

education otherwise



Newsletter Summer 2016

N.B. When drawing for publication in EONL, please make lines clear and dark, and keep writing well away from picture.

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.

If you require a postal acknowledgement please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. If no acknowledgement is received, or in case of queries, please contact the Publications Secretary (see inside back page). *Please also ensure your EO membership is up to date before submission.*

Deadline for the Autumn issue is 10th August 2016

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

Anne Rix (Acting) eonl@educationotherwise.org

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

~~~~~ N.B. postal system may be subject to forwarding delays ~~~~~

Section Editors

REVIEWS: Kerri – bookreviews@educationotherwise.org

Or EO Reviews, PO Box 63, PE37 9AT

Got an idea for a section you'd like to edit? Contact Publications Secretary (inside back page)

Or eonl@educationotherwise.org

DISCLAIMER

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All contributions have been accepted in good faith. Inclusion does not imply endorsement by Education Otherwise Association Ltd., which cannot be held responsible for the information, goods or services provided, or any consequences arising from them.

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Co-ordinatorial/ message from trustees

Please make sure you read the advance notice of AGM – and attend if you possibly can. This is the only way that EO Members can influence the direction of the Charity – and fill in a SUM form (page 10) to make your vote count!

At the AGM, there will be an opportunity for members to join the board of trustees. As a trustee, you will have a hand in shaping the future of the charity and ensuring that the charity continues to be an important feature of the home education scene. Being a charity trustee is widely acknowledged as a position of responsibility in the community and is respected by potential employers and others.

No special skills or training are required to be a trustee and all reasonable out of pocket expenses are reimbursed. You will be expected to attend two meetings per year, including the AGM, and to keep in regular contact with other trustees in between meetings. However the overall time commitment need not be more than a few hours per month.

We also have a number of opportunities to join EO as a volunteer. Again, no previous experience or special skills are needed for most of these roles, appropriate training will be provided and all reasonable expenses reimbursed. Roles can generally be tailored to suit the time you have available and volunteering is a great way to give

something back to the home education community and to help other families in their HE journey. In addition, EO volunteers are entitled to discounted membership rates on renewal and travel expenses for attending general meetings.

If you would like to know more about volunteering or becoming a trustee, please contact trustees@educationotherwise.org or any individual trustee.

Anne, June 2016

Your Newsletter

Ever wondered where the NL articles come from? Well – it should be from *YOU!* There are so many new ways of communicating now than when EO started – 39 years ago this summer – that much of your wisdom and experience is available only in the impermanent form of blogs, twitter, FB or email lists ... and that's a pity! Please share also via the printed word, anything related to home education is likely to be of interest.

Send to: eonl@educationotherwise.org

Or: EONL, PO Box 63, Swaffham, PE37 9AT

EO VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

Local Contacts and Helpline Volunteers

PLEASE SEE THE 'ARCHIVES' ARTICLE (page 9) about the EO HELPLINE

If you've had support from EO in the past and want to give something back; or you now have enough experience of home education to share with others and want to experience the 'glow' you can get from supporting new home educators – why not consider volunteering? There's plenty of support available, and you'll be in good company.

As well as the Helpline, there are vacancies for EO Local contacts in a number of areas.

For more information, please contact:
e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org

Newsletter Co-ordinator

You've read it all before – just ask for details from
arix@educationotherwise.org

Home Education Around the World: Norway

By Corinna Spellerberg

Home education in Norway is in fact very similar to what we have in the UK, and education can take place at school and "otherwise". Another parallel: Parents are responsible for their children receiving an education, and not the school.

But the conditions are stricter overall, as by law the local authorities are obliged to supervise education, which includes two exams per year to be sat in a school or other public location. And if the authorities see fit, they can also demand and administer achievement tests. The rights of the parents are less clearly defined, merely stating that the supervision must be undertaken "in agreement" with them.

Homeschooling numbers are low (Wikipedia states 440+) but bear in mind this is a small country (5 million inhabitants, compared to the UK's 64 million).

Education lasts for 10 years in total (6-16) and home educated children are usually allowed to sit their final exams and obtain a diploma, though that is not anchored in the law.

Special interest private schools (other than religious ones) are still very limited since they were forbidden until 2005.

Websites and sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homeschooling_international_status_and_statistics

HSDLA (Christian, sometimes controversially viewed) home ed organisation that offers legal advice and help. The website also has some newspaper articles on Norway, but nothing too recent (which is always a good sign):

<http://www.hslda.org/hs/international/norway/default.asp>

Norwegian Home Education Association: <http://www.nhuf.no/>

(Norwegian, English translation of part of the website here:

<http://www.nhuf.no/?q=node/28>); contact: post@nhuf.no

Longer essay on the history of home education in Norway, a bit dated (2000?): <http://folk.uio.no/cbeck/EDUCATION%20OTHERWISE%20IN%20NORWAY.htm>

A forum with blog posts for homeschoolers of younger children (English section?): www.barnfrihet.com

Article by the Scottish school board (!): <http://www.schoolboard-scotland.com/conference/Norway.htm>

Map from <https://openclipart.org/>

Foraging ~ into Summer

Summer is an abundant time of year and we have good pickings from various plants:



Elderflower

← [*Sambucus nigra*]

We can use both the flowers and the berries from this amazing shrub. The berries are high in vitamin C and can be used for colds and 'flu. Make an elderflower vinegar or a syrup for your colds. With the flowers, you can make fritters, cordial, champagne or put them into home made cakes.

Meadowsweet

[*Filipendula ulmaria*] →

I have a lot of this in my garden as it is quite wet and boggy in some parts. I use the leaves and flowers to make tea. Meadowsweet is used as a pain reliever; I drink it when I have a headache. I also dry them to use over the winter.



Wild Strawberry

← [*Fragaria vesca*]

These are a lovely treat as we ramble along on one of our walks; they grow on the hedgebanks and we pick and eat as we go along.

Cleavers/Goosegrass

[*Galium aparine*] →

I think we have all had fun with these - throwing them onto your friends - but you can eat the leaves and the sticky seeds. The leaves are best picked when young and you can eat them raw on salads or steamed as a vegetable; I also use them to make tea.

Wild flower Photos (C) Diane Earl, from <http://gallery.nen.gov.uk/gallery0-.html>



← Lavender [*Lavandula*]

Photo (C) Hilary Prideaux, from <http://gallery.nen.gov.uk/gallery0-.html>

It's not wild but I do use this plant a lot over the summer. It makes a gentle tea and can be dried for use in *pot pourri*, lavender bags, bath bags and baking.

This time of year there are too many plants to write about - but here are a few more: Hawthorne, pennywort, rose petals, red clover, wood sorrel, gorse flowers ... you can make a huge variety of flower and leaf teas.

Carol & Amber, Dyfed

P.S. Has anyone been brave enough to try Japanese Knotweed?
If so, please could you let me know (I haven't been brave!)

Lavender biscuits (Solstice biscuits) see next page ...

Lavender Biscuits (Solstice Biscuits)

140g butter – 100g sugar – 1 egg – 5g lavender flowers – 190g all-purpose flour

Oven 175°C – Gas mark 4

Bake for 15-20 mins

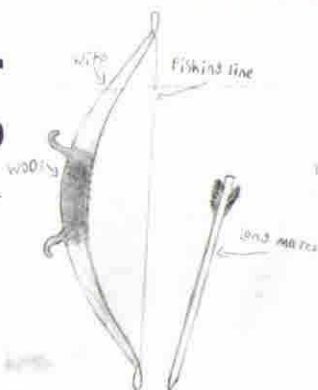
Enjoy!

THINGS TO DO ...



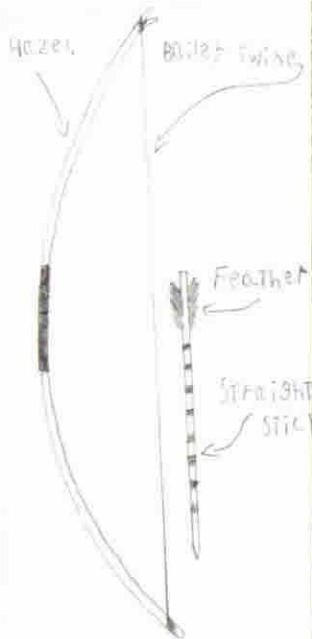
I'm building a tree house out of scrap bits of wood. I have a ladder to climb up. The base is a wooden pallet. I have put a small window in and made a bird table outside the window. I am putting a roof on at the moment when I can get out between the rain showers.

I made this bow → out of hazel and baler twine last year. It goes so well that I keep losing all my arrows. The bow is 48 inches long and it's quite strong.



← I made the mini-bow out of wire and fishing line and a bit of wool. It is only 5 inches long. The arrows I made out of match sticks.

Amber, 12



[N.B. Drawings reproduce better if lines are clear and dark, without writing on the picture! – Co-ord.]



EO STALLS AT EVENTS, FAIRS & FESTIVALS – Habiba Willow

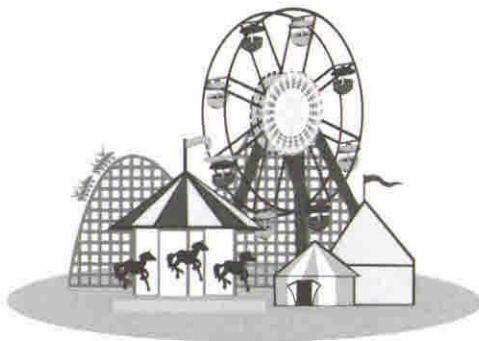
