

# education otherwise



'Splashing in paddly pool' by Christine (5)

Newsletter  
Summer 2017

## **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 1st August 2017***

**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. EO has a new address for general correspondence:***

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

### **Section Editors**

**REVIEWS: Kerri** – bookreviews@educationotherwise.org

Or EO Reviews, PO Box 63, PE37 9AT

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

### **DISCLAIMER**

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*please notify us by email: membership@educationotherwise.org, or by post to:  
Membership Secretary, Education Otherwise, Office 7, 35-37 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7JN*

*Note New address as above!*

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

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### GEOFF HARRISON

It was with great sadness that we learned, shortly before going to print, of the sudden death of Geoff Harrison. Geoff and Iris were founder members of Education Otherwise, and Geoff had been a sterling support to Iris throughout the lengthy court proceedings that eventually led to the definition of an efficient education (one which achieves what it sets out to achieve) that we rely on today. We remember him with gratitude and offer our sincere condolences to iris and the family.

*Trustees, on behalf of EO Members*

### Co-ordinatorial

Here I am again – still hoping that someone will step up to take over the NL Co-ord job, as I seem to have been doing it forever! It's not that difficult or time-consuming, really ... but I feel a fresh approach would be of benefit – and I do need to concentrate on grandchildren.

Regular readers will be please to discover that 'Frazzled Mum' is back with a life-affirming 'Musing'. Our computer-free family have also written in again – it was interesting to receive comments appreciating their contribution in the last issue, from others who have little use for computers (even if they own one) in their HE

programme. The SEND team are still taking a break, but we have the continuation of Hope's fascinating story – if anyone missed the last issue and wants to read it, let me know.

Another drawing from little Christine on the cover – surely some other children would like to see their work in print? Get them drawing – something with an autumn theme for next issue. If in colour, use bold contrast if possible.

Short or long articles or stories, from EO parents or children, are always welcome. Take a pen and notepad out under the apple tree ... ?

*Anne, June 2017*

Send contributions to: [eonl@educationotherwise.org](mailto:eonl@educationotherwise.org) or by post to address inside front cover.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

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

**Local Contact Update** – we have vacancies for contacts in Northants, Leicestershire, Lancashire, Cheshire & Kent; our EOLC in Lincolnshire also wants to retire, after giving valued support for many years. If you'd consider taking on this role, please get in touch for more information. Also ... could retiring LCs please ask around their local groups to find someone to replace them, and let LC Co-ord (Lei) know name and contact details so she can bring them into the team.

## SUMMER CAMPS FOR HOME EDUCATORS

We no longer take advertisements in the newsletter, but activities are listed on the EO website (under 'links'). These include some high-powered summer residential courses, but many HERS like to spend

more time in the open



air, so here are some brief details of 'wilder' camps for the benefit of those who may not regularly check the website or who don't use computers:

### STUDLAND BAY SUMMER CAMP (Dorset)

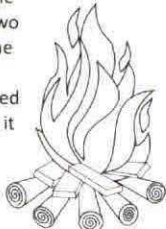
**Friday 14 - Friday 21 July 2017**

Now in its 18th year, a small and informal camp for HE families, in a wild and beautiful area close to the sea, bird sanctuary, Corfe Castle, Cycleways through the woods. Camping in a large field, with stream; access to facilities at adjoining campsite. Events shelter.

Generally 10 and 15 families, coming for the whole week if possible. Many families have been coming for years, but we also always welcome newcomers. We have children of all ages – pre-school to post-school; some are even second-generation HERS.

Very little organized activity, but we do a lot of things as a group. Most mornings we gather for some singing and to talk about ideas for the day. In the typical week we will have at least two trips to the sea altogether, and some bike rides and/or walks in smaller groups. We also always have a shared meal on one of the evenings. Once it is dark we build a fire, and more often than not guitars come out and there is some jamming. Bring bikes, drums, instruments.

For more information and booking contact Adrian or Vicky on: [he@linklaterhicks.co.uk](mailto:he@linklaterhicks.co.uk)



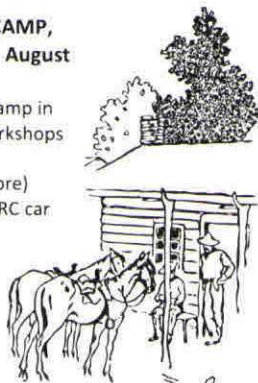
## POWERWOOD SUMMER CAMP, Thursday 10 – Thursday 17 August 2017.

