

education otherwise



Newsletter
Spring 2017

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Deadline for the Summer issue is 1st May 2017

Please send contributions via Section Editors or Newsletter Co-ordinator:

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[Postal contributions to: EONL Co-ord, PO Box 63, Swaffham, PE37 9AT]

N.B. EO has a new address for general correspondence:

***** Office 7, 35-37 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7JN *****

Section Editors

REVIEWS: *Kerri* – bookreviews@educationotherwise.org

Or EO Reviews, PO Box 63, PE37 9AT

Got an idea for a section you'd like to edit? An interesting HE story? A query? Or to get in touch with another contributor – Contact Newsletter Co-ordinator: eonl@educationotherwise.org

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Note New address as above!

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and keep writing well away from picture**

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Co-ordinatorial

There are fewer contributions from our regular writers in this issue: Corinna has decided it's time to retire from her articles on Home Education Around the World – she's been writing for EONL for **seven years** and we thank her for all her work. If you're interested in a particular country, copies can be obtained from the newsletter co-ordinator.

'Frazzled Mum' is too busy decorating, but she hopes to be back next time with a further 'Musing'. HE life without a home computer may be rare nowadays – but is still quite possible as described in the first article. There's no formal SEND update, but an interesting one-off article.

It would be great to have more contributions from EO members – stories and drawings from children would be especially welcome.

This is Your Newsletter so please contribute to it, to make sure it reflects your interests!

Anne, March 2017

Send to: eonl@educationotherwise.org

Letter from the 'Chair'

This is my first letter since my appointment as chairperson of EO. It has been an extremely busy and challenging few months for the new council, as we rise to the challenge of making EO 'fit for purpose'. For trustees this has meant many hours spent, for example, sorting, organising and collating inherited files and databases to get a coherent and concise view of the current state of EO. In doing this specific thanks must be offered to Tom Crellin and Graeme Evans in their respective roles of Treasurer and Membership; they really have done sterling work in updating our record keeping.

The trustees have also been working hard on the long overdue launch of a new website – details to be announced shortly. As I equate my understanding of websites with my understanding of a car: 'I can drive, but what goes on under the bonnet is a complete mystery' thanks must go to Tom, Graeme, Sarah Willans (her patience knows no bounds) and Tom and Denise Kennell (our webmasters). They are all really doing a fantastic job of getting us to the end of this journey to the launch of a new website.

The coming months are going to be no less challenging as we still have much work ahead of us: at a nuts and bolts level we need to update our information and literature on the website to make sure it is clear and reflective of both national guidelines and EO policy. To that end if anyone wants to help us, particularly if you have a particular area of expertise or interest, for example (and not exhaustive): HE law; flexischooling; bullying; HE in 'special' circumstances (e.g. health, education, lone parent, teenagers, adopted or foster children...) we would welcome your assistance.

We also need to make sure our 'helpline and enquiries' are fit for the 21st century and to that end we wish to involve our wonderful volunteers in taking this forwards. Likewise, we will involve our network of local contacts in discussions as to how this wonderful resource might be improved. We are going to create a volunteers' forum (for all our volunteers not just helpline and local contacts) and will shortly be issuing invitations to join us – however it is possible that contact details may be out of date; so, adopting a belt and braces approach, if you are a volunteer (or would like to be) PLEASE could you email your details and role to: volunteer@educationotherwise.org

Lastly, I would like to thank our retired trustees: Anne Rix, Kathleen Thompson, Shena Deuchars and Edwina Theunissen. They have been stalwart members of EO for many years and a debt of gratitude is owed to them. Over that time, they have served in every office: secretary, treasurer, chairperson, membership, to name a few. I am sure I will be forgiven for particularly paying homage to Anne who has always exhibited patience and grace in her role as chair.

Fe Mukwamba-Sendall, EO Chair

Home educating without a Computer

Amber will be 14 in March and has always been home educated. We have never had a computer but we fill our days, months and years – those of you who have read our 'Foraging' articles in previous newsletters will have some idea of the range of activities we do. We are both creative and both love books. We have some really good books; some we buy new but a lot are second hand or from the local library.



Amber is continuing to build her tree house and whittling wood. She can sew and can make something out of scrap of any kind – she has only to see it to imagine what she can create. Hands-on projects work well – in addition to actually learning the project you are learning a new skill, and being active is also positive.

