

education otherwise®

***Home Education
Begins***

***HE Around The World
- Luxembourg -***

It Was All Worth It

Holistic Education

EO Business

£3

Newsletter - Summer 2012

SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

The deadline for inclusion in the Autumn 2012 issue is 15th August

Please mark your material 'for publication', and include your name, address, phone number and email address, as we may need to contact you to discuss your contribution. Details may be withheld from publication on request. Email contributions will be acknowledged within a few days. If you require a postal acknowledgment, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. If no acknowledgement is received, or in case of queries, please contact the NL Co-ordinator (see below). Please also ensure that your EO membership is up to date before submission.

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Welcome

Once again, many apologies for lateness of Summer Newsletter. My internet connection is much better, now I've moved from Devon to Norfolk, but I'm still struggling to keep too many balls in the air.

It's great to have contributions from members coming in, and interesting how a theme sometimes just develops – this issue seems to be about starting and finishing home education. I hope you'll enjoy the articles as much as I did, and please keep them coming.

At long last, we have managed to finalise the details of the EO Local HE Group insurance scheme, and it's now up and running. Please do read all the associated documents carefully before applying.

*Anne Rix 1st July 2012
(Acting NL Co-ordinator)*

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photo taken by Tom Brendan - moortoseaphotography.yolasite.com

Home Education Begins...

Starting out on the Home Education journey

I would like to share with you our first step down the exciting yet challenging road of home education. My first tentative footstep landed after a number of well-meaning but revealing enquiries by friends, family and acquaintances. My son is not yet two, yet I have been asked more times than I can remember whether and/or when he is going to day-nursery or pre-school.

Following my instinct

Feeling this pressure to conform caused me to seriously consider my son's future. Packing him off to nursery at such a tender age just didn't feel right. Having already made the decision to be a stay-at-home Mum, to full-term breastfeed, to bed-share, baby-wear, etc. – many practices already against the grain – making the decision to home educate my son came easily; but far from lightly. Following my mothering instinct has helped me build a content life for my family, one where my son is securely attached and is discovering who he is. To break this flow by sending him to nursery is not something I feel I can do.

A whole new world

Questioning the practice of early years day-care and education opened up a whole new world to me, that of home education. Reading an article in the 'Green Parent' natural parenting magazine, I came across an article by a single mother who home educated her daughter; it planted a seed in my mind, which has since started to germinate. Researching this vast subject led me down exciting new roads, discovering a large online community and a library full of alternative education books, including 'Free Range Education' (editor Terry Dowty), 'How Children Learn' (John Holt), and 'Too Much too Soon: Early Learning and the Erosion of Childhood' (Richard House). I also learnt about the legal standing of home education in the UK, complex but indicating that home education is a real possibility for any parent who takes this responsibility seriously.

First meeting

Joining the UK charity 'Education Otherwise' and various local online home education forums has put me in touch with parents who are already home educating. I now realise I am far from alone. Attending a local meeting further inspired me,

helping to cement my decision by speaking to likeminded parents who were further down this path. I found the group very welcoming, open and helpful. They answered my seemingly endless list of questions and admired my toddler, who sat throughout the meeting content on my lap. In this space I saw parents who were strong and determined, committed to providing the best for their children, fully aware of the weight of their responsibility. I could also feel an undertone of criticism towards the formal educational establishment, a warning to be careful in a world I had once wholly accepted. In this physical and virtual community I feel supported and guided to start out on this exhilarating new stage of my life.

Sensitive to others

Deciding my son is not going to nursery or even to school, at least not for the first few years, has been unsettling and shocking for some of my family and friends to come to terms with. Their reservations are to be respected and explored, their concerns simply an indication they care about Ewan and want the best for him and for me. It is also stepping further out of the box, out of 'normal' behaviour. Yet it is a decision I now feel confident enough to start discussing. I am also conscious that in going against the norm I may be interpreted by others as making a statement that the schooled population is somehow wrong or beneath me. Whilst this is far from true, I am aware of how carefully I must tread in this sensitive area, without offending anyone along the way.

Responsibility for our children

School has its place in our society and is the right place for many children. However, it is not the best place for my son. I have made the decision to keep my son's education within my own and my family's hands, not hand the bulk of this responsibility on to the state. When I gave birth to my son I took on the responsibility of nurturing and educating him from day one. Home educating is simply an extension of this, continuing what we are already doing in handing to Ewan our culture, through imitation and observation. It is broadening his experiences in a natural way, leading him out into the world slowly with hands held until he wants to loosen them.

Facing the uphill challenges

This is an exciting path with no end in sight. Yet it is plagued with challenges: society's objections, my son's needs and desires, financial concerns, judgemental attitudes, wanting to please my family and friends, the human desire to fit in; the list goes on. Yet I know deep down it is the right path, an extension of how I already care for Ewan, a gentle unfurling of the continuum attachment style of parenting we already practise. I have the strength and the conviction to step further onto this path knowing I am one of the right people to facilitate Ewan's learning, that I can fight this cause with the right support and knowledge behind me.

The journey of a lifetime starts now!

When this seed is in full flower and we are further down this path, I shall share with you again how the home education journey is going. Now, right at its start, I cannot wait to share each of Ewan's small triumphs, tiny firsts, all of his footsteps, his eagerness and unquenchable desire to learn. It is a journey of a lifetime and one I shall continue to share with the outside world.

Caroline, Derbyshire

blog: <http://www.stoneageparenting.com>



It Was All Worth It!

Some years ago I joined the EO Yahoo group at a desperately difficult time. My daughter was being bullied mercilessly at school and she developed an anxiety disorder which was so bad that it was considered she would be admitted to a psychiatric unit as an in-patient.

I decided to educate her at home. During that time, the education authority tried to persuade me that "getting back to normal" at school was the best thing for her. I was told by a tutor who came to my door that I was wasting my time "pretending" to be a teacher at home, that it wouldn't work and that she would never amount to anything.

But we never gave up. With support from groups like this and the kindness of people who loved my daughter, we just kept going: learning and living and having fun.

My daughter is now 18. She has the equivalent of three 'A' levels and has a shop job. She is funny and kind and settled and has decided to go back to college this year to gain some GCSEs. We both look back now and realise those years were fantastic. We laugh about our science experiments in the kitchen which always went wrong, we talk about the cloud formations and what weather they will bring and we realise, without question, that school was not the place for her.

I thank you all and I hope this story makes you sure that for whatever reason, your decision to home educate is the right one.

Christine, Hampshire

Resurrection – The True Meaning Of Freedom

It is one thing to say exactly what it is that is good for children, but another and much braver step to truly look at the individual in front of you and be able to try and assess their individual needs. It is for me a very important part of giving children the 'education' they need. There is so much around in the Media at the moment about children's reading, whether or not phonics work and the information – yet again – that we have a fairly low literacy level in this country. I find myself wanting to scream at the Government, STOP! Stop asking too much of our youngest and most vulnerable citizens! Please stop and try your best to figure out a better system of helping them to learn! And please, please, please stop forcing them to sit so-called 'reading tests' by asking them to phonetically spell out twenty fake words at the age of 6!