Fun and Informative Family Camp in North Devon. Activities & workshops for families with sometimes sensitive, 'over-excitable', (more) able children and teenagers. RC car driving; bike repair; horse whispering & riding; bandana design and print; jewellery making; bee keeping; French conversation; non violent communication; crazy science; wild medicine and food walks, and more... further information from:

<https://www.powerwood.org.uk/>

Email: [office@powerwood.org.uk](mailto:office@powerwood.org.uk)

or Karin, available Mon, Tue and Thur during term time from 10am – 2pm at 0749 1964 697 (mobile), or text/leave message and we will call you back. Remember to leave your name and number.



### The SUMMER PHOENIX HOME ED. CAMP (P.HEC)

**Monday 21 – Sunday 27 August 2017.**

An inclusive and welcoming HE camp in West Wales, organised and run by a group of home educators, with the full support of the folks at the Pengraig community, that has been running at the farm for eleven years.



Our 78-acre site has good camping facilities (incl disabled access) and children's activities. We offer a range of workshops run by a skilled, experienced team of organisers and workshop leaders to ensure a fantastic camp for everyone, kids and adults alike. Cafe offering vegetarian, family friendly meals and snacks. Please check our website for more details.

<http://phoenixhomeeducationcamp.co.uk/>

Or Email: [nick@wehec.co.uk](mailto:nick@wehec.co.uk)

## More home educating without a Computer

Since I last wrote, we have been a lot busier: me with work, but also projects at home. We had started to make a polytunnel with some help, but I decided it was not going to be strong enough so Amber is making it into a hen run. She has put chicken wire around half of it and made a gate. When we can afford more wire will do the next bit – one half will be use at a time and when they need fresh grass they will be put into the other side.

Amber has also carved a butter knife from wood – it turned out really well and we use it all the time. There has been a promise that she can go on a workshop to learn how to carve a spoon.

We have been trying to sort out the house for ages – clear clutter, decorate ... you know the sort of thing. Well, what used to be the spare bedroom/storage is now going to become a craft room. We have some juggling around of furniture to do, but the major thing is to put the laminate flooring down. I will be all right once I get going – it is the thought of it and the sore back as we go along! I can picture the room in my head and it will look nice and bright with table and chairs in – and of course all our craft items. We are also sorting out a quiet space to sit and read.

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

Carol & Amber, Dyfed



## The Empty Inn.

He stood at the inn door, with his hand on the handle. Singing and laughter coming from inside. He pushed the door open and went in. A long, dim corridor stretched out before him, a heavy-looking door at the far end. He closed the door behind him and slowly walked down the corridor. The walls were cracked and grey, the floor covered in dust and the lights flickered and dimmed. He was close to the door now – the voices louder.

He put his hand on the handle, just like he did a few minutes before. Silence. Not a sound from behind the door. Then a voice said 'come in, we are open' and the chatter started up again. He turned the handle and pushed the door wide open. Darkness faced him. Darkness that sucked him in...

The  
END  
or is it?