There are still many people out there who have no idea that it is legal to home educate, and is a wonderfully rich experience for the whole family. I still find it hugely rewarding to help people become aware of their right to home-educate, and to tell them how much freedom they actually have in this country in this respect. I've been doing this for many years, through the summer festival circuit: providing information and encouragement to all those who want to home-educate but just need a bit of a nudge and reassurance that they are not alone, EO is here to support them, and the chances are they will have a local group fairly nearby.

I often suggest to people who are not sure whether to go for it, that they give it a try – i.e. don't send the kids to school when they are 'due to go' but carry on as they are already doing and see how it goes (rather than putting the kids in school and then taking them out later). I also remind them to take stock of the situation as they are going along, and to remember that the kids can go to school later if

appropriate – also that they should not be worrying about how to cope with GCSE's when their little one is two or three years old!

I am rewarded several times a year by adults and grown up children coming up and saying "Thanks, we did it because of your encouragement and it has been great!"

But I can't cover the entire country! And I may not be doing this for ever! Could you consider providing EO info at your local fair or event? It is easy, inspiring and fun. You don't need to feel that you have all the answers. Hand them a flyer (contact EO Publications Secretary) and/or direct them to the website, encourage them to join EO if they are seriously considering doing it.



If you would like some encouragement to run an EO stall, email me at habibawillow@gmail.com Include a phone number so I can call you if you would like a chat.

The more the merrier!



EO SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) News

Continuing our theme for those who are new to home education (or thinking about it) due to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Special Needs Schools

Home education can seem to be a good idea for at least the short term, if a previous school was just unable to be of help with a child's special needs. As time goes by other schools on inspection may also not seem to be suitable in some way. Special Needs Schools could be an option if home educating does not work out for some reason.

Even before the changes from statements to Education Health and Care Plans, there needed to be possible input from Doctors, specialists, health care workers, social services and possibly more to get the go ahead for a place in a Special Needs School. Now, with the EHCPs, input is not unlikely to be reduced, as the changes from the statements to EHCPs were all about more involvement from health care workers, social services and other specialists for support regarding a child with a possible SEN.

If a child does go to a special needs school and the parent/s later regret it for some reason, it could be very difficult to bring them out due to the number of different professionals involved, who would have to be in agreement (which would also mean that they were accepting that they had made the wrong decision originally ...).

In the past, even parents who have been legal professionals, have not been able to reverse the procedure. We are not disagreeing with the fact that some children may do well in a special needs school (and for some reason it may be the only choice) but we should recognise that it may be a one way route, as we are giving away areas of our parental responsibilities for the child to enter a SNS.

... cont'd over page

'Some children or young people cannot be educated in a school or college and will require education otherwise than in an institution. Parents may decide to Electively Home Educate (EHE) their child with SEN. This is a choice they make because they want to home school their child.'

(see IPSEA link below).

Recent SEND in the news

'Cash shortage for special needs'

Since the changes introduced to the Children and Families Act 2014, we have raised concerns about the funding for children with SEND with regard to supporting their education. Unfortunately, an article from the BBC only had more negative news to give. The stance that the Government had taken, of actually expanding finances needed for 'high needs' was sharply contested by the recent report and instead suggested 'calls for increased funding'.

Some of the main quotes:

- 'Schools in England are struggling to support the 1.1 million pupils with special needs or disabilities (SEND) in mainstream class rooms, a report says'.
- 'A survey of 1,100 school leaders found delays to assessments, insufficient budgets and cuts to local authorities were hampering the ability to cope'.
- '82% of mainstream schools in England do not have sufficient funding and budget to adequately provide for pupils with SEND'.
- '89% of school leaders believe cuts to local authority services have had a detrimental impact on the support their school receives for pupils with SEND'.
- 'Three-quarters of schools have pupils who have been waiting longer than expected for assessment of special educational needs or an education, health and care plan'.
- '88% of school leaders think initial teacher training does not adequately prepare teachers to support pupils with SEND'.

The reforms were originally put in place to give more help to families by moving them to 'the centre of discussions about support offered'.

References

HE and SEN:

http://educationotherwise.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=92&Itemid=73

Statements to EHCPs (The Children and Families Act):

<https://senmagazine.co.uk/articles/articles/senarticles/the-children-and-families-act>

IPSEA: <https://www.ipsea.org.uk/what-you-need-to-know/school-duties>

Cash shortage for special needs: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-36425290>

SEND code of practice: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398815/SEND_Code_of_Practice_January_2015.pdf

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/special-educational-needs-and-disability-send>

1996 Education Act and SEN (part IV):

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130401151715/https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eorderingdownload/dfs%200581%20200mig2228.pdf>

If you would like to get involved with EO SEND, please contact: e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org

Book Reviews

Hi everyone. My name is Kerri and I have taken over the book and resource reviews from Tammy. As the weather is starting to improve now, this issue has an outdoor theme. There is also a review from a younger reader on a funny book for girls.

Tammy has done such a good job with the reviews; I do hope we can keep it going! If you have any books or resources that you think others would enjoy please send a review to:
bookreviews@educationotherwise.org

If you are a seasoned home educator please don't be shy in sharing some of your successes with everyone. Thank you to Carol and Grace for the reviews this time.

101 Things for Kids to do Outside

By Dawn Isaac –

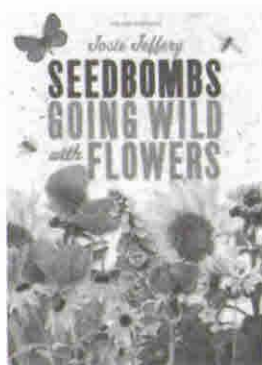
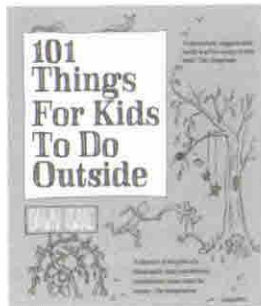
£3.99 at the Book People

Review by Carol

This book caught my eye looking through the Book People magazine – so I bought it for Amber (12) for Christmas.

It's a really bright colourful book, with good pictures, well set out.

It keeps children of all ages occupied throughout the seasons – we love it.



Seedbombs, Going Wild with Flowers

By Josie Jeffery - £7.39 Amazon

Review by Carol

I bought this book a few years ago and it is a great book for adults and children. It has loads of information, brilliant pictures and a good description of plants – and 'seedbomb' recipes.

Exploring Nature with Children: A Complete Year-Long Curriculum

By Lynn Sneddon - \$15.00 USD

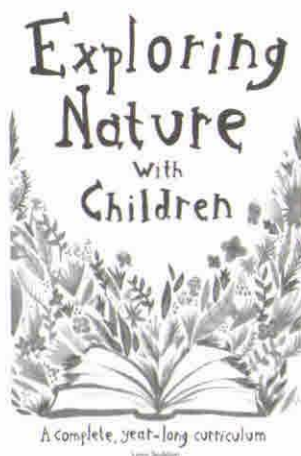
Review by Kerri

This book provides a simple, well-structured guide for home educators to explore and learn about nature. Split into the weeks of the year, each week has a theme for a nature walk activity together with a relevant poem and a piece of artwork to enjoy. It also provides follow up activities that can be done at home with a nature journal and a list of relevant books for each theme.

The book is very clearly written and can be used on its own without any of the other resources. Even when time has been short we have been able to carry out the nature activity for the week in the back garden with little preparation time or subject knowledge. The children have really enjoyed the activities and have been very keen to fill in their journals with drawings and pictures afterwards.

There is so much to do for each week that will keep us busy next year too! A wonderful 'pick-up and go' book for all ages and abilities.

This book is only available on electronic download, but once it is downloaded you can print off sections as you use them.





MAISIE MAE NO BOYS ALLOWED! By Poppy Harper

ISBN: 978-0-349-00153-1 Price £4.99

Review by Grace

This book is about a girl called Maisie Mae and her five brothers.

Maisie has to share a bedroom with the TERRIBLE TWINS. The twins keep putting fish food in her lunch and snails in her bed.

Maisie wants a bedroom of her own where there are no boys allowed!

This book was funny on totally gobsmacking levels – what more could a child want?