I am a single parent so we don't have any spare money really, but we make the best of things. We visit places of interest or just walk or go to the beach – any of the places we go you can learn and have a good time. Joining in with events locally or even helping to organise them is a big learning curve. We have met with other home educators at a local group where we can all have a chat and the kids can get together. Amber also goes to a youth group run by the church that we attend.

Although we don't have internet access at home, Amber has had a Kindle for about a year, so has been learning some IT skills on her own; she recently started a computer class so that she can gain some certificates for each module she completes, and is getting on well. She has also been going to a weekly maths class at a small school run by a local church; there are not many children and some of the others are also home educated, so it is a good learning environment. She has always loved drawing, and attends an art class in the afternoon after maths.

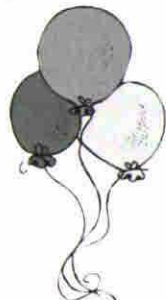
I work part time as well, so Amber comes with me and brings books to read, stories she is writing, her drawing pad, etc. to occupy her time. At one of the places I work, she is allowed to use her Kindle and look up information on the internet.

On the whole Amber has a good variety of learning, mixing with others and projects to do. This year I am also sorting out for her to do voluntary work to suit what she enjoys – being outside.

I'd be interested to hear about other families who prefer not to use computers – contact me via the EO NL Co-ordinator.



Carol & Amber, Dyfed



HAPPY 40TH BIRTHDAY

1977  2017

OUT WITH ...  ...?

IN WITH *Your idea ? see page 7*



I decided to home educate back in 1996. My youngest son had been in school for a year and one term when – out of the blue – I was called in to see the teacher who explained in her second sentence that my son had a behavioural problem. He was clearly a nuisance in her class. She said he used to run round the classroom, not do the things he was asked to do, refuse to sit and listen to stories, go to assembly or take part in sports; in summer the teaching assistant used to take him outside where he found some wild strawberries to pick and eat! I did find his teacher condescending and patronising, it's true, but perhaps I should also thank her for mentioning that he might be "slightly autistic" as this was a big clue – although at the time I was probably offended; not wanting to accept it. From his behaviour in the classroom I can see he was obviously completely stressed out which is hardly surprising when taking into consideration the kind of things that someone with autism would find stressful – noise, movement and lighting to name a few – all of which is found in modern classrooms to some extent.

At home he didn't leave my side when he wasn't with his sister, following me around constantly, giving me information about the human skull and other subjects he was interested in. He mentioned one thing to me which I find interesting and a valuable insight into Asperger's. The teachers often ask children in early school to draw pictures of themselves and family members and then write who they are. He found this practically impossible because autistic children do not see people or themselves in the same way as others. They do not see people so much on the outside. They are much more aware of what the person is like in their personality and character which is why they are no respecter of persons and accounts for others finding them "disrespectful".

I was very surprised at his teacher's comments as he had no problems at home. I had always suspected that he was a bit different. She then went on to explain that she had asked the special needs teacher to do an assessment. I was very cross about this as we had not been consulted and my immediate reaction was to ask her why she had not let us know before, since it had clearly become a major problem. My son had become increasingly difficult to get to school from the beginning of that school year (year2) and my husband noticed that he had become miserable. He didn't want to stay in the classroom, crying when I left him. There were more talks with the teacher who said she thought he might be slightly autistic. I was very angry with the school. I thought they just couldn't cope. I didn't like his teacher; she seemed always to be condescending towards me. Eventually he came home one day and said that the teacher had got very angry with him and had been quite rough with him. He was only 6 years old and I was seething since he didn't ever tell lies.

At this point my eldest son, who with his three brothers had been through the school system and had left school, suggested that I home educated my youngest son. I hadn't even heard of HE let alone thought of it as a solution (that's how naive I was). My immediate reply was, "But I'm not a teacher!" My son said to me, "Oh don't be ridiculous, what's he learning at 6 years old that you can't teach him at home? Surely it's just an extension of what you've always done with us at home!" Put like that I could see it was true and it gave me confidence. One of my older sons had a friend at school who had been home educated and his mother came to see me, telling me all the good things about teaching and being with your children at home, and was truly inspiring. Another home ed'r asked me to go and see what their children were doing at home...