b7 Amber age: 14 (The Barefoot Warrior.)

~~~~~  
Well? Any other young EOer feel inspired to write a brief sequel? If so, send to EONL Co-ordinator (address inside front cover) by 1<sup>st</sup> August ... Anne



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

*The official 'birthday' of Education Otherwise is 1977 but it's clear from the archives that moves towards its creation were under way before that:*

"The meeting on home-based education held at Lower Shaw Farm on 17-18th September, 1976 was the third effort made to get a national network started. The first two produced little tangible result. The main difficulty had been simply to find sufficient families actually doing it, instead of just thinking about it. It is extraordinary how many people express a strong interest in deschooling when they hear about it, but how very few there are who are actually doing it. This suggests that the network is really needed, to give that little bit of support and advice that will help people over the hump." (EONL no. 1, Dec 1976)

# EDUCATION

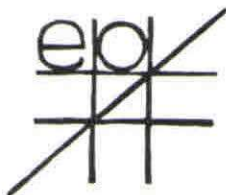


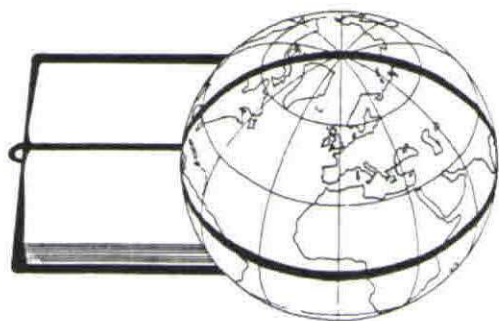
– The cover of NL no. 1 featured the first version of the 'triangle' logo.

*The following meeting (during a weekend HE camp at Lower Shaw Farm near Swindon in February 1977) was the official launch of Education Otherwise.*

*In 1982 (the year EO became a Company) Trustees asked EO members to send in ideas for a new logo. The results were printed in EONL no.25, October 1982, [reproduced below and on next page] so for members to select their preference. The triangle, with later modifications, has been the distinctive EO logo ever since.*

*2017 brings EO's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and another potential change of constitution. In the last issue, trustees asked members to send in ideas for a new logo. There hasn't been much response, so it's not too late to contribute your sketches. Here's a look back at some early ideas, for inspiration – get doodling!*





*There was a large gathering to celebrate EO's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2002 and special mugs, T-shirts, etc. were produced in commemoration ... I couldn't go to the gathering, but I've still got my mug! Anyone have happy memories of the occasion to share for next issue?* Anne (NL Co-ord).

## Musing: There's no place like home!

Nope, I haven't finally lost the plot and donned a pair of shiny, red shoes, or been off exploring a land of talking lions and scarecrows, but our little permanently frazzled family have made a big decision concerning our future.

We headed off back to Wales for February half-term, treating ourselves to a week in a beautiful period property right on the beach in Aberaeron, with not one, or two, but three luxurious bathrooms (when you only have one bathroom to share between the six of you at home, it's quite a euphoric feeling to suddenly have the ratio of people to bathrooms dramatically improved!) with the full intention of tying up loose ends ready to move to the Aberystwyth area this coming summer.

There were several different aspects to our search: new home, teaching job for hubby, new family church, and of course, a new home ed community to ensconce ourselves within. The first part of the jigsaw looked set to be firmly put into place on the Sunday morning after we arrived in Wales: I'd contacted several churches in Aber, spoken to a few people, and chosen one to visit for the Sunday service, one which seemed most like our current church in Peterborough (Kingsgate Community Church, if anyone is interested). However, despite receiving the warmest welcome that could be possible, all six of us felt that our hearts didn't belong there, but if not there, then where?

I'd spent hour upon hour poring over the delights that Rightmove had to offer, and had finally whittled a gigantic list down to just a handful of properties that we felt were worthy of a viewing – surely one of them would be our future home, or so we thought. However, that was the next piece of the jigsaw that flatly refused to fit into place, when, that afternoon, we drove around and viewed some houses, mostly within the tiny, seaside town of Borth. On paper it ticked all the boxes – a beautiful coastline literally on our doorstep, a regular bus community centre

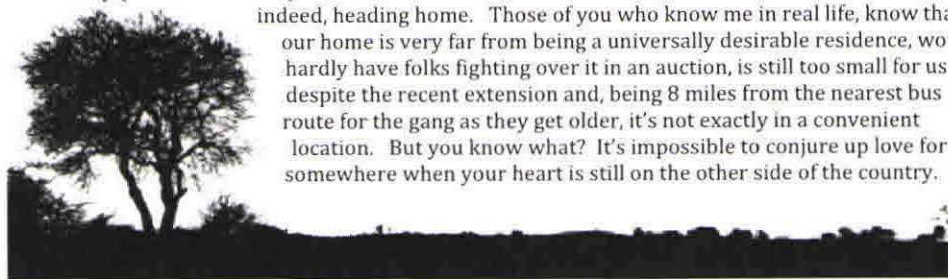
