: (a) she gets a purple I-pad, (b) she misses maths (boring) and (c) she gets a purple suitcase and backpack. After she arrives at her grandad's farm she meets a girl named Meghan and her pet pig Claude. Then one day a mean girl at her school, (Lucy), beats her up and Meghan fights Lucy for her. Then on their school trip to the railway station in the Victorian era, Grace and Meghan run away with the help of two boys who want to run away to become football stars, but then while coming off the bus they are caught. They manage to get away and get on the tube, though they are caught skipping the barrier by a guard. Once they escape they manage to get to Grace's house hoping to stay the night, then the police arrive so they sneak into the next-door neighbour's treehouse and spend the night there. In the morning they manage to travel to the hospital that Grace's mum is in and then Claude gets out and everyone in the ward is laughing. Then Grace's grandad comes in with Allie, (Meghan's mum). At the end of this story Grace, her mum, Allie and Meghan—and wait, you can't forget Claude—are all together and live happily ever after.

I liked Claude and Meghan the best because Claude is really funny and greedy, and Meghan is really tough and adventurous.

The Mighty Miss Malone

by Christopher Paul Curtis Yearling £6.99

This is a story about a very poor, smart, black, twelve-year-old girl called Deza Malone, who lives in Gary, Indiana with her dad, mum and her brother Jimmie. One day while the family are eating their dinner, Jimmie comes in with a pie, but it is a stolen pie, and Deza has to go with Jimmie to return it. The good thing is that the woman that Jimmie stole the pie from only makes Jimmie her pupil for maths tutoring and asks him to do some errands for her. Then her father, with some of his friends go fishing and people think they have all died, but one day her mother finds her husband and brings him home. After Deza's dad comes back he has to leave for work in Flint, soon after Jimmie leaves for work at a club. When Jimmie leaves town, Deza follows him hoping to catch up with him. Once she has caught up with him he takes her to get her back teeth filled. After she finds Jimmie, he says that he wants to stay in the nightclub as a singer, but then Deza discovers that he sent her father's letters pretending to be him and probably sent the keys for a new house back in Gary. Deza and her mum begin the drive back to Michigan to find her dad, who they discover in a poorhouse. This book ends with Deza, her mum and dad all together and heading back to Gary.

I liked the story because it is about a loving family who even when split up find each other again. My favourite character is Deza because she is brave, smart and not afraid to speak up.

Writers' Group

How did you get on with the writing prompts in the last issue? Here are some new ones to keep you busy as the nights draw in:

Poetry or prose:

Write a poem or story featuring repetition of key lines, entitled *Revolving Door*.

Prose:

Choose an advertisement photograph in a glossy magazine, and tell its unexpected story.

Poetry:

Write a ten-line poem on any subject with no punctuation and no capitals, using only line breaks to make its sense clear.

We'd love to read the results, and to publish some of them in the Winter issue. Please email your work to: eonl@educationotherwise.org with 'Writers' Group' in the subject line.

Gwen Baldock

We have received the sad news that EO stalwart Gwen Baldock died on October 1st. We know that everyone who knew her will wish to extend their sympathies to her family. A full obituary will appear in a future issue.

EDUCATING ARCHIE:
A Co-ordinator's Burdens

BY SEG



Autumn has always been a busy time for EO's volunteers... ©SEG 1988

Thirty years on, we still get this sort of enquiry! We would welcome more Helpline volunteers and Local Contacts (formerly known as Co-ordinators) – if you're interested in helping out, contact EO: eenquiries@educationotherwise.org

[Archive Selection by Anne, Norfolk]

LOCAL HOME EDUCATION GROUP ORGANISERS

Thank you to those who have already renewed.

Have **YOU** remembered?

EO PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

This benefit for Local Home Education Groups run by EO members continues at £10 per year *or part year* from 1st September; you can join at any time of year. As it is subsidised from EO funds (which means from the subscriptions EO members pay) there are some terms and conditions – for example, we ask for 3 EO family members from different households to sign up to take responsibility for the group and to keep in contact with us.

Please note that your group must comply with the description agreed with the insurance company, in accordance with the general understanding of a Home Education Group, i.e.:

- A group of home educating families co-operating to provide mutual support, sharing information and resources, and meeting for social and educational activities and/or outings.
- Activities are free (or at small contribution to cover costs) i.e. non profit-making.
- Parents (or other named adults) attend with their children, who are of mixed ages.
- Usually, activities take place at a variety of venues, are organised collaboratively by different parents and open to all local HE families.