Every Home Ed parent worries, as I have in recent days, will my child read, when will they read, should I force the issue, are they doing enough? Catering for my children's individual needs is the hardest task I have yet faced as a Home-Ed parent and I'm sure that there will be many more along our journey. I have no answers, but when I look at my sons friend, who's at school, and listen to everything that is expected of him and see how tired he becomes and then look at my tanned, strong, articulate and care-free son, I can't help but think that I must be doing something right.

For me, growing up in EO was the most amazing experience. I met many people from all walks of life, some with very different lives to my own, but I still remember the day that I met Iris Harrison, one of the founding members of Education Otherwise. It was like meeting one of the first suffragettes. That day shines in my memory and has formed a crucial part of my personality and why I now believe in freedom so strongly. When I talk of freedom, it was not of a childhood without rules. There were bedtimes, behavioural obligations and jobs in the house that were mine, but the freedom to think as I pleased, have an opinion that was listened to, the freedom to learn WHAT I WANTED, WHEN I WANTED was the truly amazing gift of being home educated.

When a child is forced into learning, they shut down. When a child is not stimulated they will have no desire to open up or to challenge themselves. When a child is not listened to, they will stop talking and find another, sometimes more destructive way of expressing their opinion.

What the Government is doing at the moment is so wrong! The schooling system forces young children to 'de-code' words with phonics, which in my son's case brought any interest in reading to a shuddering and abrupt halt! There is little or no support offered out there for young and vulnerable families who cannot or don't know how to support their children, and that coupled with so many Government-driven demands means that we could be looking a losing a whole generation of would-be skilled readers, thinkers and academics to the system that has already failed so many before (Phonetics, phonics under another name, was tried out in the 70s with disastrous results).

If we allow our children the freedom to be surrounded by books, read to them, allow them to absorb stories and let their imaginations run riot, they will follow their natural curiosity and want to learn. Children given the freedom to think and freedom of opinion do not wither and falter. They turn into confident people who love learning and feel excited at the challenge of learning something new. I should know. I am one of those people!

From my eldest sons experience at school I've learned that when these freedoms are taken away from a child the results can be devastating. We Home Educating parents have the most amazing opportunity to really change the future for our children, for the better, so ...

... In the midst of our thoughts as a society, as parents, teachers and politicians has to be WHAT IS BEST FOR THE CHILD and not necessarily what is best for us!

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Thank You

My dear fellow parents

This year my son reached his 16th birthday and he has successfully secured a place to do engineering at a local college.

It's an odd feeling after 16 years of home educating that I won't be part of this wonderful diverse community on a daily and weekly basis walking on this path with my son. As he's got older his interests in meeting up with friends rather than HE meetings has gradually weaned me from the equivalent to the school gate community. I remember talking to my HE mentor a few years ago when her daughter went off to college and now I'm in a similar boat; it's an odd transition.

It's been a wonderful journey.

We tried the workbooks, the researching into different subjects and material, we did the library trawl for books to read on different subjects, we got the CD roms, the audio books, we did the workshops, the open days, the doing apparently nothing for weeks on end, the middle of night chats and the middle of the day silences, the 'wouldn't you wish an LEA officer turned up today' days and the 'it's not working, it's a big mistake' days, the arguments and the wetting ourselves laughing days, the HE groups, the EO YHA weekends, the HE camps, my time on the EO helpline, my stint on the EO council. Some of it worked out, some of it didn't, some of it worked for a bit and what worked mostly was being flexible and having fun.

I've been a shoulder to cry on and I have had so many shoulders to cry on I couldn't even begin to count. I've laughed and laughed and laughed again. I've felt held and supported, challenged, weakened and strengthened. I have felt part of a larger community, not only in my area but that knowing that across the country there are others, we were never alone. I've been so tired after weeks and weeks of HE events and meetings and had times when I waited for the EO newsletter to read from cover to cover because I hadn't seen or heard from anyone for what seemed like weeks.

We have shared so much, the games, the web-sites, the special places, the special offers, the advice, the scraped knees, the doubts, the joys, the first riding of bicycles, the first book read and ohhhh the food, the shared meals, picnics, cakes and breads, chutneys and jams, the pea fairs, the ups and the downs. So much shared, such a rich time.

To you all, thank you.

Thank you for being there for us, for that one chat, for that friendship, for that support, for opening your homes to us when we having a bad week, for joining us when you were having a bad week, for sharing those special places and countless special times with us. For sharing this path with us and walking with us some of the way and you that have walked with us most of the way and you that still are. Thank you.

Bringing him up on my own, many said we couldn't do it and without all of you, who knows if we would have been able to go the whole journey.

It can often be painful having a young person growing up in your home, above it all it's awe inspiring, a chrysalis truly transforming. As I always said, 'learning is not a nine till three thing, it's a lifetime thing' and on he goes, wings spreading and onward we journey.

Again, thank you.

Rowenna, Bala.

www.celfgwyltymru.co.uk

www.wildartwales.co.uk

Holistic Education

As Home Educators we have the unique opportunity to be able to think about and give our children a very holistic approach to their education and indeed their life. There has been some chatter in the news recently about a long overdue and welcome change to the approach to exams and GCSEs within the schooling system. As someone who has experienced not only Home Education but also GCSE, A Level exams and a system of Continuous Assessment at University, I would have to say that the system I experienced at University was far more productive and less stressful. The argument put forward is that children have been doing too many exams and therefore the worry is about the amount of information taken in during this process. For me there is also another obvious point and that is the emotional side of the exam process. The stress involved takes away a certain amount of the information received, and the pressure felt by most children entering their exams is enormous. A revue and a change to this system is, therefore, very welcome.

For me and for many other Home Ed parents there is so much more to education than just information and qualification. We are often asked how our young people will fit in to society if they have not been in the school system, although quite why is beyond me. We as adults learn every day, gaining experience through the situations that we encounter. No one is marking us, or examining the information gained; life experience is a highly prized jewel that many employers find lacking in young people today. As Home Educators, learning can happen anywhere and everywhere – not just facts, figures or the three Rs, but life itself. The routine and rhythm of the home, the baking and cooking of meals, the growing of vegetables, the importance of tolerance, joy in the simple things, imaginative solutions to problems and how to cope when things go wrong are all important lessons to get us through life. So much of my education at home and the learning of how to LIVE every

day, has helped me to be able to make a home and cope with life's problems in a way that I don't think would have happened had I been to school.

It is learning how to use information and place this into practical use that enables us to live our lives in a more peaceful and harmonious way. This to me, teaching my children about life and how to cope with triumph and disaster, is so important and will give them the skills to be able to have their own successful lives. Focusing on the wider picture can only help to move society forward, therefore any moves toward a more holistic approach in any area can only be a good thing.

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Home Education Around the World - Luxembourg -

Corinna Spellerberg

Education in Luxembourg is compulsory for all children between the ages of 4 (two years of pre-school) and 16 and, as there are no linguistic or pedagogical alternatives to the state or international schools, parents might decide to home school. Home ed is still not very common in the country, and mainly applied to sick or handicapped children who are in any way unable to attend a school. However, the law states explicitly that it is allowed: "Compulsory school education ... can also be provided at home." (Loi du 6 février 2009 relative à l'obligation scolaire, article 9, translation by HSLDA, see below). The same article states that it is necessary to seek approval from the district inspector and that the authorisation when granted may be limited to a certain time. Also, yearly inspections are compulsory. If you refuse or your education is found to be insufficient (whatever that means) it automatically leads to the enrolment of your child at a public school. The same applies when you do not notify the city hall of your intentions to home school at least one month before the school year starts. This can be done by sending a simple letter of intention to the town mayor.