and train service into Aberystwyth, busy with lots going on for teens and families, just a short drive from the Snowdonia National Park... pretty idyllic, we thought, until we actually arrived. The house that was number one on our list, although it had all the space we needed and a layout that could be jiggled around to better suit us, just failed to set our hearts alight, for no fathomable reason. We got back in the car to a chorus of 'Please don't make us move to this house' ... 'that house doesn't feel right' ... and so it was with every single house on our shortlist.



We hoped that our quest would improve when hubby went to visit the comprehensive school in Aberystwyth, with a view to having a formal job interview later that week. We'd managed to squeeze his best suit, smart shoes, and a new shirt and tie for the occasion, into our already heaving-at-the-seams car, but after a delightful hour spent with the Headteacher, hubby said it was obvious that teaching there wasn't meant to be. He'd loved the atmosphere of the school, felt he could work for the Headteacher very happily, but they couldn't match his salary, and a huge pay cut just isn't on the cards for us. If we'd both been teaching, then it might have been viable, but like us, most home edding families couldn't reduce their income, so that became another huge cross on our jigsaw.

The final awkward-fitting piece of the jigsaw was when we spent an afternoon with one of the local home ed groups, for a walk and picnic. The scenery was undeniably spectacular, it was unseasonably warm and sunny, especially for Wales in February, and it was wonderful to spend more time with the wonderful home ed family we'd met in Wales last summer, but unfortunately, our little gang didn't feel that they fitted into the community there at all. The other teens didn't seem to want to take my boys under their wings, so although the girls had a couple of friends there, it would be a momentous upheaval for ragamuffins 1 and 2, one which we decided we couldn't ask them to do.

So, with our jigsaw puzzle in total disarray, and having taken a family vote on the penultimate day of the holiday (Home –v– Wales ), we headed back to South Lincolnshire feeling very much that we were, indeed, heading home. Those of you who know me in real life, know that our home is very far from being a universally desirable residence, would hardly have folks fighting over it in an auction, is still too small for us despite the recent extension and, being 8 miles from the nearest bus route for the gang as they get older, it's not exactly in a convenient location. But you know what? It's impossible to conjure up love for somewhere when your heart is still on the other side of the country.



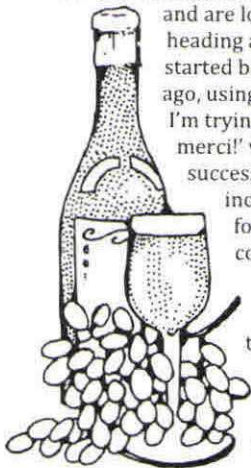
I think that the desire to live closer to both my parents, especially as they're getting older and their health is starting to stumble, had temporarily over-shadowed what we knew to be the right path for us as a family, and I, in particular, had become excited at the prospect of a new adventure, when what I really needed to do was take a step back and be grateful for everything we already have. Neither of my parents will even consider moving closer to us, (apparently we live in an ugly part of the world – how rude!) so in desperation, I'd convinced hubby to consider dragging our little brood over towards them. But no matter how much time and energy we poured into our quest, it became obvious that it simply wasn't meant to be. After breaking the hard news to both my parents, and hearing the immense disappointment in their voices, I'm feeling relieved: relieved that we haven't got to continue decorating at superhuman speed, relieved we haven't got to say goodbye to all our lovely neighbours, friends and home ed community, and above all, relieved that we can re-focus all our energies on just living, cus we've realised that what ain't broke, don't need fixing!