So I took him out of school for a term to see how he got on. The school were supportive and kept his place open in case it didn't work out. My husband had wanted me to go back to work and was quite negative but I persuaded him to let us have one term. At first my son was very difficult indeed. He had the idea that he was 'naughty'; It took me two years to undo that. He had developed a name calling vocabulary: It took me 10 years to undo that and I'm not altogether sure I succeeded. Yes he did have behavioural problems – it seemed to me that was mostly what he *had* learned from school! Later on whilst watching a TV programme about a guy with Asperger's, I realised that my son seemed like a prime candidate and this was confirmed by the 'specialist' several years later, by which time I already knew he was autistic and had read extensively about it.

At six years old then and completely new to HE, I decided straight away that his younger sister would also be home educated. I had planned to go back to work but now here I was at home struggling to make ends meet. Yet it seemed somehow to be cheaper than sending them to school! There was no school uniform to pay for. That meant we could get all their clothes from charity shops and jumble sales. I didn't have to get up every morning stressed out completely at having to get him ready for school. I didn't have to



rush about getting his dinner down him and getting him into bed at a sensible time so that he wouldn't be tired for school the next day; we could go wherever we wanted; we could do whatever we wanted. Freedom began to dawn on me.....

Before I had my son I had been in a well paid job so to make ends meet I took on leaflet distribution and cleaning jobs which I could fit in with my husband's working hours, collating leaflets one night a week and getting up at half five to do cleaning. Despite this, it was made up for by far; having the opportunity to be at home with the children and at weekends – and they could help me with leaflets which they loved. We used to collect rubbish from the street to make 'sculptures' when we got home.

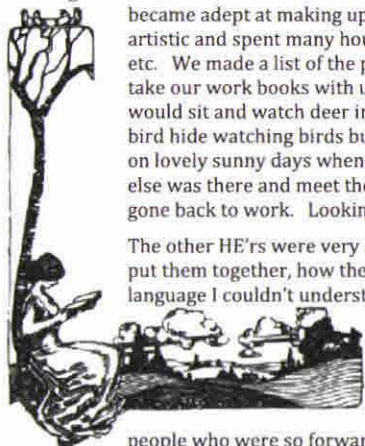
It wasn't long before my son had finished the reading scheme. He had only been able to read the first 66 key words when he came out of school. Like most new home ed'rs we used workbooks which were linked to the national curriculum from Smiths and elsewhere. It soon became apparent that the curriculum was very narrow and wishy-washy. After one term he had finished all the work at his key stage and had passed the practice tests several times. I began to wonder what they did in school. I thought about it – 10 mins to get into class and settle down, 10 mins to do the register, 10 mins to pack up and put away, maybe 10 or 15 mins to get some work done and 10 waiting for the teacher to get to the child to either help them or give them more work. Hmmm – not much time spent working really. No wonder so little gets done!

I remember reading something purported to be from Winston Churchill in the EO newsletter: *"Schools are not really institutions of learning; most of what goes on at school is about control. I don't think I learnt anything useful in school; most of my learning was done outside school"* – or words to that effect. I couldn't help thinking how true it was.

We met up with the local EO'rs. My first impression was of amazement.

Some children came up to me and started a conversation! They didn't just walk past me as if I wasn't there as I had been used to with my older 3 children's friends. I was a person! The children all seemed to be getting on well. I didn't notice a single argument, goading or attempt to be 'better than' Remarkable! This, as I discovered, is normal for home educated children. I don't know how anyone could make the mistake of thinking that home educated children miss out on socialisation skills. They all seemed to be infinitely better at socialising than a lot of the school children I had come across, which was quite a few over the years. Some of the local EO'rs said that school was a prison for children. I thought that was taking it a bit far – but now I'm not so sure....

I soon realised that the reason I had taken him out of school was not just because he was unhappy but because he was getting a much richer education at home. He could and did follow his own interests, teaching himself guitar, piano, computer programming, maths, science, and natural science. He soon had an encyclopaedic knowledge of trees, fossils and the human skeleton amongst other things. My daughter is very artistic. She became adept at making up stories for them both to play together. They are both musical and artistic and spent many hours doing that. We joined the local HE'rs for art, sport, days out etc. We made a list of the places we could go to every day, because I like to go out. We would take our work books with us. As soon as they had finished they were allowed to play. We would sit and watch deer in the wood as we worked quietly. We would go and sit in the local bird hide watching birds but sometimes we just had a picnic there. We would go to the beach on lovely sunny days when no one else was there, or to the local zoo once a week when no one else was there and meet the other HE'rs there. It was bliss. I never once regretted not having gone back to work. Looking after my own children was the only work I really ever enjoyed.