Regarding the educational topics, in general you need to follow the school programme, including German and/or French and possibly Luxembourgish

(Please bear in mind that there are three official languages, namely Luxembourgish, French and German.), as well as religious (Catholic) and moral studies.

Nevertheless, as in many countries, the way your approach is treated by the authorities may totally depend on your inspector's slant, with the spectrum ranging from some insisting that you follow the school's curriculum to the letter, while others will allow you more freedom and will not even insist on a visit. Overall, there seem to be only minimal guidelines for these inspections, so you will not know what to expect until after you have had your first visit from your respective inspector.

Some helpful websites:

- www.hslda.org/hs/international/Luxembourg/default.asp
(the law website, not much information here)
- <http://luxembourg.angloinfo.com/countries/luxembourg/schooling.asp>
(general info on the school system for expats, little on home schooling)
- <http://entluxbook.blogspot.co.uk/2005/11/schooling-and-homeschooling-in.html>
(blog of an American expat mum, though judging from the comments not always well-informed and also quite negative about the country's educational system)

Groups

- www.homeschoolmedia.net/register/index.phtml?locale=36618
(list of people to contact and wiki, containing only one article so far)



FROM THE ARCHIVES

New member's EO experiences

(abridged from EONL April 2004)

As new members and new home-educators, I thought our experiences so far might be of interest to families 'teetering on the brink' of taking a child out of school.

We had been thinking of taking the plunge more and more as SATs approached, but were galvanised into action on finding a plaintive little note on my pillow on the last night of the last Christmas holidays.

'Dear Mummy and Daddy, I'd like to start home-education tomorrow please, love Theo'

So, the next day 10-year-old Theo and I began our new routine. Very scary at first, but within a couple of days, I learned to relax and Theo seemed to have grown visibly, at least, 6 inches. He has become very self-assured, talkative and quite concentrated on his work. He also reads for pleasure (new!).

I have learned to 'go with the flow' and although we try to have a formal 'sums and writing' session in the morning, I try not to be too guilt-ridden if we snatch a walk on a sunny morning. At a concert recently, I found him writing character studies of 'The Famous Five' during the interval. This at 8.30 p.m. on a Saturday – so I reckon he puts the time in somehow.

Theo (who had a very poor self-image) is flourishing. It is like he was in such a thick defensive bubble that he couldn't even see out. It has been a joy to watch him blossom in such a spectacular manner.

My advice to parents thinking of home-education is 'Go For It'! If you are thinking about it constantly, it probably means the time is right anyway. I am sure Theo will go back into formal education one day – but for the time being we are just enjoying discovering all sorts together.

Chris and Gill



FROM THE ARCHIVES

(This Archive was first published in EONL 153, February 2004) The Archives looks through the Anarchist quarterly: The Raven, issue 10 On Education, published March 1990

"One question which people often ask learning-at-home families: 'What about socialisation?' Well, which is more artificial, being one amongst thirty-odd of your age peer group, plus a controlling adult, or being one of a family where you are friends with the both sets of neighbours next door, where you have a working relationship with the library, the museum and all the people in the food shops where you help do the shopping? Plus, of course, friends whom you choose, to play with when they have free time. School teaches children how to get by socially in school, but that's all. It has more in common with total institutions like the army, or some mental hospitals, than real life. And if you don't go to school, you don't need it. In fact, if you read the various articles in the national press about bullying in schools, it seems odder to want your child to go there than to have them learn at home."

(part of an article by Zeb Korycinska on 'Education vs Schooling: the case for home learning')

"Much of the knowledge actually imparted in schools is useless, and the hope of reformers has been void because the organisation of the school, instead of serving an ideal purpose, has become one of the most powerful instruments of servitude in the hands of the ruling class... The teachers are merely conscious or unconscious organs of their will, and have been trained on their principles... Teachers have inspired themselves solely with the principles of discipline and authority, which always appeal to social organisers. The children must learn to obey, to believe and to think according to the prevailing social dogmas."

(Francisco Ferrer, founder of La Escuela Moderna in Barcelona in 1900 and of the International League for the Rational Education of Children in 1908... 'a great inspiration to the movement for libertarian education in Western Europe and in the first two decades of the 20th century')

...it is a fact that in most high status jobs the qualifications for entry as well as the length of training have been raised and extended to a ludicrous extent in order to upgrade that occupation. I need only to mention one occupation, that with which I am most familiar, the profession of architecture. To be accepted for professional training involves at the outset, in terms of the English educational system, three O levels and two A levels, preferably in approved subjects, followed by six years of professional training, after which the successful

aspirant finds himself preparing schedules of doors and windows for some building in the design of which he has had no hand. Now within living memory ... it was totally different. Sir Clough Williams-Ellis confided to Sir Edward Lutyens that he spent a term at the Architectural Association in London learning his trade. 'A term?' said Lutyens, horrified. 'My dear fellow, it took me three weeks!...' The first architect I ever worked for learned his trade at an age when we still by law imprison children in the compulsory education machine, drawing full size details in chalk on brown paper on a barn floor here in Devon, for the building of Truro cathedral... go and look at the building and see if it leaks.

(Colin Ward, in his article entitled 'Towards a poor school!')

(Henry) Morris's deepest convictions on the inutility of schooling were expressed in News from Nowhere. His time traveller, walking across Kensington Gardens, sees groups of children camping, and his guide explains that 'they often make up parties and come to play in the woods for weeks together in summer-time, living in tents, as you see. We rather encourage them to it; they learn to do things for themselves, and get to notice the wild creatures.' The guide doesn't understand the words school and education, and rather contemptuously the visitor explains that education means a system of teaching young people.

"Why not old people also?" said he with a twinkle in his eye. "But" he went on "I can assure you our children learn, whether they go through a 'system of teaching' or not. Why, you will not find one of these children about here, boy or girl, who cannot swim, and every one of them has been used to tumbling about on the little forest ponies - there's one of them now! They all of them know how to cook; the bigger lads can mow, many can thatch and do odd jobs at carpentering, or they know how to keep shop. I can tell you they know plenty of things."

Morris himself was a most erudite man who revered learning as much as he despised schooling. He mastered a dozen crafts himself and instituted the Arts and Crafts tradition of training which the post-war reforms of art education had done their best to destroy.

Colin Ward 'Morris as Anarchist Educator'

(Ed: Henry Morris was Chief Education Officer in Cambridgeshire until 1954.)

Book Reviews

Tammy is taking a break from Reviews this issue. However, she has been sent a copy of a new book from Floris: 'The Wonder of Trees – Nature Activities for Children'. If anyone is interested in writing a review of this, they can email the book review email addy and she will send them out the book.



It's disappointing that there has been no feedback at all from NL Book Reviews so far, and we wonder whether members are even reading them. No one has entered any of the prize draws over the last four issues. Please take a few minutes to let us have your feedback.

Tammy would welcome reviews from members on books (whether old favourites or new discoveries) that they have read with their children, and including comments from children themselves would be lovely.