Also, EO insurance cannot act as an 'umbrella' for other formally constituted organisations. For example, if your group is a charity in its own right, you will need to take out separate insurance.

Detailed guidance and application forms are available to download from the Member Home area of the EO website or by email from the Local Groups Insurance Co-ordinator lgic@educationotherwise.org

Thank you to those who have already renewed. If you're doing it now, please drop me an email when you post off your form and cheque; this helps me get your insurance processed quickly. Anne

Queries/Further information: Local Groups Insurance Co-ordinator lgic@educationotherwise.org

LOCAL HOME EDUCATION GROUPS

Parents Please Note

HE families – Please contact the group organiser for full details and to check that activities are ongoing – and let us know if you can't get in touch. Note also that not all groups are run by EO members. Further information on the groups listed below is available via the Local HE Groups area of the EO website. If you know of a group that's not listed, **please ask the organiser to enter it at www.educationotherwise.org**

Group organisers – please remember when giving details of events, that this list (both in Newsletter and on website) may be seen by

people who are not members of Education Otherwise, and adjust your information accordingly.

Please also notify us promptly of contact & other changes via the **Local Groups Co-ordinator: eolg@educationotherwise.org**

To add your group to our listings, please visit the Local HE Groups Directory on the EO website.

workshops, etc. www.heroesberkshire.co.uk/homeeducators.html

ENGLAND

Bedfordshire

BedHed – for support and organising meet ups.

Contact Susan: susanthrossell@msn.com

<http://bedhed.org.uk>

Berkshire

Expanding Horizons – www.expandinghorizonsuk.com regular meet ups, trips, activities, and information for other Local groups.

Rebecca: 01494 882484, expandinghorizonsuk@gmail.com

Heroes-HE – weekly Home Education Club at animal farm, with

Bristol

Bristol Home Education Learn Place (HELP) – Local support group

Bristol area. Catherine: catwhyte@hotmail.com

Home Education in Bristol and the South West – groups, events

and activities in Bristol and the surrounding areas.

Theres: alternativeeducation.bristol@gmail.com

Buckinghamshire

Free Range Education – range of educational events and activities

in Milton Keynes & North Bucks. Sarah: 07725 039981

www.freerangeeducation.org

High Wycombe home ed group – Friendly weekly group meet up with activities. Email: cm2002@yahoo.co.uk

Milton Keynes Home Educators Network (MKHEN) – Educational and social activities and events, online support groups, mentoring and an active relationship with the LA. <http://www.mkhen.org.uk>
Georgeanne 01908 662256 sienna-swift7@powernet.co.uk
South Bucks Home Educators – (& surrounding areas)
Taryn: tarynearley@googlemail.com
<http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/southbuckshomeed>
Expanding Horizons (see Berkshire).

Cambridgeshire

Cambridge Home Educating Community Activity List – summary of sessions and regular groups in Cambridge. Karen: 01223 573220
www.educationchoice.org.uk karen@karenrodgers.co.uk

Cambridge Home Educating Families (CHEF) – for parents/carers who HE or considering HE. Morag: morag2000@hotmail.com
01223 464918 <http://www.cambridgehomeeducators.org.uk/>

Cambridgeshire Home Educators – Website all about HE-ing in Cambridgeshire including local groups and how to them.
www.cambshomeed.co.uk Jane: cambshomeed@gmail.com

Little Learners (Duxford) – Themed play-based meetings. Louise:
louise@tartarus.org

Cheshire

Mid Cheshire Home Educators – Bi-monthly meetings and regular outings. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mche>

Cornwall

South East Cornwall – courses and activities including Drama, Physics and English Lit. Kath: kafrevel@phoncoop.coop

Lostwithiel area HE group – range of HE activities, all welcome!
Karen: kazincornwall@yahoo.co.uk

Cumbria

West Cumbria Home Education Group – friendly group, members from all over W. Cumbria, structured or free range – All welcome!
Tallie: metallienat@aol.com

www.facebook.com/groups/WestCumbriaHE/
West Cumbria Home Educators (incl. Keswick) – mutual support for HERS in West Cumbria: WestCumbriaHomeEd@gmail.com

Derbyshire

Chesterfield Home Education Group (CHEG) – weekly meetings and days out for all ages. Sandy: sandymariott@gmail.com

Derby HE Group (DHEG) – Weekly Gym Club at sports centre with instructor. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/derbyhe/>
Lynsey: lynseypvic@ntlworld.com

Home Ed Buxton Area – Local meetings/activities for HERS and those considering HE
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/homeedbuxtonarea>