The other HE'rs were very supportive. One of the dads taught my son about computers; how to put them together, how they worked and how to program them. They would talk for hours in a language I couldn't understand. Another of the parents spent hours teaching him about interacting with others. Even so, in spite of his disability he still seemed to know more than some of the local school children he met in the recreation ground. One of the home educating mums encouraged my daughter in a variety of creative ways. We learnt to ski, roller skate and swim. We met a variety of interesting

people who were so forward thinking, that they had already thought about the kind of education they wanted for their children long before they reached school age – putting me to shame.

In 2000 our house was flooded, practically up to the ceiling downstairs, and we spent several weeks clearing up the mess before we had to move out. During this time my daughter sat for hours playing imaginatively with

toys in the car. My son found an old battery-operated computer in his room – a gift from one of the home ed'rs – with Visual Basic programming language on it and came to tell us whooping with joy, spending the rest of his time programming completely oblivious to all the clearing up....it was very difficult financially but the HE'rs amongst others were extremely kind to us for which I am eternally grateful.

A few weeks later, we received a letter from the local authority saying that they were coming to do an *Inspection*, which they did from time to time. In the past, I had always been very accommodating – getting together all the children's work books and any writing, maths and science no matter how small or loosely connected; for instance pictures with writing about them or on them. I also kept a record every day of what we had done and linked it to English, Maths or Science (which is all the government requires children to know about officially) and History, Geography etc. to show that we did other subjects as well. It's surprising how many things can be linked to those subjects.

However on this occasion I was mystified! Were the local authority, whose offices were in our town, so detached from reality that incredulously they hadn't noticed we had been flooded? I looked at the letter, then screwed it up and threw it in the bin! We had moved into temporary accommodation and had lost all the children's 'work' in the flood, so I thought to myself, "they can come and find us!"



Gradually work books phased out and instead the children began to follow their own interests which were varied. I realised that if they were playing text adventures on the computer, what was the point of asking them to stop and do English? It soon became apparent that my daughter was struggling with maths and spelling. I suspected Dyslexia but I couldn't afford to have a diagnosis. I was helped enormously by church friends, other teachers and family. We were given material that was instrumental in her ability to do maths. Not that she was unable to understand; quite the reverse, she had a good understanding.

But when it came to writing it down and working it out, she was hopeless. Her spelling was way behind her reading and comprehension. I tried everything I could to help her. None of it worked. I came to the conclusion that spelling was invented to confuse and frustrate dyslexics! One day one of the dads handed out a program of home education events in our area. Every word was spelt a different way even if it was a repeat of the same word. I don't know how he did that! We all read it and understood it no problem. So why the big fuss about getting the spelling right? I backed off and left her to it. The text adventures worked a treat. The computer couldn't understand unless it was spelt correctly! If you haven't heard of text adventures they are called 'interactive fiction'. She wrote Harry Potter spoofs and joined Fan Fiction. Reviews from other users convinced her that she needed to pay attention to her spelling and grammar!



At the beginning my husband had been very against home education because he wanted me to go back to work so that we could afford to buy a house; we were privately renting and it was financially difficult at times. I asked him to be patient and if no improvement with our son then we would rethink. However, even he had to admit that the change had been remarkable. Our son had become calm and happy, and had streaked ahead with his reading, writing and maths. My husband soon picked up on our daughter's poor spelling and gave her a hard time over it, making remarks like "You need to learn how to spell!" He gave me a hard time, saying constantly to the children "You should be at school, you would love it" – which of course, my son knew was not true, but my daughter on the other hand did not.

I think I should also mention somewhere that my family struggled to accept that my son has autism – probably not wanting to accept that a family member could be less than perfect – and they weren't altogether happy with the idea of 'home schooling' either. I don't know if I mentioned anywhere how easy it is to 'home school'. Children want to learn, so anything they are interested in can be used to learn a variety of subjects. For instance, we grew pumpkins for Hallowe'en and while they were growing we took measurements at intervals to turn into a graph which would predict their final weight. I would get remarks from my family and from my GP saying, "Your son will grow up to be a recluse." "You're taking a *huge* risk home educating!" "How will they socialise?" "It's illegal isn't it?" "He hasn't got autism; he's just naughty and you don't know how to discipline him." "Can your daughter read?" But I now had good answers I could give them thanks to the support from other home ed'rs. And I told my doctor I thought that *he* was taking a huge risk sending *his* children to school.....