*Please contact Tammy on:
Tammy Dolling
bookreviews@educationotherwise.org*

NOTICES - NEWS - EVENTS

EO GATHERING & AGM

Date for your diary: 23 – 26 November 2012 at Coalbrookdale – see details on page 14 in Newsletter.

FREE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE

European history films

The European CRIC Research Project (identity and Conflict) has made a series of short films introducing sites of important European history. The CRIC Project, directed from Cambridge University, has looked at conflicts in Europe including civil, national and World War heritage sites from mid 19th Century until the present. The films include the latest research on World War I and II and the Spanish Civil War. The following links give an example of the work.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=9mYJE6Y458M

www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxO1zJpezdl

The films have been made for a general audience, as teaching aids, and are being used in UK schools as well as universities. They are free to watch and to use, with no copyright or other restrictions. The CRIC team are hoping to make sure recent research reaches as wide an audience as possible.

CRIC Research Project youtube channel:

www.youtube.com/user/CRICResearchProject

www.cric.arch.cam.ac.uk/index.php?id=51



----- Volunteer Vacancies -----

Newsletter Co-ordinator

To liaise with various section editors, Publications Secretary, production manager, printer and EO webmaster. We also need an editor for letters and articles. For both posts you need to have good written communication skills and be familiar with email and internet. Further details from Acting NL Co-ordinator Anne arix@educationotherwise.org (Tel: 01760 441810)

who at present is doing these jobs, as well as Publications Secretary and other Trustee work.

Helpline Telephone Volunteers

There is still some room on the Helpline for anyone who's happy to tell prospective home edders of the scope and variety of home education, give information on law and LA procedures, and support with concerns. Volunteers do a week at a time (from home) as frequently or infrequently as they wish. Knowledge of the basic legal aspects of home education is necessary, but backup is always available. Please contact

Edwina (Enquiries Co-ordinator)
e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org
Tel: 01978 661882

Webmaster

Sarah, who set up the new EO website at <http://www.education-otherwise.net/> in early 2011 and has managed it ever since, is looking to retire this autumn. An outline of the basic jobs follows, and Sarah can provide detailed instructions to whoever takes over. She is willing to be available for support, so that there will be a managed transition. The site is based on the Joomla! content management system. We need someone with appropriate knowledge and experience (Ideally with Joomla! but in any case with content management systems in general) and who is able to spend some time initially getting to know the current setup, and to continue with regular maintenance etc.

Outline task list for Webmaster:

- Maintain and update website
- Install, test and upgrade website components when necessary
- Upload new concessions to member area
- Deal with link requests and add links where appropriate
- Deal with changes, broken links, etc., when notified or requested
- Implement regular site backups
- Provide support to users via email
- Deal with existing member registrations and renewals
- Receive correspondence regarding web site use, access and other matters, and respond as necessary
- Receive newsletter and children's newsletters from respective compilers in both pdf and jpg format
- Create new magazines and upload jpg pages to Flash magazine component
- Upload pdfs to website as attachments for download
- Receive queries sent by members and the public via the website, and pass on as appropriate.

Please contact Sarah for further information in the first instance:

swillans@educationotherwise.org

None of the Above?

If you have some time to spare, and would like to offer your skills and experience to help EO run more smoothly and to improve the support we are able to give to members and home educators generally, please contact our Volunteer Co-ordinator Wendy Knight (see inside back cover). Let Wendy know your forte and she'll suggest where you might best make a contribution.

New Trustees

Four new trustees were co-opted in May, to make up vacancies and to provide a 'cushion' in case of further retirements before the next AGM. We would like to welcome

Bryony McDonagh

(daughter of Celia – home educated)

Fiona Sendall (LC for Merseyside)

Carol Stone (LC for Poole)

Kathleen Thompson (Helpline)

We are very grateful for their support.

Public Liability Insurance for Local Groups

We have finally managed to agree appropriate wording for the policy endorsements with the insurance company, and apologise for the long delay. A brief outline follows, but it is essential that Local Group organisers should read the policy documents carefully, to ensure that they are aware of the conditions and that the policy is suitable for their requirements, BEFORE applying for the insurance.

The cost to Local Groups is £10 per year or part year, payable by cheque. Cover will not commence until your payment has cleared and your application has been processed. You will then receive (normally by email) confirmation of acceptance onto the scheme and a copy of the Insurance Certificate.

EO's Local Group Insurance is provided as a service to members, and available only to groups organised by EO Members; THREE members need to be named as Local Group organisers, to ensure continuity. It is essential that group organisers keep their EO family membership up to date, and ensure that they fully understand the conditions of the cover as set out in the schedule, relating to low risk activities, etc. which must be adhered to if the cover is to be effective, and have made all participating families aware of these. EO cannot be responsible for loss of cover where the conditions are not strictly adhered to, and in no circumstances can EO accept liability for events occurring at Local Group meetings.

Policy documents, 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 Co-ordinator

Andrew Kennell lgic@educationotherwise.org

If you are unable to access this online, you can request a copy by post. Please mark your envelope very clearly 'EO Insurance' and enclose a stamped s.a.e. Send to: **EO Insurance, P.O. Box 3761 Swindon, Wilts SN2 9GT**

However, you should be aware that this method is likely to involve some forwarding delays.

Trustee Numbers and new Governing Documents

There was very little response to the request in the last newsletter for comments from members regarding a reduction in trustee numbers and new Memorandum & Articles. We are therefore formulating proposals for the November AGM, to adopt a basic set of documents recommended by the Charity Commission, with only minor variations to suit EO's situation (e.g. the precise number of trustees needed). The model M&As are shown on the Charity Commission's website:

www.charitycommission.gov.uk/Start_up_a_charity/Guidance_on_registering/mgds.aspx

We hope to have resolutions formulated in time for publication in the Autumn Newsletter, but in the meantime Janet Wilkinson is co-ordinating a Working Group on these issues, and any interested member is welcome to contribute. We would welcome any further comments from members.

Please contact Janet at

jwilkinson@educationotherwise.org

GATHERING – EO

Coalbrookdale Gathering

Fri. 23rd to Mon. 26th November 2012.

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

SO – WHAT HAPPENS AT AN EO GATHERING?

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

A limited number of cots are available for those who require them. Coalbrookdale has lots of family rooms

EO BUSINESS

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

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

Members may attend for the meeting only, but if staying at the hostel will need to book in advance. Rates are shown below, but please request a booking form as soon as possible if you are interested in attending. Please give as much notice as possible of any special requirements or disabled-access (rooms are limited - first come, first served).

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

For those staying one night only

Adult (18+) £25 - Child (11+) £12 - Child (2-10) £8

Anyone staying two nights or more

Adult (18+) £17.50 - Child (11+) £12 - Child (2-10) £8

all price are per night

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

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

Postal requests (please include stamped SAE)

45 Morton Terrace, Gainsborough, Lincs, DN21 2RG

DIRECTIONS TO VENUE

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

Tel: 0845 371 9325 (YHA Coalport)

Driving: From Telford centre or M54 Motorway follow signs to Ironbridge. Pass through Ironbridge centre (passing the bridge on your left) and turn right at the roundabout into Coalbrookdale. The hostel is half a mile up this road on the right hand side (and is sign posted)

Train: Trains to/from Telford Central Station, 6 miles from hostel. Connections to Coalbrookdale by bus or taxi

Bus: There is a bus stop just outside the hostel gates. Buses to and from Telford Town Centre (phone Traveline 0871 200 22 33 for latest travel times)

More information about the venue can be found at:

www.yha.org.uk/find-accommodation/heart-of-england/hostels/Coalbrookdale/index.aspx

LOCAL CONTACT UPDATE

We have new Acting Local Contacts for Dudley & Sandwell, Durham & Northumberland (by Tyne & Wear LC), Middlesex (by West London LC), West Midlands (by Wolves/Walsall LC) and Yorkshire (North & West). Many thanks to LCs in adjacent areas who have offered to extend their area of operation, and to new volunteers. It would be very helpful if LCs would please find a replacement & contact LCCO when stepping down.

