

education otherwise



'A home educated mum having had her second baby, with home educated cousin, sister and home educating grandparents looking on'. Drawn by Alma, age 7, of Barnet, as a new baby congratulation card

Newsletter Spring 2018

SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

Please mark material 'for publication' and include your name, address, phone number and email, as we may need to contact you to discuss your contribution (though details may be withheld from publication on request). Email contributions will be acknowledged within a few days.

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Deadline for the Summer issue is 10th June 2018

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

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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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Important Notice re Jonathan Adams & Ljubica Temelkoska-Adams

The above named people do not represent Education Otherwise Association Ltd.

Following a number of complaints from volunteers and suppliers to the charity, Mr Adams was subject to disciplinary proceedings last year. After following the proper process, including offering opportunities for him to state his case and to appeal the decision, Mr Adams' membership of the charity was revoked in December and no appeal has been received.

Mrs Temelkoska-Adams shared a family membership with Mr Adams. She was offered the opportunity to re-join in her own right but did not take up the offer. As they are not members, neither Mr nor Mrs Adams have any rights to act as officers, volunteers or representatives of the charity.

Please note that neither Mr nor Mrs Adams have appealed the decision to revoke their membership either with the charity or with any court or tribunal. It is therefore entirely incorrect for them to suggest that the matter is in dispute.

We are aware that the above named are continuing to act as if they are officers of the charity despite clear legal advice that their actions are without merit. They have also been warned that their use of the domain 'trusteeseducationotherwise.net' is entirely unauthorised. The official domain of the organisation is 'educationotherwise.org' and genuine volunteers and representatives of the charity will use email addresses from this domain.

Further disciplinary proceedings are currently in progress which Education Otherwise is not in a position to comment on at this time.

Should you receive communication from any person claiming to be from Education Otherwise, including any of the current trustees listed on the website, and that email does not come from an @educationotherwise.org email address, please contact secretary@educationotherwise.org for clarification.

EO Trustees: Fe, Tom, Graeme and Sarah

Co-ordinatorial

Apologies for extreme lateness of this newsletter. Various administrative and personal issues conspired to disrupt the usual schedule. The Summer NL will also be somewhat delayed, but we hope to be back on track by the autumn.

Good news! Emma has volunteered to take over as NL Co-ordinator, and has been helping out with this issue. She is looking forward to co-ordinating the next one, so please keep your contributions coming in.

This issue contains some important **EO Business** - please make sure you're fully informed by reading it carefully.

Anne, April 2018

YOUNG WRITERS PAGES

If you'd like to add your stories, poems, drawings etc., or to make suggestions, please send them along. We can type up from handwriting, arrange formatting, etc. Only – **please** make sure you include family contact details in case we need to get in touch with you or your parents.



My name is Oliver and I love fossils. Me and my family went fossil hunting to Port Mulgrave in Yorkshire and nobody was there. It was weird. We had to park at the top of a steep cliff and walk AAAAALLLLL the way down. It took us 10 minutes to get down and up it was very very steep. We also saw that it looked like there was a landslide which was pretty scary. There were fossils everywhere you literally had to just stand there and look around, and you would have found loads of ammonites and other fossils. I collected so many fossils it was crazy. All the ammonites are about 65 million years old. I also gave some to my grandparents. Here is a photo of a huge ammonite we found on the beach.

(Oliver, aged 9, Stockton-on-Tees)

THE EMPTY INN

[our continuing saga ...]

Part five: The Last Room.

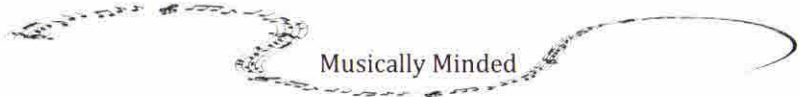
He stepped through the doorway and into an inn. There was a bar at one end, window seats and chairs surrounded tables. But there was something strange about the people. They were as still as statues, not one of them moved, yet there was chatter and singing in the room, like there was in the corridor. He walked to the bar and leaned on the counter, staring at the statue of the barman, which stared back at him with empty eyes. Then suddenly a hand grabbed his shoulder. He spun round and came face to face with a statue, its arm raised. He backed away from it and crashed into another one. More and more appeared around him, surrounding him. The chatter turned to chanting. Then they stilled, every one of them stopped advancing. A figure in a black cape wove through them, touching each one as she passed, turning them to dust. Once the statues had gone, the figure stood in front of him, gazing at him with deep blue eyes.

'You are lucky to get this far, stranger,' she said. 'Most pick the wrong door, or answer a riddle wrongly. How you did it, I do not know. 'But now, you have reached the last of the rooms, and I think, just maybe, I will let you go,' she clapped her hands and the room dissolved around him, and he found himself at the front door of the inn. He blinked and shook his head, wondering where he was and why he was there. There was no light in the windows of the inn and no sound either. He turned his back on the door and walked away, looking back only once. When he wasn't looking the door opened and the figure looked out, watching him go. 'You are lucky, stranger,' she whispered.