I remember my brother testing them one day. He asked my daughter to read a book to him and was pleasantly surprised at her fluent and meaningful reading. He asked my son about nuclear power stations and was forced to admit in the end that the boy knew more about them than he did!

Sometimes I questioned it myself: "Am I doing the right thing? Will my son ever learn that it's safe to be away from me to go upstairs, to be left downstairs, to go to the car etc? Will my daughter ever be able to pass any exams later? Will my son ever be able to lead an independent life?"

To be continued in next issue ... (but the answer is Yes!)

Hope, Sussex

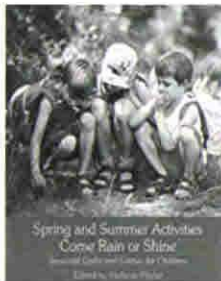


Book Reviews By Kerri: bookreviews@educationotherwise.org

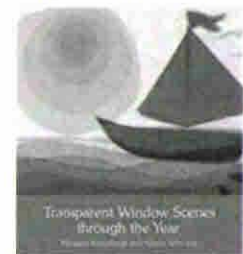
Hi everyone, this edition we have reviews on some lovely books from Floris Books.

Spring and Summer Activities Come Rain or Shine - Seasonal Crafts and Games for Children Edited by Stefanie Pfister £14.99 978-178250-375-0

This is a real 'those were the days' book of outdoor activities that those of a particular generation, (as I am), will remember with nostalgia. The book is divided into spring and summer sections and each activity is accompanied by some lovely, vibrant, colourful pictures. Spring activities include making a box garden with cress, strawberry and lettuce seedlings; making vegetable dyes and dying eggs; weaving nests for eggs and baskets using willow and other natural materials, together with various activities with daisies, dandelions and moss. There are also a number of activities to do in wet mud – I had never seen mud people before! The summer activities include exploring ponds; building boats out of sardine tins, walnuts and paper; making an insect hotel; physical games such as hop scotch, marbles, leapfrog and skipping and making a spider's web frame and forest dens. This is a truly delightful book that will provide hours of creative play for all ages, with no electricity or wi-fi required!



Transparent Window Scenes Through The Year Michaela Kronshage and Sylvia Schwartz £9-99 978-178250-325-5

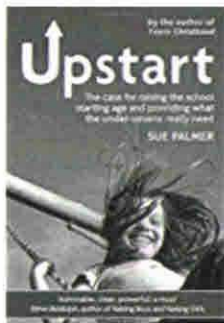


This is another very colourful book that shows how to make amazing transparent window scenes with cardboard and tissue paper. Having imagined simple window displays like the snowmen and baubles we have done at Christmas, I was initially put off by what I thought was a very technical craft book that would be difficult for children to complete. When I read the book I was very pleased that this was not the case. The introduction explains the philosophy of the authors who are both Steiner Waldorf teachers from Germany. They highlight that children are drawn closer to nature than adults and how they have used colour to create images that reflect the different seasons and festivals including Christmas. The window scenes are lovely, for example there are 'Springtime Shoots' with daffodils and tulips; a 'Summer Meadow' with flowers, a butterfly and snail; a 'Sailing boat' with fish and starfish; some wonderful autumn pictures with leaves and a kite, and a number of winter scenes including several nativity scenes and a 'Sleigh Ride'. Each scene has a clear template and there are more detailed instructions at the beginning. There are also instructions to create a light box, but this is not a requirement. The authors describe how children have watched them create these scenes and have either copied or created their own scenes with cardboard, tissue paper and glue. This is a very unique, all-year-round book that provides all the fun that is usually only reserved for Christmas.

Upstart Sue Palmer £9.99 978-178250-268-5

This book states the case for raising the school starting age in the UK to seven, arguing that there is no evidence that starting formal learning earlier helps to improve long-term educational results for children. The author describes the history of education, showing that as far back as the Middle-Ages and Roman Times, it was recognised that the first seven years of childhood were for play, and that this was acknowledged by childhood practitioners including Froebel, Steiner and Montessori. However, in the UK politicians decided on the school starting age of five as it was earlier than other nations and, as they were paid by numbers, schools were happy to accept the reception year in 1980s when education became a political pawn.