~~~~~  
If you have a book or other resource that has inspired you and your children, why not drop a line to the reviews section of this newsletter, and share your discovery with other EO members? [bookreviews@educationotherwise.org](mailto:bookreviews@educationotherwise.org)



### LOCAL HOME EDUCATION GROUP ORGANISERS

*Time to think about renewing your*

#### **PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR 1ST SEPTEMBER 2016 - 31ST AUGUST 2017**

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

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

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

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

Detailed guidance and 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 (Anne is still acting), but please don't leave it till the last minute to look at the policy documents and guidance for the EO insurance. We have found that groups take some time to digest the information, and then may have queries. Getting the required three EO member signatures also seems to cause delays.

#### **SUMMER SALE - 2015/6 - 50% REDUCTION!**

If your group isn't currently covered by EO Public Liability insurance for 2015-16 you may take advantage of the 'end of season' special rate of £5, from now until 31st August 2016. You will need to renew on 1st September (£10) for the coming year (up to 31st August 2017)

Queries/Further information: Local Groups Insurance Co-ordinator [Igic@educationotherwise.org](mailto:Igic@educationotherwise.org)



## From the Archives ...

(First published in EONL no. 160, October 2004 – slightly amended)

### TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES VOLUNTEERS

I have been asked to tell those who may be interested, something of the Work that EO enquiries volunteers do. I have been on the telephone helpline for over ten years. [\* Now, over 20 years ...] so I have a lot of experience in knowing how it all works and in the valuable work that all the volunteers do in this particular role. Education Otherwise is run by volunteer parents and there are so many quietly doing all kinds of things to help. I am proud to be associated with so many good people, many of whom I consider my friends and between us we all share something we believe in.



I and many others on the enquiry line, play an important role in that we are usually the first port of call for people. We normally only have contact with people who are not members. Calls are many and varied and it is normally quiet in holiday time. Once school returns after holidays the phone can ring almost non-stop all day long. Some people leave it until after 9 am to ring but it is not unusual to receive calls at 8 am from an anxious parent. Calls can last an hour – sometimes more – and I am often still taking or returning calls after 10pm at night.

Many people who ring have little, if any, idea of the law. Many are desperately worried about their situation. Some parents have made so many enquiries, so many phone calls, all of which have come to nothing. This one call – to the EO Helpline – is usually the lifeline they have been longing for. Each call is unique and each call is very important. Some calls are urgent; sometimes a call can save the life of a child.