The End. This Time. By Amber Cole. Age: 15





Musically Minded

For those with musically-inclined children, it might be interesting to know that the conservatoires base their choices almost entirely on the audition and the applicant's relevant experience (membership of orchestras, etc.). They really don't care much about exam results if the applicant's performance on their chosen instrument is outstanding and they give a good interview.

There are eight music conservatoires in the UK (plus three for dance and drama). Their approach differs from that of normal universities in that they are all about creativity and performance - more detail here: www.conservatoiresuk.ac.uk/. My son, who was home educated from age 11- 16, is currently studying at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and having a fabulous time. The standard is very high and there's a lot of pressure, especially given that exams often take the form of public performances, but for someone whose life revolves around music it's wonderful to be surrounded by others who take it equally seriously, and the opportunities for collaboration are something he particularly enjoys. His four-year course leads to a Bachelor of Music degree, and postgraduate study is also offered.

It's very difficult for a child who's attending school to pack in enough lesson and practice time to reach the standard required for conservatoire entry. My son's years of HE (from 11 - 16) enabled him to find the right instrument and run with it to the point where he was able to audition successfully only six years after his first music lesson. He didn't leave school to study music but because of bullying and depression, but it turns out that what felt at that point like an act of desperation has actually changed his life immeasurably for the better: if he'd stayed at school, I know that he wouldn't have had the energy or the emotional resources to find and follow his interest in music, never mind make it his career.

Here is a piece from my son about his experience of his first year at RWCMD:

Callum Binns, Awardee 2009-2012, classical guitar
Currently studying BMus(Hons) at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama

I chose the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama largely because of the atmosphere of mutual respect between the college and the students. It also felt like a great place to expand my interests and learn about all sorts of different styles of music.

The best thing about going to a conservatoire is that you are constantly interacting with other people who are just as excited about music as you are, and there are a lot of opportunities to learn new things from people with different areas of expertise. A huge abundance of free or very cheap concerts by both other students and visiting performers is a real bonus.

I'm currently playing Spanish Vihuela music, which is a departure in both style and technique from usual guitar repertoire. I look forward to learning about music from other parts of the world, especially Africa and South America, throughout the next three years of my four-year course.

Sarah (On EO Member's Forum), Caerphilly

Another EO member points out that the conservatoires have junior schools too, usually run on Saturdays, who put on concerts for all, even if kids are not aiming to perform. So taking kids along to listen too is a great cultural experience!



Our HE Story

My four children aged 18-26 met up for a drink recently. They told me afterwards that they discussed being home educated, how they enjoyed it and felt it had given them a great start in life. That was a relief to hear, as for many years I had worried if I was doing the right thing. Now I know that I did.

Our HE journey began 20 years ago when we took our eldest son out of school aged 6. He was being bullied, the school refused to address it and he was having nightmares. In addition, he was being forced to read before he was ready. Later on I realised he was dyslexic. He was always tired and irritable, and he was struggling to relate to children within the busy school environment. We realised that his school could not nurture or protect our children or cater for their needs, and that it was up to us to act.

The actual decision to remove him was easy - we had been left with no choice, but we were unprepared for the reactions of the teachers, friends and family which, with only one exception, were entirely negative and unsupportive. I suddenly felt very isolated and had to keep in mind that I was to be "inspected" at regular intervals. It was all very daunting. Despite this, I trusted my instincts, focused on our son, and in a few weeks got him back to his original contented state. We started to embrace the freedom and opportunities our new life gave us.



Being in touch with other HE families was both positive and negative in the early months. Many had very different approaches to child rearing than us, the most difficult aspect being the lack of concern some parents showed in the poor social behaviour of their children, how they were unable to listen in a group setting and give others the respect they deserved. There was also a distinct lack of boys and no interest in the sporting activities mine enjoyed. That aside, we found our own path and, in the end, benefitted hugely from the broad mix of people we encountered.

Solely because our children were not in school they were rarely tired and could really benefit from the activities they wanted to pursue. They went on many varied trips, joined Scouts, swimming, rugby and athletics clubs, learned how to grow vegetables and care for hens, read often and widely, climbed trees and made dens, volunteered for charity, learned to play a musical instrument, put on concerts and played endless imaginative games with their siblings and close friends.

They were happy, socialised regularly with many different people of all ages and were able to grow and develop at their own pace.

The two key words for me during this time were "opportunity" and "encouragement". These words kept me focused, constantly re-assessing the education and experiences I was providing to make sure it was better than the alternative. I had always felt that it was in their best interests to remain open minded about school in order to maintain it as a choice for them should they need it. Our annual "inspections" also kept me focussed and in time I saw those visits as a useful barometer of how we were doing as a whole. I was constantly aware of the responsibility I had undertaken.