Other permanently frazzled news: our renewed energies have spilled over into our approach to home education, so the kids – well, mainly the boys – no longer have so much freedom or autonomy, but are now expected to spend 30 minutes a day on 'Conquer Maths' and 30 minutes a day on 'Literacy Planet'. Having just completed a spelling age test with them both, I can enthusiastically say that they'll be heading back to 'Toe by Toe' as well (an enthusiasm not shared by either of them!) However, with ragamuffin 1 possibly heading off to college in 2 years, and ragamuffin 2 wanting to start GCSEs ready to become a vet, it's time we tweaked our routine, just a little, and stopped doing quite so much resting on our laurels. Although we've all enjoyed our largely autonomous approach to learning, allowing us so much freedom to pursue what most strongly grabs at our hearts, it's become clear that this approach doesn't work for every child, or indeed, every family. Yes, both boys are now reading independently, the dyslexic eldest with a slightly less energetic attitude than number 2 (who now reads so voraciously he even insists on taking a book into the supermarket with him – a boy after my own heart – although we've had a few mishaps with steering the trolley and trying to read at the same time!) but their sentence construction and spelling is still pretty poor. We want them to be able to use commas, semi-colons and colons accurately; to be able to hold their own in future exams and interviews; to be able to communicate in the written word confidently and precisely, so it's time for a little intervention. After a reluctant start, they are progressing well, and have a little competition ensuing between them for whoever can finish Year 4 work first – only a few years to catch up on! One of them commented the other day, that although he'd rather be outside playing in the garden, he feels he appreciates the



freedom more when he's finished his work and is allowed out there: perhaps we should have tried this approach years ago....

The permanently frazzled household have recently received 6 shiny new passports through the post, and are looking forward to the first family holiday abroad later this summer: we are heading across the Channel to the land of croissants, wine and strings of onions. I've started brushing up on my A-level French, which was never a great standard even 20 years ago, using the free online 'Duolingo' course. I'm back up to 25% fluent, would you believe! I'm trying to teach the kids a few useful phrases, and number 3 now does a great 'Non, merci!' when asked if she'd like to come and get cleaned up for lunch, but not much success with the rest of the gang. I suspect they take after hubby, who although is incredibly bright and was top of his grammar school, was in the special needs group for French and Latin, so I'm resigned to the fact that I'll be the one doing all the communicating on our trip.



We'll also be enjoying a camping holiday this summer, (hopefully without the car breaking down this time!) in our newly purchased inflatable tent. Bit of a treat really, because it's the exact same tent as the one we already own, but we're hoping it enables poor ole' hubby with his rheumatoid arthritis to keep camping for longer. Not only can we not afford to keep renting holiday cottages, we love the freedom of the campsite, and have made so many wonderful friends over the years, so it's something we want to pursue for as long as his health allows.

Must run because I have an appointment with a friend called Maya... yes, I've even heaved my reluctant backside back to regular workouts with the Wii Fitness Coach. Perhaps it's something to do with my increasingly tight waistband, or the impending dream trip across the Channel, but I'm actually finding that I look forward to my daily sessions, on top of my weekly badminton and swimming - if you'd known me at school, you would easily have awarded me the prize for the person least likely to ever wear a pair of trainers - or perhaps it's due to being contented, knowing that we're living the life we're meant to be living, in the area we're meant to be in. Whatever the reason, we wouldn't change our path for anyone else's right now.

Enjoy the sunshine!

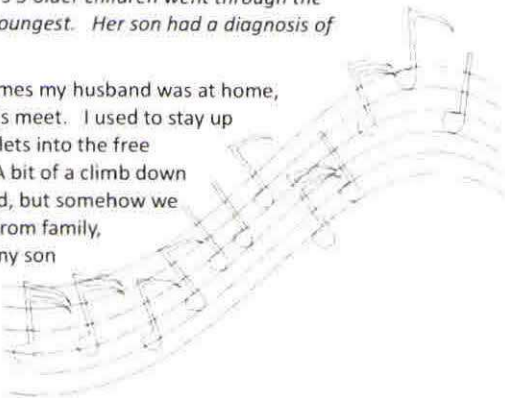
*'Frazzled Mum' [Name and address supplied]*



## **SPECIAL NEEDS - HOME EDUCATION and SCHOOLING** (part 2)

*Continued from previous issue - This mother's 3 older children went through the school system; she home educated the two youngest. Her son had a diagnosis of autism and her daughter was dyslexic.*

I took on some jobs which fitted in around times my husband was at home, cleaning and leaflet distribution to make ends meet. I used to stay up all night one night a week putting all the leaflets into the free newspapers. I had several cleaning jobs. A bit of a climb down from the PA job I had before I home educated, but somehow we managed. Despite the criticisms especially from family, somehow we got through. Then by age 14 my son showed remarkable talent as a musician so I rang the local music services to ask if they could provide lessons. I was told that the children would have to register with a local school. I asked if that was fair since music