We still have vacancies for LCs for the following areas:

Cambridgeshire/Rutland	Leicestershire
Cheshire	Northamptonshire
Devon (North)	Shropshire
Gloucestershire	Somerset
Hampshire	Suffolk
Herefordshire	Wiltshire
Hertfordshire	Yorkshire East Riding
Lancashire	
Most parts of Scotland	
(except the Highlands and Islands.)	

If there's no Local Contact in your county why not volunteer to be the one? The job can be as much or as little as you make it. Some Local Contacts are content just to phone the new member and welcome them to EO, telling them of local meetings. Others organise local meetings or outings and many are willing to give help and support to local members in their dealings with the LA. Local Contacts also receive referrals via the EO Helpline, from parents in their area who are considering home education. Many of these aspects can be shared by local members rather than being the responsibility of the Local Contact.

For more information and to volunteer (N.B. all EO volunteers are eligible for a reduced membership subscription, and receive a complimentary paper copy of the newsletter), please contact

Lei Ashe, our Local Contact Co-ordinator
lcco-ordinator@educationotherwise.org

A Thank You To Christine Waterman

Education Otherwise would like to thank Christine for the important and tireless work she has done for EO and home educating families over many years. Her knowledge and experience have been invaluable.

Although Christine is not so directly involved with us any more, because of other commitments, she still makes substantial contributions. We very much appreciate her continued support, while also wishing her all the best for the future.

The SEND Green Paper

Feedback on the forthcoming changes from the SEND green paper has been ambiguous.

Proposed reforms to SEN and disabilities support:

The government believes that under the current system parents often have to battle to get the support their child needs. Children can also fall between the gaps in services, or need to have multiple assessments.

To change this, the government proposes to:

- include parents in the assessment process and introduce a legal right, by 2014, to give them control of funding for the support their child needs
- a new single assessment process
- a combined education, health and care plan so that health and social services is included in the package of support, along with education
- make assessment and plans run from birth to 25 years old
- replace the existing School Action and School Action Plus system with a new school-based category to help teachers focus on raising attainment
- overhaul teacher training and professional development to better help pupils with special educational needs and to raise their attainment
- see how voluntary groups might coordinate the package of support independently from local authorities
- give parents a greater choice of school
- give parents and community groups the power to set up special free schools

Extra help is also being provided for children who have a learning need, but not necessarily a special educational need. This extra help includes phonics-based training to support children who need help in reading, and direct funding to the most deprived pupils through the Pupil Premium.

How these changes will affect home educated children is difficult to predict. The pathfinders will start to click in towards the latter part of the year but even then will be in a draft state and planning stage, open to change.

A response (23 April 2102) to the green paper from Lord Lucas regarding home education:

Q - (Lord Lucas) To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any of the Special Educational Needs pathfinder pilot local authorities have included home-educated children in the pilot; if so, which authorities, and how many children in each authority; if not, why not, and what steps they will take to address this issue.

A - The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Hill of Oareford):

Since the launch of the special educational needs and disability (SEND) pathfinder programme in late 2011, the 31 pathfinder local authorities and their health partners have been working in partnership with parents and carers from a wide variety of backgrounds to design and develop their approach to testing the key reforms set out in the Green Paper Support and Aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability.

The pathfinder programme is intended to test the Green Paper reforms across the spectrum of SEND, including improving assessment and planning for children with the most complex needs who would normally receive a statement through the education, health and care plan, and improving transparency about services available locally through the introduction of a 'local offer'. It is up to pathfinders to identify and recruit their particular cohort of families locally, but we expect cohorts to include children and young people with a range of needs and in a range of settings (e.g. including early years provision, special schools, maintained schools, Academies and other settings which might include home educated children). We do not expect the evaluation to report on the impact of the Green Paper reforms on specific types of schooling.

Works and Pensions

Many of us may be affected by the ongoing reforms. EO are signed up members of Works and Pensions, which may have information that can help, or be of interest to you. Contact Denice.

EO SEND Contributions

If you would like to share with us any interesting information or stories you may have, connected with home educating and special needs/disability for the newsletter SEND section, please do so.

Contact Jo: boosells@sky.com

EO SEND TEAM

Andrew: 08455 003887

Denice: denicesen@gmail.com

Jo: 01293 510064

Calling all budding Scientists

With the summer in Britain so far bringing with it the rain, here at Education Otherwise Amazon store we have lots of suggestions to keep you and your children entertained and educated this summer, whatever the weather. We have some great suggestions for budding scientists to try out. For emerging entomologists we have fascinating butterfly gardens where they can watch new life unfurl, young engineers can try their hand at creating mini wind turbines, racing cars or pulleys and green fingered youngsters (and grown-ups too) can grow their own plants and flowers. We also have a range of classical science kits based on physics, chemistry and biology, even for little ones! Whatever the weather and whatever your interests we are sure you'll find something to engage the scientist in you.

'You cannot teach a man anything; you can only help him find it within himself.'

*Galileo Galilei (1564-1642)
Italian physicist and astronomer.*



Member Directory

Many members tell us that they joined EO in order to make contact with other home educators. There has always been an EO contact list through which members can get in touch, but recently we have replaced the old print version with a new, online Member Directory. This is much more flexible than the old print format, in that each member can enter as much or as little information as they would like to make publicly available, and can then edit that information whenever they want.

If you would like to make contact with other EO families but haven't yet made an entry in the Member Directory, here's how to do it:

1. Log in via the form below the left-hand menu at www.education-otherwise.net.

2. The menu item 'Member Home' will appear above the login box. Click it to go to the members-only private pages.

3. Click 'Member directory' in the left-hand menu. This will open a list of directory options.

4. Click 'Add your details'.

5. In the 'Add New Entry' form, add those details that you would like to make available to other members. The 'First adult forename' field must be filled in, but the rest is optional.

6. Select a category: first click the plus sign to the left of the country name to open the county list:

Click on the name of your county to select it, then click the right-facing arrow button to transfer it to the empty list box on the right.

You can be listed in up to five categories/counties. If appropriate, repeat the process for other nearby counties in which you would like to make contacts. If you make a mistake, you can use the left-facing arrows to remove categories.

7. Click 'Send' to save your entry. Please note that your email address will not appear on the page: instead, the user will click a link to open a new email form in their email client (e.g., Outlook Express, Mozilla Thunderbird).

8. To amend your entry at a later date, simply find it via 'Search contacts' (enter your name in the search box and click 'Search'), click your name in the search results, then click the 'Edit' button.