Referring to the previous Finnish model (which has been praised by the OECD),



where children attend Kindergarten until seven with increased learning through play, Sue argues that active, creative outdoor play is vital for the long-term physical and mental health of our children and that a decline in outdoor play for the under sevens has resulted in a decline in children's conceptual understanding and concentration. Although it may seem illogical that starting formal education earlier results in an increase in developmental delay and disorder, she provides evidence, backed up by teachers in the UK, that children today are less co-ordinated and have a lower ability to concentrate.

The book also discusses briefly issues that were raised in her first book, 'Toxic Childhood', such as the increased use of junk toys, junk food and junk play and the damage electronic devices are causing to our children's development and education. Although not campaigning for home education or a different education system in general, this book does provide valuable insight as to why starting school before seven may have a detrimental effect on children and that 'there can be a heavy price to pay for children who don't cope with an early start,' stating that there is increased evidence that shows that 'the social and emotional effects can contribute to life-long problems affecting the health and career paths of the individuals concerned.' This is a very informative book that many home educating families will relate to.

TRUSTEE BUSINESS ROUNDUP

EO News

A great deal of work has been going on behind the scenes since the AGM. The membership database has been cleaned up and the backlog of processing memberships and sending out welcome letters has been cleared. We are also continuing to answer large numbers of calls to our enquiry lines, giving support and information to home educators.

Website

One of the key priorities set at the AGM was to update the main EO website. We are now in the final stages of preparing the new website for launch. For this first phase, we have concentrated on the underlying software and hardware elements of the site. You will notice a cleaner look and feel and that previously broken elements such as the member forum have been replaced. There will also be more tools to allow you to manage your own membership. However, at this stage, the main content is unchanged. We will be refreshing the content over the coming months. When EO was founded, the World Wide Web was just a twinkle in the eye of Tim Berners-Lee. Nowadays, it is one of the main resources for most home educators. We needed a new platform that will support EO's online presence both now and in the future and, thanks to sterling work by the website project team, that is exactly what we have got.

Logo Competition

As we move forward, developing an organisation that supports the needs of modern home educators, we are considering introducing new branding that reflects this modernisation. We therefore invite members to submit logo ideas and designs. If your idea 'trumps the triangle' it will be put to a professional graphic artist to turn into a professional logo which will then become the organisation's logo.

Please send your ideas to trustees@educationotherwise.org by Friday 5th May.

[entries may also be made by post, but please allow time for delivery and forwarding]

Volunteering Opportunities

EO relies on the generous support of both members and volunteers who feel it is important to contribute to the home education community. We have a number of different volunteer roles available to suit; whether you have many hours to spare or just a few minutes. Please contact the trustees if you would be interesting in taking part. Some of the roles available at present include:

- **Enquiry line volunteer** (phone or email) - Answering enquiries and giving information and support
- **CIO Working Group member** - Help to write the new constitution of Education Otherwise and how to bring this new constitution into effect.
- **Trustee** - Help to set the strategic direction of the charity and ensure that we continue to provide a public benefit.

Please email trustees@educationotherwise.org if you are interested in any of these roles or in volunteering in any other way. There is no obligation and we will be happy to discuss with you the detail of what the roles involve.

LOCAL HOME EDUCATION GROUPS

PLEASE NOTE: HE families – Please contact the group organiser for full details and to check that activities are ongoing. 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.net

PLEASE NOTE: Group organisers – please remember when giving details of events, that this list (both in Newsletter and on main area of 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

N.B. Some groups have been removed due to lack of contact – if you wish your group to be reinstated in EO Newsletter and on Website, please contact Local Groups Co-ordinator: eolg@educationotherwise.org

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

Bristol

Bristol Home Education – Local support group Bristol area.
www.bristolhomeeducation.moonfruit.com
Bristol Home Education Learn Place (HELP) – Catherine:
catewhyte@hotmail.com
Home Education in Bristol and the South West – local website with information and links for groups, events and activities in Bristol and the surrounding areas + national info & resources.
Theresa: alternativeeducation.bristol@gmail.com
<http://alternative-education-bristol.moonfruit.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>
Georgianne 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: kafrevell@phonecoop.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: sandyariatt@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/homeeedbuxtonarea>