should be accessible to anyone.

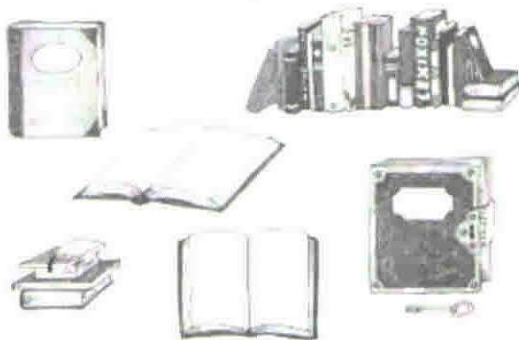
They insisted.

So I rang the schools and – guess what? They already had far too many pupils waiting to play an instrument!

I wrote a letter to the head of music services and marked it 'Private, personal and confidential' knowing that he would have to open it himself and respond. His response was poor. He basically said how dare you address a letter to me as personal when you don't even know me and no he couldn't provide for them either. Eventually, I managed to find a sympathetic ear with a lady who chaired the local autistic society and she pulled some strings to get them lessons at a music academy with another local authority. My son passed his grade 5 theory with them and my daughter joined in as well learning keyboard. My son was encouraged to go along and play their rather nice Yamaha piano whenever he wanted to. I paid for him to have local guitar lessons privately but after the teacher called him "a knob" he gave up and taught himself at home. He also taught himself piano, passing grades up to 5. The examination form always asked for his teacher's name and I used to write in my name rather jokingly because it was he who was teaching me!

They got to 15 and I asked them if they would do some GCSEs at home or at college. They both wanted to go to college at 15 but the college made them wait until they were 16 even though there didn't seem to be a valid reason and there were children attending who were 15; but it seemed you had to have done something terribly naughty at school for funding to be available at 15.

At 16 my son went for his interview. I did not believe at this point that he would even go to college let alone be able to cope with it. He asked the maths teacher if he could do double maths and discussed with him the university papers he had downloaded and was reading as well as some of the work he had done at home. The college said that he would need to have GCSE maths to be funded for an 'A' level. I asked if he would be able to sit it in November



and start the course in September which they agreed to. He also auditioned for the music academy which was part of the same college and got in to do 2 'A' levels in Music.

He decided the very first day that he didn't need me there to help him and that he could cope by himself. He would come home every day and tell me what everyone had been doing and talking about. As you can imagine it was a huge culture shock! We had a debriefing of approximately 2 hours every day. But he was coping. And he didn't mind about being different. He found the other students were a bit immature. He said to me one day, "Mum, they don't have *any* interests." So he studied and got his 4 'A' levels. He found some of the logic at college hard to understand, saying to me that he didn't see any point in attending a lesson when he already knew the subject. His mechanics teacher couldn't comment on him since as he said, "I never see him". Usually at that college special permission had to be sought before a student could do 4 'A' levels and then only with a minimum of 4 GCSEs. He had managed it with only 1 GCSE!

Two years later, his maths teacher had a friend who was looking for someone who was brilliant at maths and had integrity. She put his name forward and he got a job in web design, commuting every day to work on the crowded trains. After two years he met a lovely girl who later became his wife. They then studied at a music conservatoire which they both got into unconditionally.

My son went from being a child who couldn't leave my side to being fully independent. It was his choice and he did it when he was ready at 16.

My daughter also had to wait until she was 16. Because of her dyslexia she had to do access courses for both English and maths. She was also given a formal diagnosis.

She was however allowed to study 'A' levels in her second year whilst doing GCSEs in Maths and English. She also had a huge culture shock, which she was again able to cope with. She would come home and complain that the other students just messed around in the access classes and smoked weed after the lessons. She worked her socks off. She won student of the term award for her hard work and she also managed to get 2 GCSEs in Maths and English and 3 'A' levels in Art, Music and Photography.