Devon

Dartmoor and SW Home Education Group. Based in S. Dartmoor, All members may organise events and meet ups on our email list
Email: dartmoor-sw.he.group@gmail.com

<http://dartmoor-sw-he.yolasite.com/>

Exeter Home Education Community Wednesday drop-in; GCSE; green woodwork, permaculture, pottery & more.
Email: nbedford@btinternet.com Neil 01363 82314

<http://exeterhomeeducationcommunity.co.uk>

FLAGS Home Education Group – Exeter, every Friday. Friendly group for children of all ages. Sue: su.ryan777@yahoo.co.uk
07523 982014

Freedom Fields EHE – Weekly social group for families
http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/PlymouthUK_HomeEd/

Paignton and Torbay homeschooling – social meet ups, play and activities, twice weekly. Tessa: Tessacoles@hotmail.com

South Devon Home Education Group – near Totnes
<http://southdevonhomeeducation.yolasite.com/>

Ambuka: ambuka5planets@yahoo.com

Stover HE Group – Informal educational and social meets in local

and surrounding areas. Email: stoverhegroup@gmail.com

Teignbridge and Torbay HE Group – Teen creative writing group, meeting every fortnight. taluhla@gmail.com

Dorset

Bournemouth HEED – Weekly Monday meetings.

Carol: carolstone@yahoo.co.uk 01202 677066

Bournemouth & Poole Home Educators – play dates, trips/visits, etc. Emma: bmth.home.ed@gmail.com

http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Bournemouth_and_PooleHomeEducators/?yguid=419936795.

HERA – friendly group meets weekly in Poole. Provides support for HE families/prospective HE. Tracie: scallieuk@hotmail.co.uk

HEoND (Home Educators of North Dorset) – Friendly group meeting regularly in Sturminster Newton.

June: bugchick@mac.com

www.facebook.com/groups/NorthDorsetHomeEducation

Durham

County Durham Home Educators – information, activities, get togethers and trips. Emma, emmadfisk@gmail.com

<https://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/durham-home-educators> ;

Durham HE – Yahoo group. Get-togethers arranged in various areas of County <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/County-durham-homeed>

Essex

Essex Home Education Yahoo Group – Members organise HE events and meetings in Essex, and offer support, information and encouragement to other Home Educators.

Lena: essexhomeedmod@btinternet.com

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/essex-he-e-group/info>

Haverhill HE group – Covering South Suffolk/North Essex.

Eve 01440 788228 or 07768 763913 wixde@yahoo.co.uk

Southend HE Group – Meets weekly. Lots of outings and activities.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/southendhomeeducation/> or
Email: southendhomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk

WIGWAM Epping Forest – A weekly informal drop-in group.

Eleanor Stapleton 07866 701442 elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk

Gloucestershire

Forest of Dean HE group – Bridge and dam building, river clearance, fire building, woodland walks etc.

Ann-Marie: amchandler@btinternet.com

Glos HE – HE links and local resources in and around Gloucestershire. www.glashe.org.uk/

Glos Otherwise Club – Fiona 01684 290087 or Email:

brookesfam@tiscali.co.uk

Stroud email list – different activities arranged via email list.

Nick: nick@nickweir.co.uk 01453 840036

Tewkesbury Allsorts – activity/social group for young adults with additional needs/disabilities. www.allsortsglos.org.uk Max: 01453

750474 max.pemberton@allsortsglos.org.uk

Hampshire

ActiveEO – West Sussex and Hants <http://www.activeeohe.com/>
self-help group for home educators living near the south coast:

Cate: bevmots@btinternet.com

Basingstoke Under 10s – Academic club plus regular meet ups in different locations. Vanessa: education@zee2a.com

East Hampshire Home Education Group (EHHE) Social activities mainly for 5-11 yr but all ages welcome. Fields & playground.

Alison: a.johns@btinternet.com

FAREGOS Home Education Group – Fareham, Gosport, S. Hants. Several meetings each week for sports, social activities, art, maths and English tuition for GCSE.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FareGosHE/>

Farnham Fun and Friendships – social activities.

Jane: homeedchloe@gmail.com tel 07437 203305

Farnham Lego Heds – Lego etc. construction.

Laura: thegalloways9@gmail.com tel 02392 478949

Hampshire FRHEBEES (Free Range & Home Educated Bees) –

West Hampshire area and borders to arrange meet ups and activities. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FRHEBees/>

Karen: 01425 652721

Home Education Network Hants, near Winchester, ages 0-13.