People ring up for all kinds of reasons but by far the biggest reason for calls and the biggest reason for taking a child out of school involves bullying. Children are verbally, physically and sexually abused at school. I have heard all these things so very many times and many stories that I have heard will live with me for the rest of my life: self harming, nightmares, food refusal, bedwetting, attempted suicides... so many stories I have heard over the years. The children whose lives have been so damaged, and their parents, will often never completely recover. Many children have seen psychologists, who often try to persuade them that they are some kind of problem and ought to do the decent thing and return to school – as though it were their own fault! There is never any acceptable reason for bullying and changing school does not usually solve anything. Children are not just hurt by other children but sometimes by teachers or other adults, who are supposed to be caring for them.

There are thousands of children in school who are happy, who love school, and none of us who care about children have any quarrels with that. It is lovely to hear and of course happy children equals happy parents. However, there are thousands of children in school feeling miserable; of course they are learning nothing except how they are being betrayed by the very people who claim to love them. At least 16 children die through suicides caused by bullying in British schools every year and it breaks my heart to hear of their suffering. Childhood should be the happiest time of our lives, but for many thousands it is not. Some children choose death instead of school.

The calls I receive today are similar to the calls I received more than ten years – [now over 20 years –] ago and it is dreadful to think that things do not seem to have improved at all.



Kathleen, Manchester

# 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): .....

.....  
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 to: EO SUMs, Bridgend, Meadow Lane, Swaffham, PE37 8LE



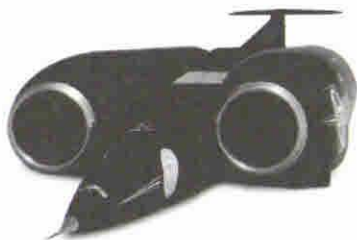
## EO AGM – Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2016 – VENUE

Coventry Transport Museum, Millennium Place, Hales Street, Coventry CV1 1JD (City Centre).

Entry to galleries is free, but some items cost extra. <http://www.transport-museum.com/>

Coventry Transport Museum isn't just for transport enthusiasts; it's for storytellers and escapists; speed freaks and thrill seekers; history buffs and culture vultures. ...

Now with new displays, interactive features and thousands of exciting exhibits ...



And of course – the largest collection of British road transport in the world! From Penny Farthing bicycles ...

... to the supersonic car Thrust SSC [photo reproduced with permission from CTM] which holds the current World Land Speed Record at 763 mph – the first land vehicle to officially break the sound barrier. Want to go faster than the speed of sound? The 4D Land Speed Record Simulator ride costs £5/£3.50 but:



### FREE RIDES WITH EO AGM ATTENDANCE !!!

EO is booking Simulator rides for members attending the AGM. Must be over 1.07m (3'6") and aged 4 or over. Children aged under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.



Jaguar C Type

PLEASE LET US KNOW A.S.A.P. IF YOU WANT TO TAKE UP THIS OFFER! – [trustees@educationotherwise.org](mailto:trustees@educationotherwise.org)

### GETTING THERE ...



By Car: there is no parking available at the Museum itself, but city centre pay and display car parks are all within walking distance. The nearest car parks to the Museum are Bishop Street (CV1 1JN), and Belgrade Plaza (CV1 4AJ)

By Rail: The Museum is a 15-minute walk from Coventry Rail Station. Buses to the City Centre from the railway station stop near the Museum.

By Bus: Most buses stop a 2 minute walk from the Museum. Coventry has a Park & Ride service, which has a stop-off point at the Junction of Corporation Street and Burges, which is very close to the Museum. The route operates from Coventry's War Memorial Park situated on the Kenilworth Road/ A45.

Food and Drink: Esquires Coffee in the entrance to the Museum serves a delicious range of Fairtrade coffee, tea, milkshakes, soft drinks & hot chocolate, as well as a fabulous selection of hot and cold sandwiches, soups and some of the best cakes in Coventry!

N.B. EO volunteers holding named posts may claim travel expenses for AGM attendance.

MORE AGM ATTRACTIONS – We hope also to have another visit from Iris Harrison, EO founder member and home education pioneer; also a presentation by another current home education personality (to be confirmed) ...

AND Trustees will be presenting a **proposal to change the structure of EO** ...

Watch out for further details, and official Agenda with supporting documents, in the Autumn issue of EONL. Please complete the SUM/Guarantor form to ensure you have a vote on resolutions at the AGM.

Proxy forms will be available – but Trustees hope that as many Members as possible will attend in person.

**Your input is needed, to ensure that EO has a viable future.**

## LOCAL HOME EDUCATION GROUPS

**HE families** – Please contact the group organiser for full details and to check that activities are ongoing. Note also that not all groups are run by EO members. Further information on the groups listed below is available via the Local HE Groups area of the EO website. If you know of a group that's not listed, please ask the organiser to enter it at [www.educationotherwise.net](http://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](mailto:eolg@educationotherwise.org)

### England

#### Bedfordshire

**BedHed** – An informal group of home educating families in and around Bedford <http://bedhed.org.uk>

**Busy B-Hes** – Weekly drop-in offering chats and support; activities.

Pauline 01234 720819 / 07976 026167 [p.curl28@btinternet.com](mailto:p.curl28@btinternet.com)

**Christian Home Ed** – Scott & Rachel: [scottandrachel@ntlworld.com](mailto:scottandrachel@ntlworld.com)

#### Berkshire

**Berkshire Home Educators** – for HE families in & around Berkshire: <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/groups/berkshirehomeeducators/>

**Expanding Horizons** – [www.expandinghorizonsuk.com](http://www.expandinghorizonsuk.com) regular

meet ups, trips, activities, and information for other Local groups.

Rebecca: 01494 882484, [expandinghorizonsuk@gmail.com](mailto:expandinghorizonsuk@gmail.com)

**Heroes-HE** – weekly Home Education Club at animal farm, with workshops, etc. [www.heroesberkshire.co.uk/homeeducators.html](http://www.heroesberkshire.co.uk/homeeducators.html)

#### Bristol

**Bristol Home Education** – Local support group Bristol area. [www.bristolhomeeducation.moonfruit.com](http://www.bristolhomeeducation.moonfruit.com)

**Bristol Home Education Learn Place (HELP)** – Catherine: [catewhyte@hotmail.com](mailto:catewhyte@hotmail.com)

**Bristol Home Education Co-op** – contact point for HE activities in Bristol, including FREE weekly Co-op meet up with crafts, activities & socialising. Yahoo group for event details, information & support: [BristolHEC-owner@yahoo.com](mailto:BristolHEC-owner@yahoo.com) Or 0117 9553582 <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BristolHEC/>