She didn't want to run up a huge debt at university so took jobs at cleaning, dog sitting, child minding, waitressing and working in a shop, which required a good knowledge of computers, moving away from home to live with her boyfriend.

I am now in a position to make a comparison between home education and schooling since my three older children went to school. Home education is streaks ahead of schooling.

I wish I had had the foresight to home educate all of my children. I am much closer to the younger two because of the years we spent together. I feel that they are much more confident about themselves, their strengths and weaknesses and are able to talk with anyone as an equal no matter what age. They have had time to think at home. And they have had time to follow their own interests.

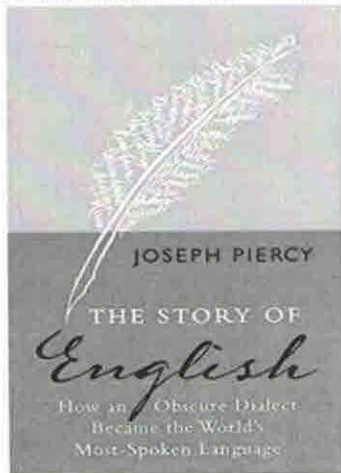
*Hope, Sussex*

*[If anyone who didn't see part 1 would like a copy, contact Anne, NL Co-ord.]*



**Book Reviews** By Kerri: [bookreviews@educationotherwise.org](mailto:bookreviews@educationotherwise.org)

**The Story of English** Joseph Piercy Michael O' Mara Books ISBN 978-1-78243-514-3 £4.71



I found it quite difficult to explain the way the English language was written to my daughter when we first looked at spelling, especially with so many exceptions to the different rules. After looking for a book to explain how the language developed, I came across this one. Despite the perhaps unexciting subject, Piercy explains the history of the English language from Anglo-Saxon times to modern day 'text-speak' in a way that is easy to read and interesting.

The book explains many of the famous people involved in influencing how the language developed such as Alfred the Great - who promoted reading and writing in English; Henry V and VI - who changed the language of Parliament, business and law from French to English, and William Tyndale - who translated the Christian bible into English

It also includes many of the famous documents and literature



throughout history including Beowulf, The Canterbury Tales and Samuel Johnson's Dictionary of the English Language – the primary authority before the Oxford English Dictionary. Not only does the book provide insight to the development of written English and answers as to how English spelling developed, it is also a great supplementary book to use for teaching British history.

**North and South Korea** Cath Senker Wayland ISBN 978-0-7502-6584-3 £5.80

This is part of the Our World Divided series that includes Afghanistan, Iran and the West, Israel and the Middle East and Sudan and provides a fantastic summary and explanation of the situation in Korea.

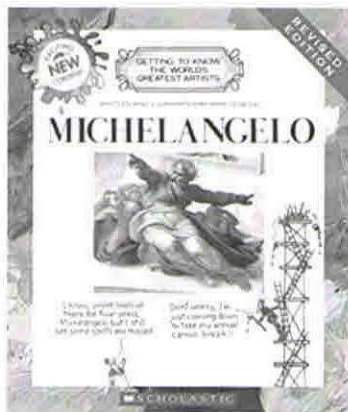
Starting with the attack on Yeonpyeong in 2010, the book describes how Korea was divided after World War II, the Korean War in the 1950s and other events during the conflict between the two countries. It also explains the difference between the Communist approach taken in North Korea compared to the democracy in the South. Throughout the book different viewpoints are provided, for example Kim Il-sung's description of 'juche' – North Korea's version of Communism, and Jaeyon Woo, a US journalist's view. This provides a good starting point for debate during learning.

The book is very easy to read with lots of interesting facts about life in the two countries and the continuing conflict and is illustrated with pictures on every page. Perhaps one of the most striking is a satellite picture taken at night showing South Korea lit up and North Korea in total darkness. This is an excellent book to use for history, geography and current affairs.



### World's Greatest Artists

Confessions of a Homeschooler website Download \$9.99  
Used with 'Getting To Know The World's Greatest Artists' Mike Venezia £6.19 each



This is a great art resource that provides interesting activities including lesson plans, lap book printables, puzzles and flashcards for the artists Picasso, Van Gogh, Pollock, Monet, Matisse, O'keefe, Michelangelo and Da'Vinci.

The teacher's workbook contains 74 pages with 8 detailed lesson plans for each artist and the student's workbook has 86 pages of activities to accompany the lessons. You also need to purchase the book on each of the artists from the 'Getting to Know The World's Greatest Artists' range by Mike Venezia. These books are about 30 pages in length, written in quite big text and have the artist's most famous pictures together with a biography of their life and work.