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.gold777@yahoo.co.uk
07523 982014
Freedom Fields EHE – Weekly social group for families
http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/PlymouthUK_HomeEd/
NDHE (North Devon Home Educators) – Meeting up for local trips and activities. Email: ndhomeed@gmail.com
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: bmt.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: essexhomeedmad@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.
Roxy: cdsnhf@googlemail.com
Glos HE – HE links and local resources in and around Gloucestershire. www.gloshe.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

Hampshire

ActiveEO – West Sussex and Hants <http://www.activeohe.com/>
self-help group for home educators living near the south coast.
Cate: bevmats@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/>
Hampshire FRHEBES (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: jakimparrsons@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/seedsl/>

Herefordshire

Hereford Home Education – Indoor and outdoor facilities ages 3-15. Email: hereforthe@gmail.com

Hertfordshire

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@yahooagroups.co.uk
South East Home Educators – (Kent/Sussex) Meet regularly for trips, hall meets, swimming etc. To join Yahoo! group email: southeasthomeeducators-subscribe@yahooagroups.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-l-ld/>
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 based in Hackney London. <http://awe.gn.apc.org/>

Brandram Readers – Weekly meetings in term time. rbyradburn@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 Education 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 HEs and families interested in home educating. Lots of activities! <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/WestNorfolkHomeEducators/>

Northamptonshire

iFlow – weekly HE community group, NW Northants. Support and friendship; parent-led and professionally-led educational activities. Wide range of resources, community space, sports & outdoor play. E: welcometoflow@gmail.com W: www.iflow-he.org

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/

Oxfordshire

Expanding Horizons (See Berkshire)

OHED – Website with information about HE in Oxfordshire www.ohed.org.uk Louisa: louisa.southey@gmail.com or 01865 735705

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: llanfyllynhe@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 HEs 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 HE Yahoo! Group – <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/BathHomeEducation/>
HEY Yeovil – All HE families welcome. Lyn: 01963 23669 heyevovil@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 (was Forest Unschool) 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@nattyem.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: mariaofreyna@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.

Christie: 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/>

Hastings & Rother Home Educators (HARHE) – small number of families; activities include Forest School, cycling, daytrips, bowling and swimming. Check website and us or come along 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 Eastern Home Educators – (Kent/Sussex) see Kent
Wealden Home Educators' Network (WHEN) 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: katehickland@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: fhnessy81@gmail.com

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

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

Huddersfield Art Workshops – Monthly 8 yrs plus.

Jane: 01484 645034

Huddersfield Book Group – Monthly Marsden library.

Jane: 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: colleecandydog123@yahoo.co.uk 077764 06409

SYHEC – Yahoo! group for parents HEing in South Yorkshire.

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

Wakefield District Home Education Group – Bowling, Ice skating, visits etc. Tracey: wakefieldHE-owner@yahoo.com

Wildings – Meet weekly for in & outdoor fun, friendship, crafts, Montessori materials. HE Group for children under 6.

Huddersfield. 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 of 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: katyalamb@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

FLAGS (Kent/Surrey/Sussex) – Active group (Kent/Surrey/Sussex) meeting weekly during term time <http://www.flags-education.org>
Karen: karenlow@uwclub.net 01732 864524

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

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://hecontactssandeventssw.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 of parents HEing on the Isle of Man.

Yvonne: isleofmanlc@educationotherwise.org

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/hen-iam/>

Home Education on the Isle Of Man –

Dawn: sewellbunch@yahoo.co.uk

WALES

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: sioxcatsy@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

Francysyllte 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 together in the village of Conwy for Home edders - all welcome. Email: lily@ogge.co.uk

South East Wales

Bridgend HE Community (Glamorgan) – free play, GCSE classes, Arts Award, John Muir Award, outside speakers, activities etc. Emma: emmr75@gmail.com

Cardiff Home Education Group (Glamorgan) – Meets Mondays during term time, Pontcanna. Social group children all ages, everyone welcome.