I would not be truthful if I did not discuss the problems we encountered. The lack of boys in the EO groups was an ongoing issue, as was the constant pressure to seek out social experiences and friends for them all. I underestimated how much other children were a vital part of the jigsaw. HE could also be an isolating position to be in and initially I felt I had to defend my decision regularly. There were periods when my children were defiant and de-motivated, and any structure was temporarily abandoned. We changed tack and it usually sorted itself out.

We learned along the way that home education does not benefit every child. The social contact they receive from a variety of adults and children in school can sometimes be better than isolating them at home. We now realise that HE can utterly fail some children; mental health issues are not exclusively the result of the school environment but of today's society. Just as children can suffer in schools, they can also suffer within a home environment if parents are not fully aware of the pitfalls. In addition, just as schools can fail to provide an adequate education, so can HE. Both scenarios are equally capable of making children ill-equipped for the world of work and wider society.



However, one of the most interesting and rewarding parts of educating my own children was the ability to allow my children to read when they were ready to. My second son wanted to read at age 4 and progressed quickly. My two girls showed no interest until they were 7. I assisted them with sounds and basic words and only six months later they were reading Harry Potter books unaided, a revelation to me. My eldest, after being put off reading at school, gave it up until he

was 9. Even now he is a reluctant reader, but he learned enough to achieve a 1st Class Degree and Masters Distinction. Forcing children to read before they are ready can destroy their confidence and enjoyment of books and clearly early reading is absolutely no indication of intelligence or potential. As I write this, my children are very contented, well qualified adults, clear in who they are and what they want to do. In the end, the two boys chose to go to Secondary school aged 11, I think school offered them more socially and academically than I could at that age. The two girls went at 14, the eldest girl briefly trying primary school before coming back out at secondary level. They all found the subjects easy, even boring, and had to persevere at first to "fit in" with the pressurised, unique school social code. I would like to think they ended up with the best of both worlds.

My second son is currently a primary school teacher, despite never having been a pupil in one. There are huge pressures in the job he loves, but he tries hard to make lessons relevant, meaningful and fun. He is serious about teaching in Europe, recognising the problems in the UK system. My eldest daughter is currently working in conservation education in Europe and has previously taught visiting school and HE groups. The three older ones have travelled widely, backpacking and volunteering for charities. The eldest is now working in Australia. My youngest goes to university in Scotland this year to study a long-awaited subject. I believe that HE (the flexible lifestyle, the variety of people, experiences and opportunities) has caused my children to believe that they are free to choose in their adult life too, that there are no limits.

Personally, HE was a wonderful experience; the freedom to teach what we wanted, away from the unrealistic expectations and negative pressures of school and society made their childhood fun and my parenting so much more fulfilling. I was able to give them my uninterrupted time and support as they grew up, providing them with a variety of positive influences that school could never have offered them. Twenty years on, the option to home educate has never been more important. I am glad that I was forced into seeing the opportunities it provided, and thankful that I was able to keep an open-mind to enable my children to change paths should they need to. After all, it was not my choice, it was theirs.

Helen, Cumbria (formerly of Notts)

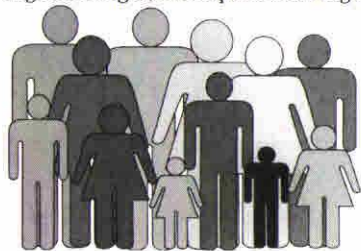


Musing: Winds of Change!

Happy New Year! Mmmm, perhaps it's a little late to be issuing that greeting, so maybe 'Happy Spring Sunshine!' would be more apt. I must admit my spirits have soared a little with the increasing minutes of daylight we're now getting each day, and the odd rays of sun poking through the miserable grey. It ain't half chilly though, so we've been enjoying lots of tv catch up in-front of the roaring fire.

Having hoped for a calmer and more positive year after the difficult summer of 2017, it's again looking like I'll be as busy and frazzled as possible, mainly thanks to a certain Lord Soley and his chums in the unelected House of Lords. I don't want to be seen to be preaching to the converted, or accused of teaching Granny to suck eggs, but I've spent many a conversation with other home-edders recently, where they have little or no knowledge of what's currently kicking off on the political scene. So, to that end, here's my permanently-frazzled take on the situation. It is, of course, solely my view (pun intended!) and does not necessarily represent that of the Trustees of Education Otherwise or EO as an organisation.

Social workers and other community agencies, already have all the powers they need to deal with both school and home educated cases of abuse/suspected abuse: they simply need to choose to use those laws. The presumption that sending a child to school is a means of safeguarding is unfounded, as I sadly found during my years of teaching: I have never come across the levels of deprivation, neglect, hunger, inadequate clothing and lack of love in the home ed community, as I did in the classroom.



Above all, we need to remember that as parents in the UK, we are fully and legally responsible for ensuring our child receives a full-time, efficient education – either by sending them to school, or otherwise. This means that the natural, default position, in law, is for a family to retain their responsibility by home educating: it is actually parents who choose to send their children to school, who are, in effect, handing their responsibility, on a daily basis, over to the State.