**Home Education in Bristol and the South West** – local website

with information and links for groups, events and activities in

Bristol and the surrounding areas + national info & resources. :

Therese: [alternativeeducation.bristol@gmail.com](mailto:alternativeeducation.bristol@gmail.com)

<http://alternative-education-bristol.moonfruit.com/>

#### Buckinghamshire

**Free Range Education** – range of educational events and activities in Milton Keynes & North Bucks. Sarah: 07725 039981

[www.freerangeeducation.org](http://www.freerangeeducation.org)

**High Wycombe home ed group** – Friendly weekly group meet up with activities. Email: [cm2002@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cm2002@yahoo.co.uk)

**Home Education Milton Keynes** – informal non-hierarchical group for HErs 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>

Georgianne 01908 662256 [sienna-swift7@powernet.co.uk](mailto:sienna-swift7@powernet.co.uk)

**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>

**South Bucks Home Educators** – (& surrounding areas) Taryn:

[tarynearley@googlemail.com](mailto: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](http://www.educationchoice.org.uk) [karen@karenrodgers.co.uk](mailto:karen@karenrodgers.co.uk)

**Cambridge Home Educating Families (CHEF)** – for parents/carers who HE or considering HE. Morag: [morag2000@hotmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.camshomeed.co.uk) Jane: [camshomeed@gmail.com](mailto:camshomeed@gmail.com)

#### Cheshire

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

**South Cheshire Home Educators** – meets Haslington, twice

monthly. <http://www.southcheshirehe.btck.co.uk/>

Jacqui: [southcheshirehe@gmail.com](mailto:southcheshirehe@gmail.com)

#### Cornwall

**South East Cornwall** – (was Home Grown) Different courses and activities including Drama, Physics and English Lit.

Kath: [kafrevell@phoncoop.coop](mailto:kafrevell@phoncoop.coop)

**Lostwithiel area HE group** – range of HE activities, all welcome!

Samantha: [samsawinna@hotmail.com](mailto:samsawinna@hotmail.com)

#### Cumbria

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

[www.facebook.com/groups/WestCumbriaHE/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/WestCumbriaHE/)

**West Cumbria Home Educators** (incl. Keswick) – mutual support

for HErs in West Cumbria: [WestCumbriaHomeEd@gmail.com](mailto:WestCumbriaHomeEd@gmail.com)

#### Derbyshire

**Chesterfield Home Education Group (CHEG)** – weekly meetings and days out for all ages. Sandy: [sandymariatt@gmail.com](mailto:sandymariatt@gmail.com)

**Derby Home Education Group (DHEG)** – Weekly, Gym Club at sports centre with instructor.

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

**Home Ed Buxton Area** – Local meetings/activities for HErs and those considering HE

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

#### Devon

**Dartmoor and SW Home Education Group**. Based in S. Dartmoor, local and area groups & resources, plus promotion of your groups.

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

Email: [dartmoor.sw.he.group@gmail.com](mailto:dartmoor.sw.he.group@gmail.com)

**Dart Valley Home Ed Network** – Out and about visits: natural

history, photography and more. Members-only internet

group. Hannah and Gordon 01803 762788 [lindnich@tesco.net](mailto:lindnich@tesco.net)

**Exeter Home Education Community** Wednesday drop-in; GCSE;

green woodwork, permaculture, pottery & more.

Email: [bedford@btinternet.com](mailto:bedford@btinternet.com) Neil 01363 82314

<http://exeterhomeeducationcommunity.co.uk>

**FLAGS Home Education Group** – Exeter, every Friday. Friendly

group for children of all ages. Lisa D7969299543 or Sue:

[su.gold777@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:su.gold777@yahoo.co.uk)

**Freedom Fields EHE** – Weekly social group for families

[http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/PlymouthUK\\_HomeEd/](http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/PlymouthUK_HomeEd/)

**NDHE (North Devon Home Educators)** – Meeting up for local trips and activities. Email: [ndhomeed@gmail.com](mailto:ndhomeed@gmail.com)

**Paignton and Torbay homeschooling** – social meet ups, play and activities, twice weekly. Tessa: [Tessacoles@hotmail.com](mailto:Tessacoles@hotmail.com)

**South Devon Home Education Group** – near Totnes  
<http://southdevonhomeeducation.yolasite.com/>  
Ambuka: [ambuka5planets@yahoo.com](mailto:ambuka5planets@yahoo.com)

**Stover HE Group** – Informal educational and social meets in local and surrounding areas. Email: [stoverhegroup@gmail.com](mailto:stoverhegroup@gmail.com)

## Dorset

**Bournemouth HEED** – Weekly Monday meetings.

Carol: [carolstone@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:carolstone@yahoo.co.uk) 01202 677066

**Bournemouth & Poole Home Educators** – play dates, trips/visits, etc. Emma: [bmth.home.ed@gmail.com](mailto:bmth.home.ed@gmail.com)

[http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Bournemouth\\_and\\_Poole\\_HomeEducators/?yguid=419936795](http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Bournemouth_and_Poole_HomeEducators/?yguid=419936795)

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

June: [bugchick@mac.com](mailto:bugchick@mac.com)

[www.facebook.com/groups/NorthDorsetHomeEducation](http://www.facebook.com/groups/NorthDorsetHomeEducation)

**HERA** – friendly group meets weekly in Poole. Provides support for HE families/prospective HE. Tracie: [scalleuk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:scalleuk@hotmail.co.uk)

## Durham

**County Durham Home Educators** – information, activities, get-togethers and trips. Emma: [emmadfisk@gmail.com](mailto: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.

Lou: [louise.thorn@googlemail.com](mailto:louise.thorn@googlemail.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 [wilde@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wilde@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](mailto:southendhomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk)

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

Eleanor Stapleton 07866 701442 [elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk)

## Gloucestershire

**Cirencester and Cotswold group** – Meetings plus will answer HE queries. Pam 01285 721008 [pamela.perryman@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.perryman@gmail.com)

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

Roxy: [cdsnhf@googlemail.com](mailto:cdsnhf@googlemail.com)

**GlosHE.org.uk** – HE links and local resources in and around Gloucestershire. [www.gloshe.org.uk/](http://www.gloshe.org.uk/)

**Glos Otherwise Club** – Fiona 01684 290087 or Email:

[brookesfam@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:brookesfam@tiscali.co.uk)

**Stroud email list** – different activities arranged via email list.

Nick: 01453 840036 [nick.weir@localfood.org.uk](mailto:nick.weir@localfood.org.uk)

## Hampshire

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

Cate: [bvmats@btinternet.com](mailto:bvmats@btinternet.com)

**Basingstoke Under 10s** – Academic club plus regular meet ups in different locations. Vanessa: [education@zee2a.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 FRHEBEEs (Free Range & Home Educated Bees)** – West Hampshire area and borders to arrange meet ups and activities.