Please Select a Category

You can add this entry in up to 5 categories

<p>Categories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">EnglandWales<ul style="list-style-type: none">AngleseyBrecknockshireCarmarthenshireCarnarvonshireDenbighshireFlintGlamorganshireMerionethshireMontgomeryshirePembrokeshireRadnorScotlandIrelandOverseasChannel Islands	<p>>>></p> <p><<<</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid gray; height: 80px;"></div>
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Category Description:

Cancel Send

LOCAL HOME EDUCATION GROUPS

HErs – Please contact the group organiser for full details and to check that activities are ongoing. Note also that groups are not always run by EO members. Further information on the groups below is available via the Local Groups area of the EO website, and others will be added as and when their contact details have been verified.

If you know of a group that's not listed, please ask the organiser to enter it at www.education-otherwise.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 changes via the webmaster at www.education-otherwise.net

England

Bedfordshire

Christian Home Ed - Scott & Rachel, scottandrachel@ntlworld.com

Busy B-Hes - Weekly drop-in session offering chats and support; activities. Pauline, 07791 850545, pauline@kc2001.fsnet.co.uk

BedHed - An informal group of HE families in and around Bedford, <http://bedhed.org.uk>

Berkshire

Berkshire Home Educators - Educators Meetings for families living in Berkshire and adjoining counties. <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/groups/berkshirehomeeducators/>

Bristol

Bristol Home Education - A local support group, Bristol area <http://www.bristolhomeeducation.org.uk/>

Bristol Home Education Learn Place (HELP) - Carla, 01179 354389, carla-maria@blueyonder.co.uk

Buckinghamshire

High Wycombe Home Educators - group for all home educators in and around the High Wycombe area. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/highwycombehomeeducators/>

Home Education Milton Keynes - An informal, non-hierarchical group for home educators in Milton Keynes & surrounding areas <http://www.he-mk.org.uk>
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MadCows-MK/join>

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 Scott, 01908 662256, sienna-swift7@powernet.co.uk

South Bucks Home Educators, (& surrounding areas) <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/southbuckshomeed>

MK-CHEF - HE support group for Milton Keynes. Affiliated to Home Service, but you do not need to be a Christian to join <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/mk-chef>

Free Range Education - Range of educational events and activities in Milton Keynes and North Bucks - Sarah Whiteley, 01908 309903, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/freerangeed/>

Cambridgeshire

Cambridge Home Educating Families (CHEF) - A group of parents/carers who HE or are considering HE <http://www.cambridgehomeeducators.org.uk/>
Morag Nevay, 01223 464918, morag2000@hotmail.com

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

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

Cheshire

South Cheshire Home Educators - Jacqui, southcheshirehe@gmail.com
<http://www.southcheshirehe.btck.co.uk/>

Cornwall

Home Grown, S E Cornwall HEGroup - Drama & Spanish nr. Liskeard. Katherine Revell, 01752 851091,

Cornwall Home Educators - A group of dedicated and enthusiastic home educators from across Cornwall. <http://cornwallhomeed.wordpress.com/about/>

PZ Home Ed - Meets Monday p.m. for workshop during term time. Ruth, 01736 350887, ruthboulton@phonecoop.coop

Cumbria

Cumbria Home Educators - Meets fortnightly near Kendal and in Penrith. Trips and activities around Cumbria and further afield <http://www.communigate.co.uk/lakes/cumbriahomeed/>

Derbyshire

Derby Home Education Group (DHEG) - Meets weekly. Gym club, fun physical movement and team games at a sports centre with an instructor. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/derbyhe/>

Home Ed Buxton Area - Local meetings and activities. We also welcome those who are thinking about educating elsewhere than at school, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/homeedbuxtonarea>

Matlock HE - Local meetings and activities. We also welcome those who are thinking about educating elsewhere than at school <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/matlockhe>

Devon

Teignbridge and Torbay Home Educators - Social events and educational visits - <http://www.teignbridgeandtorbayhe.co.uk>
Julia Pollard, 07905 293223, Julia@classroomfree.co.uk

Freedom Fields EHE Social Group - A weekly social group for HE children and young people, accompanied by their parents. We meet on Tuesdays, at Freedom Fields in Plymouth, 11am -2pm. http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/PlymouthUK_HomeEd/

Home Grown Kids - Website, activities, forum and newsletters HE/ flexischools or interested in home education. Jo, 08445 868843 <http://homegrownkids.wetpaint.com>
northdevon-lc@educationotherwise.org

Exeter Home Education Community - Wed drop-in; GCSE; green woodwork, permaculture, pottery & more. Neil, 01363 82314 <http://exeterhomeeducationcommunity.co.uk>
nbedford@btinternet.com

Dart Valley Home Ed Network - Out and about visits: natural history, history, photography and more. Members-only internet group. Hannah and Gordon, 01803 762788, lindnich@tesco.net

Teignbridge HE Group - Informal social and educational meetings in Teignbridge and surrounding areas. Andrew and Denise, andrew.denise@hotmail.co.uk

Buckfastleigh Wildspace - Nature study and gardening group based at Buckfastleigh Town hall. Welcomes HE families. <http://www.hogco-devonrcc.org.uk/index.asp?pageid=279900>

South Devon Home Education Group

<http://www.southdevonhomeeducation.co.uk/>
Helen, 01803 390639, helenlloyd-hoare@blueyonder.co.uk

Dorset

HEED - Weekly meetings - Poole/Bournemouth. An open, friendly group - Everyone welcome, for further information contact: Carol Stone 01202 677066 carolstonehe@yahoo.co.uk

Home Educators of East Dorset (covers all Dorset) Website with details of various groups meeting in Dorset. <http://www.he-ed.org.uk>

HERA, group based in Creekmoor, Poole. Weekly workshops and activities + outings and events. www.heradorset.shutterfly.com
Sarah 01202 600065, sarahandthai@aol.co.uk

Durham

DURHAM, Yahoo group for County Durham - Get-togethers are often arranged between members in various areas of County <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/County-durham-homeed>

Essex

A Different Class Home Education Group - Non-profit, weekly meetings, regular outings. www.adifferentclass.org
Membership Details, adifferentclass@mail.com

Portsmouth Home Education Group - HE or interested in HE in & around Portsmouth, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/portsmouthhomeed/>

SEEDS - Meets every term time afternoon for sports/play and for a full day activity once a week. Southampton.
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/seeds1/>

WIGWAM Epping Forest - A weekly informal drop-in group.
Eleanor Stapleton, 07866 701442, elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk

Southend HE Group - Meets weekly. Lots of outings and activities.
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/southendhomeeducation/southendhomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk>

Haverhill HE group - Covering South Suffolk/North Essex.
Eve, 01440 788228 or 07768 763913, wixde@yahoo.co.uk

Gloucestershire

GlosHE.org.uk - HE links and local resources in and around Gloucestershire. <http://www.gloshe.org.uk/>

Glos Otherwise Club - Fiona, 01684 290087, brookesfam@tiscali.co.uk

Forest of Dean HE group - Bridge and dam building, river clearance, fire building, woodland walks, etc. Roxy, cdsnhf@googlemail.com

Stroud email list - Nick, 01453 840036, nick.weir@localfood.org.uk

Cirencester & Cotswold group - Meetings, will answer HE queries.
Pam Perryman, 01285 721008, pamela.perryman@gmail.com