So, what do I suggest we do about this latest attack on the freedom and sanctity of family life? Well, I think a good place to start would be joining the conversation about the DfE Call for Evidence and Consultation on the EO members' forum. It would also be useful to join the 'Anti HE bill' FaceBook group, in order to keep up with developments and support the wider HE community.

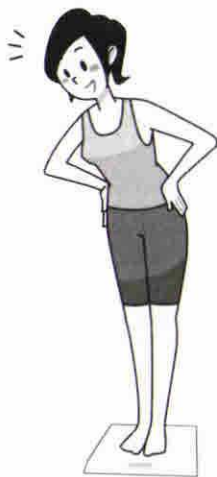
Those of us who've been round long enough to remember the Badman era, know that if it hadn't been for the tireless work of many home educators around the country, lobbying their MPs, visibly protesting and reaffirming their legal rights, we could be in a very different situation now. I'm not naïve enough to claim that the preparation for the General Election didn't rapidly defuse the attack on us by Badman and Balls, but we can't simply do nothing and hope that it will all go away again. It

won't! This is the second attempt in less than a decade by government to enforce registration and monitoring on the community, and the proposed elements in this second attack are even further-reaching, so it's imperative that we all start communicating with our MPs, aiming to show what a positive, supportive, and safe, community we are.

Let's get out the house, be loud and proud about who we are and what we do – if we are passionate about home edding, then we need to be sharing that passion with all around us. It's not a fight for someone else: it's a fight for me, you, each and every one of us. Let's not leave it to the seasoned campaigners amongst the community either: if we want to preserve our freedom to educate our children how we see fit, we all have to speak up.

In other news, the permanently frazzled household has been undergoing quite a change so far this year as well, all things dietary. Hubby and I started the year following the very strict exclusion diet known as the FODMAP diet. Weeks of cooking separately for us ensued, with hours spent poring over copious recipe books and online forums, but a successful outcome can be announced: I definitely have a problem with wheat and gluten, and hubby most definitely has a problem with excess sugar. This was followed by a visit to the GP to discuss our next idea (OK, I admit it, my idea!) which was to follow the Blood Sugar diet for eight weeks, consuming only 800 cals a day. We are keen to lower our BMI, but more importantly, reduce our bellies and encourage our bodies to start using up our visceral fat. Our GP reacted exactly how we'd predicted: fell about laughing!

He applauded our (my!) intentions, but suggested that it would be more easily maintained if we approached it as a 5:2 diet. So, five days of the week we're eating a low-carb Mediterranean diet, with every Wednesday and Friday being our 'fasting' days where we consume only 800 cals per day. It's taking quite a lot of research and prep, but those of you who've been around a while will know that research and prep is something I find exciting and challenging. We have fallen off our four year pescatarian bandwagon, and reintroduced a little lean meat, because trying to do the diet with only eggs and tofu would have been pretty tricky, not to mention boring. We had lengthy blood tests taken as a baseline, and were both quite amazed to get the results back: neither of us are prediabetic (I'd been worried because the family history of type 2 diabetes), neither of us have an issue with cholesterol, although we're hoping to reduce it slightly, but I am severely anaemic and also have a vitamin D deficiency. Explains why I'm so shattered all the time! Even on fasting days, amazingly, I'm not feeling overly hungry. In fact, I was more peckish when I was eating about three times the amount of cals. Mmmm... must do some more research and figure it out!



Our local home ed choir sessions have had an exciting new development! Our lovely choir mistress, our very own 'Gareth Malone', has had a vision of not one, nor two, but many home ed choirs around the country, all singing the same songs at a given time, and inviting our local media to come and join the celebration. She sees it as a wonderful opportunity to join together as a voice of solidarity, to celebrate the talents and accomplishments within our community. It's still in fairly early planning stages, but a FaceBook group called 'Sing!' has been set up, which you can ask to join by emailing 'Gareth' herself on cunningham_marie@ymail.com Being all arty-farty, this is simply the channel our choir mistress has chosen to do her part to shout out 'loud and proud', but you could organise a similar activity through whatever medium lights your fire.

Another interesting activity which some of you may be interested in, is a group that's been established by a fairly new member of our community: 'BRIGHT SPARKS - SQUARE PEGS' - Elective Educational Enrichment Groups for Gifted Children that do not neatly fit into mainstream schooling. You can find the group on FaceBook, and I can guarantee a warm welcome by the lovely lady who introduced me to the group whilst nattering away on the EO support line.

Incidentally, it's been a busy old time on the EO Helpline! I think Spring half term would be my personal record for the number of phone calls I received, and I ended up bribing my most eloquent child to answer the phone for me at intervals and keep people chatting, just so that I could race off for a comfort break. It's simply yet more proof that the school system is broken, possibly beyond repair, and more and more families are turning to EO to guide them as they start their exhilarating journey into the world of home ed.