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

Karen: 01425 652721

**Home Education Network Hants**, near Winchester, ages 0-13. Range of activities + regular club. [homeednetwork@outlook.com](mailto:homeednetwork@outlook.com)

**North Hampshire HE Group** – Regular activities and meetings organised, suitable for all ages. Email: [jakimparsons@gmail.com](mailto:jakimparsons@gmail.com)

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

**Portsmouth Home Education Group** – HE or interested in HE

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

**SEEDS** – Southampton, every term time afternoon for sports/play + weekly full day activity. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/seeds1/>

**South Hants Home Ed** – Support group for home educators

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

## Herefordshire

**Hereford Home Education** – Indoor and outdoor facilities ages 3-15. Email: [herefordhe@gmail.com](mailto:herefordhe@gmail.com)

**Monmouth and Herefordshire Home Educators** – Local meets and events arranged via Yahoo! group. Roxy 07765 058 777

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

## Hertfordshire

**Herts Home Educators** – Yahoo! group for Hertfordshire home educators. Email: [newhomeeducators@gmail.com](mailto:newhomeeducators@gmail.com)

**Learning Begins in Wonder** – Free and subsidised events,

resources and support to HE families in Hertfordshire and surrounding counties. Mandy: [mandy.anseil@aol.co.uk](mailto:mandy.anseil@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](mailto:Karen@curvespace.com) or 01983 568516

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

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

## Kent

**Dragonfly Kidz HE Group** – (Canterbury & Thanet) social & learning activities, swimming, bowling, days out etc. Wide range of locations around Canterbury/Thanet/Whitstable. All Welcome! Steph: [stephgater@rocketmail.com](mailto:stephgater@rocketmail.com) 01304 814362.

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

[homeeducationgroup/](http://homeeducationgroup/)

**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](mailto:e.selhi@yahoo.co.uk)

**Rochester HE Group** – weekly meetings Tuesday afternoon.

Sally: [sally\\_wilton@lineone.net](mailto: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/>

Denice: 07554 386844 or Email: [S-A-T-H-E@yahoogroups.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:southeasthomeeducators-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

or Lesley: [lesley294@aol.com](mailto:lesley294@aol.com) 07828 193 668

## Lancashire

**Boneheds** – Help support information and friendship to families home educating (or considering HE) in Bolton Lancashire and surrounding districts. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/boneheds/>  
**Home Ed Leyland** – Friendship, support and advice for all families who are home-educating (or considering HE) in Leyland and surrounding districts. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/he-1-10/>  
**LEAD Home Education** – swap ideas, share stories and arrange local social gatherings. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lead\\_he/](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 HEs 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](mailto: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](mailto:nicky-ed@co.asd.me.uk)  
**Stoneygate** – Weekly play session, £3.50 per family, including drinks. Large, safe, grassy area. Cat: [catbelinger@gmail.com](mailto:catbelinger@gmail.com) [www.facebook.com/groups/homeedleicestershire/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/homeedleicestershire/)

## Lincolnshire

**Home Ed Lincs** – Yahoo newsgroup coordinating HE activities in Lincolnshire. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/home\\_ed\\_lincs/](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](mailto:homeschool.lincolnshire@outlook.com) 01507 328688  
**Lincolnshire HE** – [www.home-ed.ukf.net/index.htm](http://www.home-ed.ukf.net/index.htm)  
**North Hykeham HE Group** – Weekly meetings, primarily for toddlers. 07870 787328 [debi-crow@googlemail.com](mailto:debi-crow@googlemail.com)

## London

**Adventures with Education (Hackney)** – A home education group based in Hackney London. <http://owe.gn.apc.org/>  
**Brandram Roaders** – Weekly meetings in term time. [rubyradburn@hotmail.com](mailto:rubyradburn@hotmail.com)  
**Home Study Groups** – small group of HE families pooling resources for tutored home study groups. Ingle: [iberitt@gmail.com](mailto:iberitt@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. Leslie: 0208 969 0893  
**WIGWAM** Jubilee Park N9 – Informal drop-in group for families with children of any age. Eleanor: [elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk) 07866 701442

## Norfolk

**Home Education in Norfolk (HENs)** – Group for HE families in Norfolk. Those on the borders also welcome. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/homeeducatorsnorfolk/>  
**The Barefoot Learners** – Games and activities for all ages. Be Coffin: 07814 592 290 or 01263 73 99 83  
**West Norfolk Home Educators** – Meeting place for HEs and families interested in home educating. Lots of activities! <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/WestNorfolkHomeEducators/>

## Northamptonshire

**iFlow** – weekly HE community group, NW Northants. Support and friendship; parent-led and professionally-led educational activities. Wide range of resources, community space, sports & outdoor play. E: [welcometoflow@gmail.com](mailto:welcometoflow@gmail.com) W: [www.iflow-he.org](http://www.iflow-he.org)  
**Northants HE** – Informal group meets regularly for various activities <http://www.northantshe.org.uk/>

## Nottinghamshire

**Notts Sheep Special** – Online support group for HE parents of special needs/differently-abled children in Nottinghamshire & bordering counties. [http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Notts\\_Sheep\\_Special/](http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Notts_Sheep_Special/)

## Oxfordshire

**Expanding Horizons** (See Berkshire).  
**OHED** – Website with information about HE in Oxfordshire [www.ohed.org.uk](http://www.ohed.org.uk) Louisa: [louisa.southey@gmail.com](mailto:louisa.southey@gmail.com) or 01865 735705  
**Oxfordshire Home Educators** – A group for all home educators living in Oxfordshire and neighbouring counties; all welcome. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OxonHE/>

## Shropshire

**Inspire HE Group** Educational activities in Shropshire. Families from Shropshire and surrounding areas welcome to find out more. Alison: [fellows-weir@meqmag.plus.com](mailto:fellows-weir@meqmag.plus.com)  
**Otherwise Engaged** – Online diary of group activities, cultural events, workshops, resources and projects for Shrops and West Mids based HE families. <http://www.otherwise-engaged.org.uk/home-education.html>  
**Rushbury/Stretton HE Group** – Parent and child-led activities & people from the wider community. Beverley: 01743 718429  
**Shropshire Home Education** – For HEs in Shropshire area to chat arrange meets etc. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/shed>  
**Telford area HE** – Activities incl. Skating, football and drama sessions. Denise: 07866 888879