Range of activities + regular club. homeednetwork@outlook.com

North Hampshire HE Group – Regular activities and meetings

organised, suitable for all ages. Email: jakimparsons@gmail.com

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/NH-HE/> Jaki 07731 805323

Portsmouth Home Education Group – HE or interested in HE

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/portsmouthhomeed/>

SEEDS – Southampton, every term time afternoon for sports/play

+ weekly full day activity. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/seeds1/>

Herefordshire

Hereford Home Education – Indoor and outdoor facilities ages 3-

15. Email: herefordhe@gmail.com

Home Ed. Herefordshire – Alison: alison.gwenter@gmail.com

Hertfordshire

Barnet Home Educators Hub – where children can grow and

develop together and friendships are formed. Contact:

sztejn@yahoo.com

Herts Home Educators – Yahoo! group for Hertfordshire home

educators. Email: newhomeeducators@gmail.com

Learning Begins In Wonder – Free and subsidised events,

resources and support to HE families in Hertfordshire and

surrounding counties. Mandy: mandy.ansell@aol.co.uk

Isle of Wight

Isle of Wight Learning Zone – Network of HE families

<http://www.iwlearningzone.co.uk/>

IW Home Ed – Facebook & yahoo group for any and all home

educators on IoW. Karen: Karen@curvespace.com or 01983

568516 <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IWHomeEd/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/IWHomeEd/>

Kent

Dragonfly Kidz HE Group – (Canterbury & Thanet) social &

learning activities, swimming, bowling, days out etc. Wide range

of locations around Canterbury/Thanet/Whitstable. All Welcome!

Steph: stephgater@rocketmail.com 01304 814362.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dragonflykidz>

homeeducationgroup/

HEarts & Minds – Hernehill, various games, arts, crafts and organised

activities. Davinia: daviniaedmunds4@gmail.com

Kent ASD Home Ed – For parents/carers of ASD/Aspergers

children who are educating them 'otherwise'.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/asd-home-ed-medway>

Medway and Maidstone HE activity group (HE Omega) – Group of

home educating families in Medway and Kent.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HE-omega/>

Esther: e.selhi@yahoo.co.uk

Rochester HE Group – weekly meetings Tuesday afternoon.

Sally: sally_wilton@lineone.net

SATHE (Supporting Autism Through Home Education) – West

Kent group open to all parents/carers HE/flexi-schooling or

considering HE for children with autism/sensitivities or learning

difficulties. <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/S-A-T-H-E/>

Denise: 07554 386844 or Email: S-A-T-H-E@yahoogroups.co.uk

South East Home Educators – (Kent/Sussex) Meet regularly for

trips, hall meetings, swimming etc. To join Yahoo! group email:

southeasthomeeducators-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

or Lesley: lesley294@aol.com 07828 193 668

Lancashire

Boneheds – Help support information and friendship to families

home educating (or considering HE) in Bolton Lancashire and

surrounding districts. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/boneheds/>

Home Ed Leyland – Friendship, support and advice for all families

who are home-educating (or considering HE) in Leyland and

surrounding districts. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/he-1-1a/>

LEAD Home Education – swap ideas, share stories and arrange

local social gatherings. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lead_he/

Leicestershire

HE-AL message board – details of HE Events in Leicestershire. Site

run by local HE groups, but open to all HErs in the Leicestershire

area. <http://he-al.weebly.com/index.html>

Leicestershire Christian Home Educators – monthly meet up

every 3rd Tuesday. Free play opportunity in a safe and fun place.

HE Off-Peak Pass available: £1.50 per child £5 per family, free

drinks. All welcome! Email: mrsamarshall@googlemail.com

Loughborough Home Ed – meet for various regular/one off

groups, including French and maths in Loughborough. Email:

nicky-ed@co.asd.me.uk

Stoneygate – Weekly play session, £3.50 per family, including

drinks. Large, safe, grassy area. Cat: catbellinger@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/groups/homeedleicestershire/

Lincolnshire

Home Ed Lincs – Yahoo! newsgroup coordinating HE activities in

Lincolnshire. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/home_ed_lincs/

Homeschool Lincolnshire – active and supportive group, 40+

families incl. plenty of teenagers. Monthly events & activities list.

Elaine: homeschool.lincolnshire@outlook.com 01507 328688

London

Adventures with Education (Hackney) – HE group

<https://adventureswitheducationhackney.wordpress.com/>

Brandram Readers – Weekly meetings in term time.

rubyradburn@hotmail.com

Home Study Groups – small group of HE families pooling

resources for tutored home study groups.