TRY OUR LOW CARB, GLUTEN-FREE PANCAKES! This Recipe makes around 11 x 3" round pancakes:

Ground almonds/almond flour x 142g

Large eggs x 6

Coconut flour x 35.5g

Milk (dairy free milk worked fine) x 6

Sweetener x 2 tablespoons

tablespoons

Gluten-free baking powder x 1 teaspoon

Vanilla extract x 1 teaspoon

Whisk together all the ingredients until usual consistency of pancake batter

Heat butter/oil in pan, then drop batter into circles in the hot pan.

Cook for 1-2 minutes until bubbles start to form, then flip and cook for another 1-2 minutes.

'Frazzled Mum' [name and address supplied]



Home Educator Discounts

We all know how helpful subscriptions can be when home educating, my youngest absolutely loved Reading Eggs. However, they can work out quite costly, especially if you have several for different subject areas. Before you spend out, why not check and see if you can get a discount via EO?

Visit the member area of the website at www.educationotherwise.org for updated details of discounts available to EO members, from providers including Reading Eggs, GCSE Physics Ninja, Mathseeds, and EdPlace.

Nothing there that interests you? Send us details of your favourite providers or venues and we'll do our best to negotiate a discount for our members:

concessions@educationotherwise.org

Fairs and Festivals

The EO stall will be visiting the following events. Why not stop by for a chat?

GREEN SCYTHE FAIR Sunday 10 June Thorney Lakes near Langport Somerset.
Family & dog friendly event

ROLLRIGHT FAYRE 6 - 8 July Oxfordshire Voted Best Small Festival. Max 500 people

BUDDHAFIELD FESTIVAL 18 - 22 July near Wellington (Somerset / Devon border) Very fine event. Drug & Alcohol Free. Approx 2000 people

GREEN GATHERING 2 - 6 August Chepstow..... "a festival beyond hedonism with education for a sustainable future at its heart"

GREEN EARTH AWAKENING 12 - 16 September near Wellington (Somerset / Devon border) Run by Buddhafield. Drug & Alcohol Free

All are very child friendly and great events.

EDUCATION OTHERWISE BUSINESS

To All Members – Trustees want to hear from you, so please take the time to consider the future running of EO; it's YOUR charity so you should have a say in how it is organised.

RESTRUCTURING OF EDUCATION OTHERWISE

Background

At the October 2016 AGM Special Resolution 2 'Restructuring of Education Otherwise' was carried and required trustees to prepare for restructuring as a CIO. That resolution is presented below for reference:

'That: in order to reduce costs and bring the charity in line with current Charity Commission best practice, the charity should seek to restructure as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation using the membership model and that the trustees, in conjunction with members who wish to be involved, should therefore prepare a new constitution, retaining the principles, aims and objectives of the existing charity and present this at a General Meeting, along with the appropriate resolutions to complete the restructuring, as soon as reasonably practicable.'

Some of the benefits to EO arising from conversion to a CIO are noted below:

- Eliminate double reporting – i.e. documents go to Charity Commission only, not Companies House
- EO would be subject to a single set of legislation (charity) and not subject to the Companies Act requirements (e.g. disclosure of register of members)
- Modern methods of communication can be used to save the charity costs and volunteer time (e.g. meetings can be online, notices can be made via email /web)
- The constitution follows modern best practice and legislation and has some flexibility thus allowing trustees to make certain decisions without having a general meeting to amend the governing document. (e.g. the types of membership, role titles for trustees, deadlines for nomination process)

In the Spring 2017 Newsletter, a call was issued for EO Member volunteers to join a CIO Working Group help write the new constitution of Education Otherwise and work on how to bring this new constitution into effect. However, no one volunteered to assist trustees with this work.

As and when time permitted the CIO Working Group members (trustees) progressed the work needed to write the constitution and review the options available under the membership model. This work was completed in early January 2018 and the newly drafted constitution presented to attendees at the January 2018 AGM, and an amendment to reduce the maximum number of trustees to 9 was approved at that time.

Further Consultation

Following the AGM, a revised draft CIO constitution was placed in the Member area of the EO website, and members are urged to join the discussion on the EO Member Forum. To access the EO Member Forum, first log in via the form at the bottom of the home page at www.educationotherwise.org, then follow the 'Member forum' link under 'Member pages' in the main menu. Scroll down the forum page to find the discussion under "EO Business". If you have difficulties logging in, please email Sarah Willans at swillans@educationotherwise.org

In the light of the discussion, trustees will consider whether to make further amendments to the draft CIO constitution; however, the standard form acceptable to the Charity Commission has very limited scope for variation.

What Happens Next

In order to take the proposed change forward, trustees have also drafted appropriate resolutions to bring the revised constitution into effect. The resolutions will be:

- (a) To instruct the trustees to apply to the Charity Commission to convert the charity to a CIO as soon as reasonably practical; and
- (b) To approve the draft CIO constitution.

Voting on these resolutions will be by a poll of all SUMs, to ensure maximum member participation.