## Somerset

**Bath HE Yahoo! Group** – <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/BathHomeEducation/>  
**HEY Yeovil** – All HE families welcome. Lyn: 01963 23669 [heyeyoil@hotmail.com](mailto:heyeyoil@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](mailto: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](http://www.tauntonhomeeducation.com) Email: [tauntonhomeeducation@gmail.com](mailto:tauntonhomeeducation@gmail.com)  
**Wells and Mendip HE Group (WAM)** – meet weekly for 'school age' kids, run by parents; variety of projects and activities. 01749 675176  
**Wiveliscombe/Taunton** – Monthly meetings and regular outings. Maggie: 01984 624651

## Staffordshire

**Growing Wild** (was Forest Unschool) meet weekly for gardening, social, play, crafts, activities and nature walks. Children of all ages welcome. Ely: [elyweir@gmail.com](mailto:elyweir@gmail.com)

## Suffolk

**Haverhill HE Group** – South Suffolk/North Essex. Eve: [wilde@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wilde@yahoo.co.uk) 01440 788228 or 07768 763913  
**Ipswich HE Wednesdays** – Shared lunch and activities. Emma: [emma@natyem.co.uk](mailto:emma@natyem.co.uk)  
**Ipswich town centre group + Book Club** – regular meetings. Lisa: [llw\\_llg@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:llw_llg@yahoo.co.uk) 07538 102322  
**Tostock HE Group** – All families welcome to this very friendly group. Jan: [angusto@btinternet.com](mailto:angusto@btinternet.com) 01359 251184

## Surrey

**Dorking Home Educators** – fortnightly. Social and pre-booked activities, outings & trips. Amanda: [schradingerscat81@hotmail.com](mailto:schradingerscat81@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](mailto: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: [chrissielthorpe@hotmail.com](mailto:chrissielthorpe@hotmail.com) 07840285703

**Surbiton Home Ed Group (SHEd)** – occasional field trips, picnics, workshops, etc. Ingrid: [ingrid.meaker@mac.com](mailto:ingrid.meaker@mac.com)

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

**ActiveEO** – HE Group W Sussex and Hants (see Hampshire)

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

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

**Hastings & Rother Home Educators (HARHE)** – small number of families; activities include Forest School, cycling, daytrips, bowling and swimming. Check website and us or come along to an activity [www.harhe.btck.co.uk](http://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](http://www.hedge-education.btck.co.uk)  
Beshlie: 01424 812870

**JIGSAW** – social events, educational group excursions, curriculum support, etc. Email: [leliat@gmail.com](mailto:leliat@gmail.com)

**South Eastern Home Educators** – (Kent/Sussex) see Kent

**Wealden Home Educators' Network (WHEN)** see Kent.

## Warwickshire

**Creative Youth Adventure Club (Coventry)** – monthly HE Group for all ages, activities and social get together. Also Arts Awards. Sarah: [sarah@nellyb.co.uk](mailto: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: [katestrickland@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:katestrickland@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](mailto: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](mailto:dee.dilloway@yahoo.com) 07753 260317

## Worcestershire

**Bewdley HE Group** – Weekly meetings, social/activities etc. all welcome. Sophie: [s.a.moore@hotmail.com](mailto: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/](http://www.worcestershire-home-educators.co.uk/)

**Worcestershire Home Ed** – Yahoo Group Email list for Worcs HERS. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/worcestershirehome-ed/>

## Yorkshire

**DHE Doncaster home educators** Yahoo group for families in the Doncaster and surrounding areas. Cheryl: [cheryl0407@aol.com](mailto:cheryl0407@aol.com)  
07825 914340 <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/DHE/>

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

Lisa: [lisa\\_riley@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lisa_riley@tiscali.co.uk) [henney-owner@yahoogroups.com](mailto:henney-owner@yahoogroups.com)

**Huddersfield Art Workshops** – Monthly 8 yrs plus.

Jane: 01484 645034

**Huddersfield Book Group** – Monthly Marsden library.

Jane 01484 645034

**Huddersfield Home Educators** – Monthly themed meetings.

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

Mandy: [meandchi7@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:meandchi7@yahoo.co.uk) 01484 460026

**NYHEC (Group for HE parents)** – for parents HEing in North Yorkshire. Email: [nyhecowner@yahoogroups.com](mailto:nyhecowner@yahoogroups.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: [collicandyyod123@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:collicandyyod123@yahoo.co.uk) 077764 06409

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

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

**Wakefield District Home Education Group** – Bowling, ice skating, visits etc. Tracey: [wakefieldHE-owner@yahoogroups.com](mailto:wakefieldHE-owner@yahoogroups.com)

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

Huddersfield. Penny: [pennyclarkson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pennyclarkson@yahoo.co.uk)

**Yorkshire Home Edders Yahoo! group** – Friendly & active group with visits & workshops for children 8-16.

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

## Regional Groups (England)

**East of England – East Anglian Home Ed Network**

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

**East Midlands – East Midlands HE Forum** – inform & support HE families in E. Midlands. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/emhe>

**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](mailto:treenafenwick@gmail.com)

## South East

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

**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](mailto:homeeducatingmum@yahoo.co.uk)  
0753 1677 083

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

## South West

**Home Education Centre (Devon/Dorset/Somerset)** – <http://www.homeeducationcentre.org.uk> Parent run co-operative group for HE families in Somerset, Dorset and Devon.  
Julie: [julia@homeeducationcentre.org.uk](mailto:julia@homeeducationcentre.org.uk)

**HERs and Events SW** – network to support new HERS or those new to the area. New input welcomed. [southdevanlc@gmail.com](mailto:southdevanlc@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 home-educating parents welcome.

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HELM\\_home\\_ed/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HELM_home_ed/)

## Isle of Man

**Home Educating Network - Isle of Man** – informal group of parents HEing on the Isle of Man.

Yvonne: [isleofmank@educationotherwise.org](mailto:isleofmank@educationotherwise.org)

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

**Home Education on the Isle Of Man** –

Dawn: [sewellbunch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sewellbunch@yahoo.co.uk)

## Wales

**Cardiganshire** – Lampeter home-ed group meets one afternoon per week. Social with occasional activities.

[thislittlelightofmine@phonecoop.coop](mailto:thislittlelightofmine@phonecoop.coop) Mla: 01570421529

### Cardarthenshire

**Camrthen HE Group** – Regular meetings in Johnstown,

Camrthen. Email: [caroline.milburn@yahoo.com](mailto:caroline.milburn@yahoo.com)

**Cardarthen Home Ed** – Social group meeting weekly for play and chat, indoor and outdoor activities for all ages.

Sarah: [birdgirlvintage@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:birdgirlvintage@yahoo.co.uk)

### Conwy

**PLANT Conwy** – Weekly get-togethers in the village of Conwy for Home edders - all welcome. Email: [lily@ogge.co.uk](mailto:lily@ogge.co.uk)

### Denbighshire

**Froncysyllte HE group** – Fortnightly group meets 10-4pm. Social play and chat. Email: [vivodsam@gmail.com](mailto:vivodsam@gmail.com)