Ingie: iberritt@gmail.com 0203 566 8706

Maggie Home Educators (East London) – Fun, play and socialising

for HE families. Phil: 0208 500 1053

The Otherwise Club (NW) – A community centre for HE families.

<http://www.theotherwiseclub.org.uk/> 07952 616 352

WIGWAM Jubilee Park N9 - Informal drop-in group for families

with children of any age. Eleanor: elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk

07866 701442

Norfolk

Home Educating in Norfolk (HENs) – Group for HE families in

Norfolk. Those on the borders also welcome.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/homeeducatorsnorfolk/>

Home Ed Discoverers – Norwich area; events, parties, trips, days

out etc. Vikki: Watts85.rv@gmail.com

The Barefoot Learners – Games and activities for all ages.

Be Coffin: 07814 592 290 or 01263 73 99 83

West Norfolk Home Educators – Meeting place for HErs and

families interested in home educating. Lots of activities!

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/WestNorfolkHomeEducators/>

Northamptonshire

Northants HE – Informal group meets regularly for various

activities <http://www.northantshe.org.uk/>

Nottinghamshire

Notts Sheep Special – Online support group for HE parents of

special needs/differently-abled children in Nottinghamshire &

bordering counties.

http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Notts_Sheep-Special/

Non School Nottingham – Online hub for info about events,

classes, meetups, and local Facebook or email groups, for finding home ed community in the Notts area.

Website: <http://www.non-school-nottingham.org.uk/>

Contact: info@non-school-nottingham.org.uk

Oxfordshire

Expanding Horizons (See Berkshire).

Oxfordshire Home Educators – A group for all home educators living in Oxfordshire and neighbouring counties; all welcome.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OxonHE/>

Shropshire

Inspire HE Group. Educational activities in Shropshire. Families from Shropshire and surrounding areas welcome to find out more. Alison: fellows-weir@megmog.plus.com

Oswestry and surrounds. Regular meetings around area.

Katie: llanfyllinhe@gmail.com

Otherwise Engaged – Online diary of group activities, cultural events, workshops, resources and projects for Shrops and West Mids based HE families.

<http://www.otherwise-engaged.org.uk/home-education.html>

Rushbury/Stretton HE Group – Parent and child-led activities & people from the wider community. Beverley: 01743 718429

Shropshire Home Education – For HERS in Shropshire area to chat arrange meets etc. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/shed>

Telford area HE – Activities incl. Skating, football and drama sessions. Denise: 07866 888879

Somerset

Bath – <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/BathHomeEducation/>

Bridgwater HE – weekly social meet + ad hoc trips and activities.

Contact: Mfstainer@gmail.com

HEY Yeovil – All HE families welcome. Lyn: 01963 23669

heyevail@hotmail.com

North Somerset HE Group – Weekly children's gym, walks, outings etc. Yahoo! group for members. Vicky: 01275 848425

victoria.preston@yahoo.co.uk

Taunton Home Education Group –

Regular events and meet ups in Taunton; range of classes and workshops across Somerset www.tauntonhomeeducation.com

Email: tauntonhomeeducation@gmail.com

Wiveliscombe/Taunton – Monthly meetings and regular outings.

Maggie: 01984 624651

Staffordshire

Growing Wild meet weekly for gardening, social, play, crafts, activities and nature walks. Children of all ages welcome. Elly: ellyweir@gmail.com

Suffolk

Haverhill HE group – South Suffolk/North Essex.

Eve: wixde@yahoo.co.uk 01440 788228 or 07768 763913

Ipswich HE Wednesdays – Shared lunch and activities.

Emma: emma@natyem.co.uk

Ipswich town centre group + Book Club – regular meetings.

Lisa: llw_llg@yahoo.co.uk 07538 102322

Tostock HE Group – All families welcome to this very friendly group. Jan: angusto@btinternet.com 01359 251184

Surrey

Dorking Home Educators – fortnightly. Social and pre-booked activities, outings & trips.

Amanda: schrodingerscat81@hotmail.com

<http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/DorkingHomeEducators/>

Forest Families – weekly meetings in Croydon. Sharing food, cooking & unstructured play in nature.

Maria: mariaf.reyna@gmail.com

Home Educators Learning Project (HELP) – educational support, outings. <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/HELearningProject/>

Leatherhead Home Education Group – Leatherhead and surrounding area regular day trips and activities.