Hampshire

Hampshire FRHEBEES - Free Range & Home Educated Bees. West Hampshire area and borders to arrange meet ups and activities
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FRHEBees/>

North Hampshire HE Group - Regular activities and meetings organised suitable for all ages, Jaki, 07731 805323, jakiparsons@yahoo.com
<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/NH-HE/>

Herefordshire

Monmouth and Herefordshire Home Educators
Local meets and events, Yahoo! group. Roxy, 01989 768128

Hereford Home Education
Indoor and outdoor facilities, ages 3-15. herefordhe@gmail.com

Hertfordshire

Herts Home Educators - Yahoo! group for Hertfordshire home educators. newhomeeducators@gmail.com

Isle of Wight

The Isle of Wight Learning Zone - A network of HE families
<http://www.iwlearningzone.co.uk/>

Kent

SATHE Supporting Autism Through Home Education - A West Kent group open to all parents/carers either home educating, flexi-schooling or considering Education Otherwise for children with autism/sensitivities or learning difficulties.
Contact, Denice. <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/S-A-T-H-E/>
Denice Cartwright, 07554 386844, S-A-T-H-E@yahoogroups.co.uk

Dragonfly Kidz HE Group (Canterbury & Thanet) - Social group meeting at a Youth Centre - Dance studio, art room, pool tables etc.
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dragonflykidzhomeeducationgroup>
Andrea, 07737 806478 or 01304 619278

Home Education Network for Autism - Meets fortnightly for parents home-educating children on the autism spectrum.
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Home_Education_Network_for_Autism_in_Kent/

Wealden Home Educators' Network - Active network of HE families in the SE of England
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wealdenhomeeducatorsnetwork/>

Medway and Maidstone HE activity group - HE OMEGA, A group of home educating families in Medway and Kent. Tracey, 07947 301327, chaggasbug@gmail.com - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HE-omega/>

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>

Lancashire

Burnley and East Lancs Home School Support Group - Support for parents, activities for children. <http://www.emica.co.uk>
Alyas Khan, 07912 283450, alyaskhan@emica.co.uk

Preston and District Home Education Group - weekly Trampolining Sessions for local HE's, Jill Taylor Ali, jilltaylorasd@aol.com

LEAD Home Education - A chance to swap ideas, share stories and arrange local social gatherings. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lead_he/

Boneheds - Help, support, advice and friendship to all families who are home educating (or considering HE) in Bolton, Lancashire and the surrounding districts. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/boneheds/>

Home Ed Leyland - Friendship, help, 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-lo/>

Leicestershire

Syston HE - A fun and lively group for the under 10s.
Vikku, vikkiandmartin@googlemail.com

Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire Home Education - www.home-ed.ukf.net/index.htm

Home Ed Lincs - Yahoo newsgroup coordinating HE activities in Lincolnshire. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/home_ed_lincs/

North Hykeham HE Group - Thurs 10-11.30ish. Primarily for toddlers. 07870 787328, debi-crow@googlemail.com

London

The Otherwise Club (NW) - A community centre for HE families.
Leslie, 0208 969 0893

Brandram Roaders - Weekly meetings in term time.
rbyradburn@hotmail.com

Adventures with Education (Hackney) - A home-education group based in Hackney, London. <http://awe.gn.apc.org/>

Haringey Home Education Club - meetings and other events,
<http://www.hhec.org.uk/> - contact@hhec.org.uk

Magpie Home Educators (East London) - Phil, 0208 500 1053

Woodland Club, Dulwich - Age 8-teen. Science, Maths, English, speakers, social afternoon. Gina, 0208 299 1135

Home Study Groups - A small group of home educating families pooling resources to form tutored home study groups.
Ingie Berrett, 0203 566 8706, iberitt@gmail.com

Monday Study Group - Dulwich - Age 11-16. Maths, English and Science to GCSE. Gina, 0208 299 1135

Morpeth Science Group - Practical science classes for children aged 10-15. <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/morpethscience/>
Stephen Tarlton, 020 7791 3359 - starlton@btinternet.com

WIGWAM Jubilee Park N9 - Informal drop-in group for families with children of any age.
Eleanor Stapleton, 07866 701442, elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk

Norfolk

Home Education in Norfolk (HENs) - A group for HE families in Norfolk. Those on the borders also welcome
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/homeeducatorsnorfolk/>

West Norfolk Home Educators - A meeting place for home educators and families interested in home educating.
<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/WestNorfolkHomeEducators/>

The Barefoot Learners - Games and activities for all ages.
Be Coffin, 07814 592 290 or 01263 73 99 83

Kings Lynn HE - Weekly get-together.
Kirsten, 01485 540724, murraybeers@yahoo.co.uk

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 and around Nottinghamshire & bordering counties. http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Notts_Sheep-Special/

Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire Home Educators - A group for all home educators living in Oxfordshire, but those in neighbouring counties are also welcome to join. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OxonHE/>

Regional – East Midlands

East Midlands Home Ed Yahoo! Group - forum to help, inform and support HE families in the East Midlands. <http://groups.yahoo.com/oup/emhe>

Regional – East of England East Anglian Home Ed Network

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/East-Anglian-Home-Ed-Network/>

Regional – South East

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

ActiveEO - Monthly newsletter with weekly events for group members home educating in the Chichester, Bognor Regis, Havant, Portsmouth and Petersfield areas. <http://www.activeo.co.uk/index.html>, Julie, 01243 552472

South Hants Home Ed - A support group for home educators, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/southhantshomeed/>

FAREGOS Home Education Group - HE group/email list covering Fareham, Gosport and South Hants <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FareGosHE/>

South East Home Educators - (Kent/Sussex) Meet regularly for trips etc. To join Yahoo! group, email: southeasthomeeducators-subscribe@yahoogroups.com <http://www.southeast-home-educators.co.uk>

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

Regional – South West

Home Education Centre (Devon/Dorset/Somerset) - Meets two days a week. Workshops, sports, activities and support. <http://www.homeeducationcentre.org.uk>

Contacts and Events SW - A home education network for the SW, specifically set up to support new HErs, or those new to the area. New input welcomed. <http://hecontactsandeventssw.yolasite.com/> Andrew, andrew.denise@hotmail.co.uk

Regional – West Midlands

Birmingham Home Ed - Contact and events for HE families. <http://www.homeeducationbirmingham.org.uk>

Shropshire

Rushbury/Stretton HE Group - Parent and child-led activities as well as people from the wider community, Beverley, 01743 718429

Telford area HE activities - activities For times and dates of skating, football and drama sessions. Denise, 07866 888879

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

Otherwise Engaged - Online diary of group activities, cultural events, workshops, resources and projects for Shropshire and West Midlands <http://www.otherwise-engaged.org.uk/home-education.html>

Somerset

Taunton Home Education Group - Free play as well as arts & crafts, games various other activities. <http://tauntonhomeed.blogspot.com/> <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tauntonhomeeducation/> tauntonhomeeducation@yahoo.com

HEY Yeovil - All HE families welcome.

Lyn Crocker, 01963 23669, heyevovil@hotmail.com

Wells Swimming Group - Weekly swimming, Wells Leisure Centre, term time only. Lesley, 01749 689241, mumfordturner@hotmail.com

Oake HE Group - Monthly meetings and regular outings. Maggie, 01984 624651

North Somerset HE Group - Weekly children's gym, walks, outings, etc. Yahoo! group for members.