Sarah: cardiffhomeeducationgroup@gmail.com
www.cardiffhomeeducationgroup.wordpress.com

New Foundations HE (Glamorgan) – Meets Cardiff weekly. Varied activities, all free. <http://www.newfoundationshe.com>

07913 955583 Email: newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com

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

Abergavenny HE Group (Monmouthshire) – monthly meetings at Abergavenny on first Wednesday of each month. £3 per family. John: john.cranna@btconnect.com

Monmouth Home Educators – Meet weekly for fun and friendship, arts, crafts, games and sports. All ages welcome. Check for dates and times. Roxy: 07765 058 777

Usk Home Education (Monmouthshire) – Monthly (Thurs) meet other HErs in the area for fun and games and cups of tea. Roxy: cdsnhf@gmail.com or 01989 768 128

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

Solid Foundations (Neath Port Talbot) – Low cost or free activities, sessions and trips for all ages/abilities. Hayley: hayleydraco@gmail.com

South West Wales

Carmarthen 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

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 in the Monmouth/Hereford/Gloucester area. Local EO member Roxy: cdsnhf@googlemail.com 01989 768128

New Foundations – HE group and charity offering social & educational activities and support in Cardiff and South Wales. Every Mon 10am - 3pm. All HE families welcome.

www.newfoundationshe.com

Jayne: newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com Or 07913 955583

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/swwhen/>

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

Please Note

HE families – Please contact the group organiser for full details and to check that activities are ongoing. Note also that not all groups are run by EO members. Further information on the groups listed above 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 group organiser to enter it at www.educationotherwise.net or email EO Local Groups Co-ordinator:

eolg@educationotherwise.org

EO PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

Almost all venues now ask for Home Education Groups to have public liability insurance, to cover against accidental damage to the venue or injury to third parties (not group members!) while on the premises.

EO can provide this for just
£10 up to 31st August 2017

Detailed guidance and an application form are available to download from the Member Home area of the EO website or by email from the Local Groups Insurance Co-ordinator.

If you haven't already renewed, please do so a.s.a.p. You can also join at any time during the year - £10 for the remaining 5 months is still good value.

Queries/Further information from Anne:

Local Groups Insurance Co-ordinator

lgic@educationotherwise.org – 01760 441810

Who does What in EO

Current Trustees [Council Members]

trustees@educationotherwise.org

Jonathan Adams (Publications Secretary)

jadams@educationotherwise.org

Tom Crellin (Treasurer, Secretary)

tcrellin@educationotherwise.org

treasurer@educationotherwise.org

Graeme Evans (Membership Secretary)

g.evans@educationotherwise.org

membership@educationotherwise.org

Denise Kennell

d.kennell@educationotherwise.org

Fe Mukwamba-Sendall (Chair)

fsendall@educationotherwise.org

Barry O'Donovan (Enquiries Secretary)

b.odonovan@educationotherwise.org

Ljubica Temelkoska-Adams

l.temelkoska.adams@educationotherwise.org

N.B. Email to: trustees@educationotherwise.org

goes to all trustees

Address for general correspondence by letter:

Education Otherwise [insert Dept. If known]

OFFICE 7, 35-37 LUDGATE HILL,

LONDON EC4M 7JN

[This is EO's new address, but the Swaffham PO

Box will still operate for a while]

WEBSITE: www.educationotherwise.net

Webmaster: Tom

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,**

Office 7, 35-37 Ludgate Hill,

London EC4M 7JN

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-Exams-](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HE-Exams-GCSE-A_AS_Levels-OU-Others/)

[GCSE-A_AS_Levels-OU-Others/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HE-Exams-GCSE-A_AS_Levels-OU-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: Cornelia Theunissen

c.theunissen@educationotherwise.org

Dylexia Contact: Iris Harrison

Irisharrison6@aol.com

EO Stalls: Habiba Willow habibawillow@gmail.com

Flexi-schooling: VACANT

Local Contacts Co-ordinator: Lei Ashe

lcco-ordinator@educationotherwise.org

(or via Enquiries Secretary)

Local Group Insurance: Anne Rix

lgic@educationotherwise.org

Local Groups Listings: Kennell Family

eolg@educationotherwise.org

Newsletter Coordinator: VACANT (Anne Rix Acting)

eonl@educationotherwise.org

School Anxiety Support: VACANT

Single Parent Contact: Sam Kruger 08445 003794

singleparent@educationotherwise.org

Special Needs: Alisa 01458 448286 / 07401 421903

send@educationotherwise.org

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

Volunteer Co-ordinator: Wendy Knight

vol-coordinator@educationotherwise.org

*Note new postal and registered
address !!!*



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.

Education Otherwise Association Ltd.

Office 7, 35-37 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7JN

**** NOTE NEW ADDRESS ****

Helpline 084547 86 345

Web Site: <http://www.educationotherwise.net>

Education Otherwise Association Ltd., Registered Charity No. 1055120

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

Registered Office Address: Office 7, 35-37 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7JN