Chrissie: christabelthorpe@hotmail.com 07840285703

Surbiton Home Ed Group (SHed) – occasional field trips, picnics, workshops, etc. Ingrid: ingrid.meaker@mac.com

Sutton/Epsom HE group – Meets weekly and also monthly for outings. Neia: neia.glynn@btinternet.com

SW Surrey Home Ed – Group for HE families based in SW Surrey and surrounding area. Weekly gatherings Farnham or Godalming.

<http://www.swsurrey-home-ed.co.uk/index.php>

Sussex

ActivEO – HE Group W Sussex and Hants (see Hampshire)

Brighton and Hove Home Educators – Information on HE events and groups in the area. <http://bhhe.wordpress.com/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bhhe/>

Eastbourne EO Group – Regular gatherings & activities.

<http://www.shinies.org.uk/>

to an activity www.harhe.btck.co.uk Catherine: 01424 812213

HEDGE Home Ed Group – Hastings/St. Leonards weekly social meetings + trips etc. www.hedge-education.btck.co.uk

Beshlie: 01424 812870

JIGSAW – social events, educational group excursions, curriculum support, etc. Email: leliot@gmail.com

South East Home Educators – (Kent/Sussex) see Kent

Warwickshire

Creative Youth Adventure Club (Coventry) – monthly HE Group for all ages, activities and social get together. Also Arts Awards.

Sarah: sarah@nellyb.co.uk

Warwick District HE – Warwick/Leamington. Primarily for 0-11

but all welcome. Weekly meet for play etc. + trips etc. Alison:

07782 299181 <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/warwickhe>

West Midlands

Cradley HE Group – small group of families meeting weekly for friendships and craft activities in Cradley Heath. Kate:

katehstrickland@yahoo.co.uk

F.R.E.E. HE Group (Shropshire) – Free Range Exciting Education

Group meets once a week for a variety of fun & educational activities including trips. Jan: freeheg@yahoo.co.uk

Wiltshire

Salisbury Plain Home Education Circle – Parents who use the National Curriculum as guidance but believe best education from experience. Dee: dee.dilloway@yahoo.com 07753 260317

Worcestershire

Bewdley HE Group – Weekly meetings, social/activities etc.

all welcome. Sophie: s.a.moore@hotmail.co.uk

01299 405196

Worcester Home Educators – Meetings usually at least weekly throughout term time at various locations round the county.

www.worcestershire-home-educators.co.uk/

Worcestershire Home Ed – Yahoo Group Email list for Worcs HERS

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/worcestershirehome-ed/>

Yorkshire

Free Range Home Education – playgroup, babies to 8ish, HE or considering it. Sheffield. Fi: fjennessy81@gmail.com

HENNEY (Home Education Network North East Yorkshire) Regular meet ups around Scarborough and East coast area.

Lisa: lisa_riley@tiscall.co.uk henney-owner@yahoo.com

Huddersfield Art Workshops – Monthly 8 yrs plus.

Jan: 01484 645034

Huddersfield Book Group – Monthly Marsden library.

Jan: 01484 645034

Huddersfield Home Educators – Monthly themed meetings.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wyhec/> or Mandy:

meandchi7@yahoo.co.uk 01484 460026

NYHEC (group for HE parents) – for parents HEing in North Yorkshire. Email: nyhecowner@yahoo.com

North + West HE Group – Meets Skipton monthly and Bradford Gym Club weekly. Regular meetings and outings. Judith: 01756 791356

Rotherham Home Education – friendly informal group for HERS in & around S.Yorkshire. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RothHE/>
Pauline: collicandog123@yahoo.co.uk 077764 06409

SYHEC – Yahoo! group for parents HEing in South Yorkshire. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/syhec/>

SYHEC South Yorkshire Home Education Communication – Email group for home educators in the South Yorkshire area. Contact: inglefamily@hotmail.co.uk

Wildings – Huddersfield. Drop-in group with Montessori resources, held in 10-week Seasons, for local HE families to meet others and support their children's interests through play
Penny: pennyclarkson@yahoo.co.uk

Yorkshire Home Edders Yahoo! group – Friendly & active group with visits & workshops for children 8-16.
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/yorkshirehomedders/>

Regional Groups (England)

East Midlands – East Midlands HE Yahoo Group (EMHE)
inform & support HE families in E.Midlands.
<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/emhe/info>
Katya: kotyalamb@aol.com

North East England – North East Home Educators Thriving group with several activities in the region happening every day! We welcome new members. Treena: treenafenwick@gmail.com

South East England

ActiveO – HE Group based in West Sussex and Hampshire [See Hampshire for details]

Home-EASE (Home Education for all South East) – Group of HE families in SE England. homeeducatingmum@yahoo.co.uk
0753 1677 083

South East Home Educators – (Kent/Sussex) See Kent for details.