Vicky, 01275 848425, victoria.preston@yahoo.co.uk

Bath HE Yahoo! Group - uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/BathHomeEducation/

FAB Home Ed Group (Shepton Mallett) - Meets fortnightly. Also FAB Times (local email newsletter), Mandy, 01749 347799

Suffolk

Dennington HE Group - Wide range of activities, all ages welcome. Janet, 01728 638795, janetlomas@ymail.com

Ipswich Wednesdays - Shared lunch and activities. Emma, emma@nattyem.co.uk

Book Club - Ipswich town, Lisa, 07538 102322, llw_llg@yahoo.co.uk

Ipswich town centre group - Lisa, 07538 102322, llw_llg@yahoo.co.uk

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

Surrey

SW Surrey Home Ed - Weekly gatherings alternating between Farnham/Godalming. <http://www.swsurrey-home-ed.co.uk/index.php>

Sutton/Epsom HE group - Meets weekly, and also monthly for outings. <http://epsomandsuttonhomeed.blogspot.com/> Paul, 07506 781796, pauldmsn@hotmail.com

Leatherhead Home Education Group - Group for Leatherhead and surrounding Surrey area, regular day trips and activities. <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/313168112059023/> Chrissie Thorpe, 07840285703 - christabelthorpe@hotmail.com

Parents and Children Together (PACT) - Guildford & surrounding areas newsletter for one-off events and regular weekly activities. <http://www.pact-he.org.uk/>

Home Educators Learning Project - Aims to bring together Surrey based home educators for educational support, social and educational outings. <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/HELearningProject/>

Godalming HE Group - A group for HE families based in South West Surrey & the surrounding area. <http://swsurrey-home-ed.co.uk>

Sussex

HEDGE Home Ed Group - Hastings/St. Leonard, weekly social meetings trips etc. www.hedge-education.btck.com, Catherine, 01424 812213

South Eastern Home Educators - www.southeast-home-educators.co.uk

Forest Row HE Group - regular monthly meetings + fun & learning groups at other times - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FRHE/>

Eastbourne EO Group - Regular gatherings & activities <http://www.shinies.org.uk/>

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

Warwickshire

Creative Youth Adventure Club (Coventry) - For over 11's working towards Arts Awards. Sarah, sarah@nellyb.co.uk

Worcestershire Home Educators Network - Meetings usually at least weekly throughout term time at various locations round the county. <http://www.worcestershire-home-educators.co.uk/>

Warwick District HE - HE Primarily for children 0-11 though all welcome, Warwick and Leamington, Alison, 07782 299181 <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/warwickhe>,

Wiltshire

The Outpost Education Centre - Located near Chippenham. Group activities, education workshops, trips, tutoring, events and projects. <http://www.theoutpost.org.uk/>, info@theoutpost.org.uk

Worcestershire

Bewdley HE Group - Weekly meetings, all welcome. Sophie, 01299 405669, sophie.butcher34@yahoo.com

Worcestershire Home Ed Yahoo Group - Email list for those home educating in Worcestershire. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/worcestershirehome-ed/>

Forest School - Bodenham Arboretum, Kidderminster, For all HE families. Sophie, 01299 405669, sophie.butcher34@yahoo.com

Huddersfield Home Educators - Monthly themed meetings. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wyhec/>
Mandy, 01484 460026, meandchi7@yahoo.co.uk

Yorkshire

Rotherham Home Education - This is a friendly informal group, for families home educating in the South Yorkshire Region and surrounding area. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RothHE/>
Pauline Braithwaite, 077764 06409
collicandydog123@yahoo.co.uk

Huddersfield Art Workshops - Monthly, 8yrs +. Jane, 01484 645034

Yorkshire Home Edders Yahoo! group - A friendly group for home educators throughout the Yorkshire region. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/yorkshirehomedders/>

NYHEC (group for HE parents) - Group for parents He-ing in North nyhec-owner@yahoo.com

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

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

Huddersfield Book Group - Monthly, Marsden library. Jane, 01484 645034

Isle of Man

Home Educating Network - An informal group of parents home educating. <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/hen-iom/>
Yvonne,isleofmanlc@educationotherwise.org



WALES

Powys

Wrexham and Surrounds Home Education (WASHE) Activities around Wrexham area. <http://washe.co.uk/>

Carmarthenshire

Camarmthen HE Group - Regular meetings in Johnstown, Carmarthen, caroline.milburn@yahoo.com

North Carmarthen HE Group - meetings for friendship & play. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ncarmarthenhomeed>

Denbighshire

Froncysyllte HE group - Fortnightly group meets 10-4pm. Social play and chat. vivodsam@gmail.com

Flintshire

Flintshire Home Education - Regular meet ups, activities, support. flintshirehomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk

Glamorgan

New Foundations HE - Meets Cardiff, Thursdays 10-4. All activities are free. <http://www.newfoundationshe.com>, 02920216502
newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com

Bridgend HE group - The group is free and families from across South Wales welcome. <http://www.bridgendhomeeducators.org>
Rachel, bridgendhomeed@aol.com

Newport Home Education Group - Group Rogerstone 1-4pm £4/family. Fiona, fionataylor910@btinternet.com

Gwynedd

Langower HE Group - Weekly meetings. rowenna73@hotmail.com

Tregarth Creative Learning and Support - Regular meetings, free weekly newsletter of events. www.creativelearningandsupport.co.uk Julie, 01286 678181, jdchapmanmaurice@aol.com

Monmouthshire

South Wales Home Educators Network - Email list for HEs in and around South Wales to arrange get-togethers and events, share ideas and news, and offer support. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/swhen/>

Monmouth Home Educators - Meets at Rockfield Community Centre. Roxy, 01989 768128, cdsnhf@googlegmail.com

Montgomeryshire

Shiny Happy Children - Regular meetings in Llanfyllin and surrounding areas. Katie, llanfyllinHE@gmail.com

Neath Port Talbot

Wise Up Community HE Group (Port Talbot) - Support and information for home educating families and those considering home education. <http://www.zoneseven.co.uk>, ianna.violet@hotmail.com

Powys

New Leaf HE Group (Newtown) - Occasional meetings for varied activities, all ages. siouxcatsy@yahoo.co.uk

Regional

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

Monmouth/Hereford/Gloucester - For info about group activities in the Monmouth/Hereford/Gloucester area contact local EO member Roxy, 01989 768128, cdsnhf@googlegmail.com

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Home Education Jersey - New home education group Daniela, danielashare@yahoo.co.uk

INTERNATIONAL (UK BASED)

HE-DS (HEing a child with Down's syndrome) - Linking families who are home educating a child with Down's syndrome. <http://www.oakwellbarns.co.uk> Yahoo group (private-by invitation), Anita Kolaczynska, 01686 413502, anitakolaczynska@yahoo.co.uk

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PLEASE NOTE EO'S NEW ADDRESS FOR
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SWINDON

SN2 9GT

Memberships

Membership enquiries, address changes,
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please contact the Membership Secretary:
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AND NEW WEBSITE:

www.education-otherwise.net

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.

For further information send an A5 s.s.a.e. to:

Education Otherwise
PO Box 3761, Swindon SN2 9GT
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www.education-otherwise.net

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