### Flintshire

**Flintshire Home Education** – Regular meet ups activities & support. Email: [flintshirehomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:flintshirehomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk)

### Glamorgan

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

Emma: [emmzr75@gmail.com](mailto:emmzr75@gmail.com)

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

Sarah: [cardiffhomeeducationgroup@gmail.com](mailto:cardiffhomeeducationgroup@gmail.com)

[www.cardiffhomeeducationgroup.wordpress.com](http://www.cardiffhomeeducationgroup.wordpress.com)

**New Foundations HE** – Meets Cardiff weekly. Varied activities, all free. <http://www.newfoundationshe.com> 07913 955583

[newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com](mailto:newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com)

### Gwynedd

**Creative Learning and Support** – Now meet every Wed. pm in Bangor. Julie on 01286 678181 or Sarah on 01248 355182

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

**Langower HE Group** – Weekly meetings.

Email: [rowenna73@hotmail.com](mailto:rowenna73@hotmail.com)

### Monmouthshire

**Abergavenny HE Group** – monthly meetings at Abergavenny on first Wednesday of each month. £3 per family.

John: [john.cranna@btconnect.com](mailto:john.cranna@btconnect.com)

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

**Usk Home Education** – Monthly (Thurs) meet other HErs in the area for fun and games and cups of tea.

Roxy: [cdsnhf@gmail.com](mailto:cdsnhf@gmail.com) or 01989 768 128

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

### Powys

**New Leaf HE Group (Newtown)** – Occasional meetings for varied activities all ages. Email: [siouxcatsy@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:siouxcatsy@yahoo.co.uk)

**Shiny Happy Children** – Regular meetings in Llanfyllin and surrounding areas. Katie: [llanfyllinHE@gmail.com](mailto:llanfyllinHE@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto:cymrualn@gmail.com)

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

**Monmouth/Hereford/Gloucester** – for information about group activities in the Monmouth/Hereford/Gloucester area. Local EO member Roxy: [cdsnhf@googlemail.com](mailto:cdsnhf@googlemail.com) 01989 768128

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

[www.newfoundationshe.com](http://www.newfoundationshe.com)

Jayne: [newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com](mailto:newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com) Or 07913 955583

**South Wales Home Educators Network** – Email list for Home Educators in and around S Wales to arrange get-togethers/events, share ideas & news and offer support.

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

## Channel Islands

**Home Education Jersey** – Home education group.

Jess: [homeeducationjersey@gmail.com](mailto:homeeducationjersey@gmail.com)

**Guernsey Home Educators** – Group of home educators and those sympathetic to home education in Guernsey.

Email: [legguernsey@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:@ebhe.org.uk)

## 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](mailto:oakwellbarns@gmail.com)

## Please Note ....

**HE families** – Please contact the group organiser for full details and to check that activities are ongoing. Note also that not all groups are run by EO members. Further information on the groups listed above is available via the Local HE Groups area of the EO website.

If you know of a group that's not listed, please ask the group organiser to enter it at [www.educationotherwise.net](http://www.educationotherwise.net)

## Who does What in EO

### Current Trustees [Council Members]

*trustees@educationotherwise.org*

### Jonathan Adams

*jadams@educationotherwise.org*

### Tom Crellin (Treasurer)

*tcrellin@educationotherwise.org*

### Shena Deuchars (Membership Secretary)

*sdeuchars@educationotherwise.org*  
*membership@educationotherwise.org*

### Fe Mukwamba-Sendall

*fsendall@educationotherwise.org*

**Anne Rix** (Chair, Publications Sec., Acting Co. Secretary, Acting NL Co-ord, Buckstopper-General!)

*arix@educationotherwise.org*

### Edwina Theunissen (Enquiries Secretary)

*e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org*

### Kathleen Thompson

*kthompson@educationotherwise.org*

N.B. Email to:

***trustees@educationotherwise.org***

goes to all trustees

*[N.B. We hope to co-opt another trustee shortly]*

Address for general correspondence by letter:

**Education Otherwise** [insert Dept. If known]

**P.O. Box 63, SWAFFHAM, PE37 9AT**

**WEBSITE:** [www.educationotherwise.net](http://www.educationotherwise.net)

**Webmaster:** Tom

*webmaster@educationotherwise.org*

## Membership

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

*membership@educationotherwise.org*

or by post to:

**EO Membership, PO Box 63, Swaffham, PE37 9AT**

## Other Useful Contacts

**Anti-Bullying Contact:** Kathleen Thompson  
01942 89 77 79

**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](http://www.home-education-exams.org.uk)

**Exam Centres list:** [http://he-exams.wikia.com/wiki/Finding\\_an\\_exam\\_centre](http://he-exams.wikia.com/wiki/Finding_an_exam_centre)

**Concessions Contact:** Lynsey Scott  
*concessions@educationotherwise.org*

**Concessions Co-ordinator:** Cornelia Theunissen  
*c.theunissen@educationotherwise.org*

**Dylexia Contact:** Iris Harrison  
*Irisharrison6@aol.com*

**Enquiries Secretary:** Edwina Theunissen 01978 661882  
*e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org*

**EO Stalls:** Habiba Willow *habibawillow@gmail.com*

**Flexi-schooling:** VACANT

**Local Contacts Co-ordinator:** Lei Ashe  
*lcco-ordinator@educationotherwise.org*  
(or via Enquiries Secretary)

**Local Group Insurance:** Anne Rix  
*lgic@educationotherwise.org*

**Local Groups Listings:** Kennell Family  
*eolg@educationotherwise.org*

**Newsletter Coordinator:** VACANT (Anne Rix Acting)  
*eonl@educationotherwise.org*

**Publications Secretary:** Anne Rix  
*arix@educationotherwise.org*  
*publications@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/>

**Treasurer:** Tom Crellin  
*treasurer@educationotherwise.org*

**Volunteer Co-ordinator:** Wendy Knight  
*vol-coordinator@educationotherwise.org*

# education otherwise

Education Otherwise is a membership organisation, which provides support and information for families whose children are being educated outside school, and for those who wish to uphold the freedom of families to take proper responsibility for the education of their children.

Our principal aims are to:

- encourage learning outside the school system;
- reaffirm that parents have primary responsibility for their children's education and that they have the right to exercise this responsibility by educating them out of school;
- establish the primary right of children to have full consideration given to their wishes and feelings about their education;
- promote knowledge, understanding and acceptance of education otherwise than at school in the world at large.

Education Otherwise Association Ltd.

P.O. Box 63, SWAFFHAM, PE37 9AT

*\*\*\* NOTE NEW PO BOX NUMBER \*\*\**

Helpline 0845 4786 345

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

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