Over the coming weeks trustees will prepare for polling and will write to SUMs in advance setting out the process and timeframes.

The Polling Process

Charity commission best practice on the conduct of polls is included in the standard text of the CIO constitution in the EO Member area – see section (9) Postal Voting. Whilst this is a slightly cumbersome procedure, your council of trustees believe EO should follow the standard poll process.

Trustees for Education Otherwise Association Limited
Fé Mukwamba-Sendall, Tom Crellin, Sarah Willans & Graeme Evans



*** Important News - DfE Call for Evidence and Consultation ***

On 10 April 2018 the Department for Education issued a 'Call for evidence on greater oversight of children whose parents elect to educate them at home, and consultation on revised DfE guidance documents.' The consultation closes at 11:59pm on 2 July 2018.

The call for evidence regarding education otherwise than at school covers registration of children educated at home, the monitoring of home education provision and support for home educators.

DfE are asking for comments on two draft guidance documents about elective home education. The drafts are a significant and unwelcome splitting of guidance into one set for local authorities and the other for parents. These drafts are intended to replace the current well established and mostly correct 'Elective home education: guidelines for local authorities'.

We have opened a forum discussion for EO members to help inform the council's response, please join us at - <https://bit.ly/2EN35vD> - over the next several weeks.

Your EO Trustees: Fé, Tom, Graeme and Sarah



Calling all volunteers: your membership is now free!

We have recently introduced free membership for all volunteers. If you are currently volunteering for EO and have not received notification that you have been moved to the new free membership, please contact the Membership Secretary on membership@educationotherwise.org for an application form. This form gathers additional, role-related information, so you will need to fill one in even if you have a current, unexpired membership of EO.



Wanted: Local Contacts for Education Otherwise

Could you be an EO Local Contact?

The work of Education Otherwise is supported by a network of Local Contact volunteers – individuals who bring the benefits of their own home educating experience to the role, providing on-the-spot information and support to new home educators in their locality.

As their children grow up and leave education, many LCs themselves move on to a different phase in their lives, and as a result we are always in need of new volunteers. 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. Many LCs say that the biggest part of their role is simply reassuring parents or carers who are considering withdrawing their child from school that they're not crazy, they will not ruin their child's life (whatever others may suggest), that socialisation is not a problem and practical issues like finding exam centres are surmountable, and that it will all be OK in the end. Hearing this from someone who has been there and done it is exactly the reassurance they need.

Extract from the EO Local Contact task profile

Education Otherwise started off as a small self-help organisation for Home Educators to access mutual support and share information. Since those humble beginnings, EO has grown and now much of what we do is carried out by our volunteer post-holders and trustees. Nonetheless, the self-help element of EO is still a vital part of its character, and Local Contacts are today the strongest link to those origins.

Local contacts are important because it is impossible for 'Big EO' to know what issues are relevant to individual members around the country. Nor are we able to give them sufficient knowledge about Home Educators in their area. Local Contacts can. You are the link between the organisation and our members: allowing us to create a national picture of what issues affect our members, and giving members the warm welcome and detailed local knowledge they have always received from EO.

Role Description:

- You will welcome and inform new members of EO about local groups and activities.
- You will to the best of your ability answer members' questions regarding home education and signpost members to the various resources EO and you and your local community can offer.
- You will inform the Local Contact Co-ordinator about any serious or escalating problems members are experiencing, so EO can look to address these issues centrally.

Changing with the times

In EO's early decades, most enquirers contacted LCs by telephone. EO provided, and still provides, a dedicated telephone number routed through to the LC's home phone, so that their private number need not be given to enquirers. But these days many enquirers prefer to use email, and each LC is given access to a dedicated EO email address for use in their role.

Support

We recently asked all of our Local Contacts what kind of support they needed, and the most popular request was simply to be put in touch with other LCs. As a result, the member forum on the EO website now has a dedicated area for LCs, where they can chat, share experiences, pass on information, and let us know when further support needs arise.

We have also recently introduced free membership for volunteers. Any volunteer reading this who has not yet been transferred to a free membership should contact the Membership Secretary ASAP: membership@educationotherwise.org.

Is there an LC in your area?

We currently have many vacancies to fill, and the area boundaries are not set in stone. The LC role is perfect for a job share so, even if there is already an LC in your area, we would love you to get in touch if you think that you might like to volunteer.

To find out more, please email swillans@educationotherwise.org – I'll look forward to hearing from you.



Book Reviews Spring 2018

By Kerri: bookreviews@educationotherwise.org

An English theme this time with a traditional syllabus and something a little different:

Nelson English

Oxford University Press

One of the biggest challenges I faced when starting to home educate was deciding on how to teach the core subjects, and in particular English. After looking at a number of different publishers I settled for the Nelson series which is now part of Oxford University Press. If you go onto their website and click on Education, either Primary or Secondary, you will see a very comprehensive list of resources. There is so much available on this site that it can be quite a task to determine what you actually want. I settled for the Nelson Spelling, Grammar and Comprehension Books, focusing on one subject per term. There is a Nelson Handwriting Book in this series too.