South West England

Home Education Centre (Devon/Dorset/Somerset) – <http://www.homeeducationcentre.org.uk> Parent run co-operative group for HE families in Somerset, Dorset and Devon.
Julie: julia@homeeducationcentre.org.uk
HERs and Events SW – network to support new HERS or those new to the area. New input welcomed. southdevonic@gmail.com
<http://hecontactsandeventssw.yolasite.com>
HE in Bristol and SW – see Bristol

West Midlands

HELM – home education group located mainly within the Birmingham, West Midlands area. Any and all HE families welcome. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HELM_home_ed/

Isle of Man

Home Educating Network – Isle of Man – informal group, Yvonne: isleofmanlc@educationotherwise.org
<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/hen-iom/>

Home Education on the Isle Of Man, Dawn:
sewellbunch@yahoo.co.uk

WALES

South East Wales

Abergavenny HE Group – monthly meetings at Abergavenny on first Wednesday of each month. £3 per family. Ana: mrs.ana.maxwell@gmail.com

Bridgend HE Community – free play, GCSE classes, Arts Award, John Muir Award, outside speakers, activities etc.

Emma: emmzr75@gmail.com

Cardiff HE Group – Meets Mondays during term time, Pantcanna. Social group children all ages, all welcome. Sarah: cardiffhomeeducationgroup@gmail.com

www.cardiffhomeeducationgroup.wordpress.com

Monmouth Home Educators – Meet weekly for fun and friendship, arts, crafts, games and sports. All ages welcome. Check for dates and times. Local EO member Ann-Marie: amchandler@btinternet.com

New Foundations – HE group/ charity, social & educational activities and support, Cardiff/South Wales. Every Mon 10am – 3pm. All HE families welcome. www.newfoundationshe.com
Jayne: newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com Or 07913 955583

Solid Foundations (Neath Port Talbot) – Low cost or free activities, sessions and trips for all ages/abilities.

Hayley: hayleydraco@gmail.com

Swansea Home Educators – EHE families from Swansea and surrounding areas. Eleanor: eleanoreva@aol.com

Usk Home Education (Monmouthshire) – Monthly (Thurs) meet other HERS in the area for fun and games and cups of tea. Ann-Marie: amchandler@btinternet.com

Valleys HE Community (Glamorgan) – meet weekly, for games, free play and activities. Contact: louiseherbert@googlemail.com
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HerefordshireHE/>

South West Wales

Camarthen HE Group – Regular meetings in Johnstown, Carmarthen. Email: caroline.milburn@yahoo.com
Carmarthen Home Ed – Social group meeting weekly for play and chat, indoor and outdoor activities for all ages.
Sarah: birdgirlvintage@yahoo.co.uk

Mid Wales

AberSHED (Aberystwyth Special Home Education) Special needs group in Aberystwyth area. Anna: annaandrich@googlemail.com
Cardiganshire – Lampeter home-ed group meets one afternoon per week. Social with occasional activities.
thislittlelightofmine@phonecoop.coop Mia: 01570421529

New Leaf HE Group (Newtown, Powys) – Occasional meetings for varied activities all ages. Email: siouxcatsy@yahoo.co.uk
Shiny Happy Children – Regular meetings in Llanfyllin and surrounding areas. Katie: llanfyllinHE@gmail.com

North Wales

Creative Learning and Support(Gwynedd) – meet every Wed. pm in Bangor. Julie on 01286 678181 or Sarah on 01248 355182
Froncysyllte HE group (Denbighshire) – Fortnightly group meets 10-4pm. Social play and chat. Email: vivodsam@gmail.com
Flintshire Home Education – Regular meet ups activities & support. Email: flintshirehomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk
Langower HE Group (Gwynedd) – Weekly meetings. Email: rowenna73@hotmail.com
PLANT Conwy – Weekly get togethers in the village of Conwy for Home edders—all welcome. Email: lily@ogge.co.uk

Regional Groups (Wales)

Cymru ALN – HE & EOTAS: (Wales, Special interest and SEN)
Wales-wide support group for Home Educators of children & young people with Additional Learning Needs, (SEN).
Email: cymrualn@gmail.com

Elective Home Education Wales – Linking HE families across Wales. <http://www.ehew.co.uk>