Nelson
Spelling

Pupil Book 4



Nelson Spelling

In this series there are pupil books for each year that cost £5.25 each. Each has a glossy front cover and 28 units with a unit test in the middle and at the end. At the beginning there is a table showing the focus for each unit highlighting which units relate to the statutory material for the year, (National Curriculum of England), together with references for material from the additional Resource and Assessment Book that can be purchased separately for £29.95 (2 resource books cover R-Yr6 or P1-P7 in Scotland).

Each unit covers one spelling focus with key words on the left page that can be covered with a flap, and a Focus, Extra and Extension exercise. These include filling in blank words, word searches, writing sentences and cover plurals, syllables, homophones, and dictionary work. Each page is well set out with colourful pictures to make it more visually appealing and coloured boxes that explain spelling rules in a very easy to understand way.

In addition there are workbooks for Yr1 and 2 that enable further practice; however I couldn't find these in single units on the website. There are also two Teacher's Books (£29.95) that provide a wealth of supporting information; however, I found that I didn't use the one I had purchased as the pupil book is so straightforward.

Nelson Grammar

In the same format as the Spelling, there is a pupil book for each year and the Teacher's and Resource books. Each pupil book has again 28 two-page units covering all of the National Curriculum requirements for that year, with a table at the beginning outlining the focus covered in each unit.

As the Grammar requirements are a lot more comprehensive these days, each unit provides a good explanation of each focus area in a shaded box, followed by the Focus, Practice and Extension exercises. In the Pupil Book 4 there are approximately 6 units each on Verbs, Sentences and Nouns, spread out with other units on Suffixes, Adjectives, Adverbs, Pronouns and Paragraphs. These incorporate tenses such as simple, past perfect and progressive, adverbial and noun phrases, direct and indirect speech and synonyms in exercises with colourful text and pictures.



Pupil Book 4



OXFORD

Nelson Comprehension

Again with the same format, however the Comprehension Pupil Book contains 10 units. The lower books have two double pages per unit, Book 4 onwards has three double pages for each unit.

Each unit has a comprehension text on page one – extract from a book, play, poem, or factual information, for example 'How Does The Heart Work?' The second page is the 'Teach' aspect and asks discussion questions about the text, language, information and characters, together with a 'Taking it Further' section that asks the pupil to think more about a certain aspect of the text. The third page has another text of the same type, for example, 'How Do We Move?' followed by another 'Teach' section in the same format as previously. The last two pages have another similar text, for example, 'How Do Our Lungs Work?' followed by a 'Write' page with the same four headings.



Nelson
Comprehension

Pupil Book 4



OXFORD

The Book 4 Units cover Journalistic Writing, Similes and Metaphors, Understanding Information Writing, Characters' Feelings and Actions, Interpreting Explanation Texts, Reading Persuasive Texts, Looking at Settings, Exploring Stage Play scripts and How Settings Create Atmosphere.

Animals In The Forest

Kathryn Rose Newey

Amazon Kindle £0.99, Paperback £4.40, Audio Download free with Audible Trail.

This is a beautifully illustrated, environmentally themed animal story with free supplementary worksheets from the author's web page www.kathrynrosenewey.com and www.tes.com

The 51-page story is set in a local forest where Dakota the Deer and her animal friends live until they are disturbed by machinery that starts destroying the forest to build new houses. The 9 chapters describe events from the animals' points of view, describing their initial curiosity to the fear and then reality that they would be forced to leave their homes.

This text is an absolute pleasure to read due to the superb descriptive detail and wide ranging vocabulary, but also as it is delightfully written in 'proper English'. The characters' personalities come to life in each chapter as they try to make sense of what is going on, to the point that you desperately hope for a happy ending, which sadly, and realistically, there is not.

Animals in the Forest:

The Day Terrible Things Came



A story to save the Earth
Kathryn Rose Newey

At the end of the book there is an Epilogue that provides information on the environmental reasons for each character's name, some other related environmental issues for further thought, and a section entitled 'What you can do to help?' to protect the environment.

The book is a wonderful read on its own, but there is also a pack of 9 Wonderworksheets for English Literacy with lots of questions, discussion ideas, writing tasks and discussion topics. Aimed for upper primary, these worksheets provide a very interesting and comprehensive set of exercises covering a wide range of activities including researching and designing your own non-fiction booklet about crows, drawing an impression of a worm's-eye view of the animals' discussion, writing stories from a given first line, and many more. The worksheets are the most interesting and varied I have come across to date and show that the author has put a lot of thought and detail into each one.

Animals In The Forest is a really lovely thought provoking addition for your child's reading and English curriculum which I am sure all children will enjoy and be inspired by. The author is also available for book readings and talks to home-educating groups (see the website for details).

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose? or: 'ere we go agin!

[Extracts from EO web page about 'The Badman Review' 2009]

DCSF: Home Education - Registration & Monitoring Proposals Consultation

The Press Notice from the DCSF summarised the main recommendations of the Review as follows:

- that local authorities should provide more support to home educating families, e.g. through helping provide access to the national examination system, sports facilities, libraries and music tuition;
- a compulsory annual registration scheme, in which all parents who plan to home educate have to inform their local authority.
- at the time of registration, parents being asked to submit a statement of their intended approach to the child's education including what they aim to achieve over the following 12 months;
- giving properly trained local authority officials the right of access to the home, following a minimum two week notification to the parents. They will check that the child is making progress against their learning statement. They will also have the right to speak to the child, to ensure they are safe and well. A written report must then be produced and shared with the parents and child; and that local authorities can refuse registration to home educate if there is clear evidence of safeguarding concerns.

.... As one parent has said "they want all the oppressive intrusive inspection recommendations to be legally enforceable but all the warm fuzzy support recommendations are just going to be voluntary."

.... Many home educators have pointed out that when the state knows where children are, and when professionals become involved with a family, this does not suffice to keep children safe.

The particular form of registration proposed by the Badman Review is not simply a method of notifying the authority, it is more akin to applying for a licence to be a home educator for the year.

Since education is the parents' responsibility in law, perhaps we should logically apply to be parents of our own children for the year, as though we were going through the process of adoption?

EO PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE for LOCAL HE GROUPS

This benefit for Local Home Education Groups run by EO members continues at £10 per year *or part year* from 1st September to 31st August. You can join at any time of year but renewal date is always 31st August. Although by now you've missed most of the year, it's still good value compared with the cost of getting your own group insurance. 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 by different parents and open to all local HE families.

The EO insurance only covers liability to third parties/property – it does not provide accident cover for people attending the group. 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 lgic@educationotherwise.org

If you decide to take up EO insurance now, please drop me an email when you post off your form and cheque; this helps me keep up with the administration. Anne <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.net

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 added on the Website and in EO Newsletter please visit the

Local HE Groups Directory on the EO website.

For queries 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 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.

Therese: 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.camshomeed.co.uk Jane: camshomeed@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 HEs in West Cumbria: WestCumbriaHomeEd@gmail.com

Derbyshire

Chesterfield Home Education Group (CHEG) – weekly meetings and days out for all ages. Sandy: sandymariatt@gmail.com
Derby HE Group (DHEG) – Weekly Gym Club at sports centre with instructor. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/derbyhe/>
Lynsey: lynseyvpc@ntlworld.com
Home Ed Buxton Area – Local meetings/activities for HEs 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_Poole_HomeEducators/?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.
junebugchick@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.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.activeeohe.com/>
self-help group for home educators living near the south coast.
Cate: bevmats@btinternet.com
Basinstoke 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 FRHEEBES (Free Range & Home Educated Bees) – West Hampshire area and borders to arrange meet ups and activities. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FRHEEBes/>
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: jakimpersons@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: sztefn@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! Step: stephater@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 meets, 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-l-l-o/>

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/>

Brandam 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

Magpie 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: 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 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

heyevuil@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

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: 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.com 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: fhennesy81@gmail.com

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

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

Huddersfield Art Workshops – Monthly 8 yrs plus.

Jane: 01484 645034

Huddersfield Book Group – Monthly Marsden library.

Project: 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: collicandydog123@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: inglejfamily@hotmail.com

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: 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 England

ActiveEO – 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. southdevonhc@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, 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, Pontcanna. 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: louisejherbert@googlegmail.com
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HerefordshireHE/>

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

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.
thistlingleightofmine@phoncoop.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

Froncsyllte HE group (Denbighshire) – Fortnightly group meets 10-4pm. Social play and chat. Email: vivadsam@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]

trustees@educationotherwise.org

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

Barry O'Donovan (Enquiries Secretary)

b.odonovan@educationotherwise.org

Sarah Willans

swillans@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]
2 Senlac Green
Uckfield
East Sussex
TN22 1NN

WEBSITE: www.educationotherwise.org

Webmaster:

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-Exams-GCSE-A_AS_Levels-OU-Others/

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

Exam Centres list: http://he-exams.wikia.com/wiki/Finding_an_exam_centre

Concessions Co-ordinator: Cornelia Theunissen
concessions@educationotherwise.org

Dylexia Contact: Iris Harrison
Irisharrison6@aol.com

EO Stalls: Habiba Willow
<habibawillow108@gmail.com>

Flexi-schooling: VACANT

Local Contacts Co-ordinator: Sarah Willans (Acting):
swillans@educationotherwise.org

Local Group Insurance: Anne Rix 01760 441810
lgic@educationotherwise.org

Local Groups Listings: *eolg@educationotherwise.org*

Newsletter Coordinator: New volunteer:
Emma (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

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 0845 4786 345

Web Site: <http://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