Monmouth/Hereford/Gloucester – for information about group activities contact Ann-Marie: amchandler@btinternet.com

South Wales Home Educators Network – Email list for Home Educators in and around S Wales to arrange get-togethers/events,

share ideas & news and offer support.
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/swhen/>

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Home Education Jersey – Home education group.
Jess: homeeducationjersey@gmail.com
Guernsey Home Educators – Group of home educators and those sympathetic to home education in Guernsey.
Email: legguernsey@gmail.com

NORTHERN IRELAND

HEdNI (Home Education Northern Ireland). Umbrella group for the whole of Northern Ireland; where a diverse community of smaller local groups and individual home educators can come together for peer support & information, to advertise and find

events, and make connections. Sarah: sarah@hedni.org

SCOTLAND

Edinburgh & Beyond Home Educators – <http://www.ebhe.org.uk>
Large online network of families, wide variety of groups, many different social and educational activities in & around Edinburgh.
Email: @ebhe.org.uk
Home Education/Schooling Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen lots of educational meets. Email: mykidshomeschool@yahoo.com

International (UK based)

HE-DS (Home Educating a child with Down's syndrome) – Linking families who are home educating a child with Down's syndrome.
<http://www.oakwellbarns.co.uk> Facebook group (private, by invitation) by email to: oakwellbarns@gmail.com

Who does What in EO

Current Trustees (Council Members)

Tom Crellin (Treasurer, Secretary)

tcrellin@educationotherwise.org
treasurer@educationotherwise.org

Graeme Evans (Membership Secretary)

g.evans@educationotherwise.org
membership@educationotherwise.org

Fe Mukwamba-Sendall (Chair)

fmukwambasendall@educationotherwise.org

Sarah Willans

swillans@educationotherwise.org

trustees@educationotherwise.org goes to all trustees

Address for general correspondence by letter:

Education Otherwise [insert Dept. If known],
2 Senlac Green, Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 1NN

WEBSITE: www.educationotherwise.org

webmaster@educationotherwise.org

Membership

Membership enquiries, address changes, membership cards, new member admin: please contact the Membership Secretary:

membership@educationotherwise.org

or by post to:

EO Membership, 2 Senlac Green, Uckfield
East Sussex, TN22 1NN

Other Useful Contacts

Anti-Bullying Contact: Kathleen Thompson

01942 89 77 79

Benefits & Work Guides:

send@educationotherwise.org

GCSEs at Home: Louise 08445 003 688

GCSE/Exams email list:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HE-ExamsGCSE-AASLevelsOU-Others/>

HE Exams Wiki: www.home-education-exams.org.uk

Exam Centres list: [http://he-](http://he-exams.wikia.com/wiki/Finding_an_exam_centre)

[exams.wikia.com/wiki/Finding_an_exam_centre](http://he-exams.wikia.com/wiki/Finding_an_exam_centre)

Concessions Co-ordinator:

concessions@educationotherwise.org

Dyslexia Contact: Iris Harrison

Irisharrison6@aol.com

EO Stalls: Habiba Willow

habibawillow108@gmail.com

Helpline Co-ordinator: Beckie Griffiths

eoenquiries@educationotherwise.org

Local Contacts Co-ordinators:

Lorraine Carbert & Sarah Willans

swillans@educationotherwise.org

Local Group Insurance: Anne Rix 01760 441810

lgic@educationotherwise.org

Local Groups Listings: eolg@educationotherwise.org

Newsletter Coordinator: VACANT

eonl@educationotherwise.org

Special Needs: Alisa: 01458 448286 / 07401 421903

send@educationotherwise.org

SEND email list via: <http://www.he-special.org.uk/>

EO SIGNED-UP MEMBER (SUM) FORM / GUARANTOR DECLARATION

EDUCATION OTHERWISE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

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.

N.B. Please Complete Form in BLOCK CAPITALS and sign BOTH sections

I (FULL NAME) Membership Number* :

of Home Address (print in full):

Postcode:

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 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 (please print clearly):

Signed: Date

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, at EO's Registered Office Address (check current with website).

Please return this form as soon as possible to: **EO SUMS**, 2 Senlac Green, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1NN

** If known – N.B. Membership number is shown next to your name on NL address slip*

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 direct 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.

Education Otherwise Association Ltd.

2 Senlac Green, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1NN

Helpline: eoenquiries@educationotherwise.org

Web Site: www.educationotherwise.org

Education Otherwise Association Ltd., Registered Charity No. 1055120

A company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales No. 01917107

Registered Office Address: 2 Senlac Green, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1NN