This is a fantastic resource for teaching art with very little preparation required. There is also a resource for famous composers and inventors on the same website.



## 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)**

### ***N.B. Some groups have been removed due to lack of contact***

*If you wish your group to be added on the Website and in EO Newsletter please visit the Local HE Groups Directory on the EO website.*

*For queries contact Local Groups Co-ordinator: [eolg@educationotherwise.org](mailto:eolg@educationotherwise.org)*

## ENGLAND

### Bedfordshire

**BedHed** – for support and organising meet ups.  
Contact Susan: [susanhrassell@msn.com](mailto:susanhrassell@msn.com)  
<http://bedhed.org.uk>

### Berkshire

**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 Learn Place (HELP)** – Local support group  
Bristol area. Catherine: [catewhyte@hotmail.com](mailto:catewhyte@hotmail.com)  
**Home Education in Bristol and the South West** – groups, events and activities in Bristol and the surrounding areas.  
Therese: [alternativeeducation.bristol@gmail.com](mailto:alternativeeducation.bristol@gmail.com)

### Buckinghamshire

**Free Range Education** – range of educational events and activities in Milton Keynes & North Bucks. Sarah: 07725 039981  
[www.freerangeeducation.org](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)  
**Milton Keynes Home Educators Network (MKHEN)** – Educational and social activities and events, online support groups, mentoring and an active relationship with the LA. <http://www.mkhen.org.uk>  
Georgeanne: 01908 662256 [sienna-swift7@powernet.co.uk](mailto:sienna-swift7@powernet.co.uk)  
**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.cambshomeed.co.uk](http://www.cambshomeed.co.uk) Jane: [cambshomeed@gmail.com](mailto:cambshomeed@gmail.com)  
**Little Learners (Duxford)** – Themed play-based meetings. Louise: [louise@tartarus.org](mailto:louise@tartarus.org)

### Cheshire

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

### Cornwall

**South East Cornwall** – courses and activities including Drama, Physics and English Lit. Kath: [kafrevell@phonecoop.coop](mailto:kafrevell@phonecoop.coop)  
**Lostwithiel area HE group** – range of HE activities, all welcome!  
Karen: [kazincornwall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kazincornwall@yahoo.co.uk)

### Cumbria

**West Cumbria Home Education Group** – friendly group, members from all over W. Cumbria, structured or free range – All welcome!  
Tallie: [metallienat@aol.com](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: [sandymerriott@gmail.com](mailto:sandymerriott@gmail.com)  
**Derby HE Group (DHEG)** – Weekly Gym Club at sports centre with instructor. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/derbyhe/>  
Lynsey: [lynseypvic@ntlworld.com](mailto:lynseypvic@ntlworld.com)  
**Home Ed Buxton Area** – Local meetings/activities for HERS and those considering HE  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/homeedbuxtonarea>

### Devon

**Dartmoor and SW Home Education Group** – Based in S. Dartmoor, All members may organise events and meet ups on our email list  
Email: [dartmoor.sw.he.group@gmail.com](mailto:dartmoor.sw.he.group@gmail.com)  
<http://dartmoor-sw-he.yolasite.com/>  
**Exeter Home Education Community** Wednesday drop-in; GCSE; green woodwork, permaculture, pottery & more.  
Email: [nbedford@btinternet.com](mailto:nbedford@btinternet.com) Neil 01363 82314  
<http://exeterhomeeducationcommunity.co.uk>  
**FLAGS Home Education Group** – Exeter, every Friday. Friendly group for children of all ages. Sue: [su.gold777@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:su.gold777@yahoo.co.uk)  
07523 982014  
**Freedom Fields EHE** – Weekly social group for families  
[http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/PlymouthUK\\_HomeEd/](http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/PlymouthUK_HomeEd/)  
**Paignton and Torbay homeschooling** – social meet ups, play and activities, twice weekly. Tessa: [Tessacales@hotmail.com](mailto:Tessacales@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)  
**Teignbridge and Torbay HE Group** – Teen creative writing group, meeting every fortnight. [taluhla@gmail.com](mailto:taluhla@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)

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

## 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.  
Lena: [essexhomeedmod@btinternet.com](mailto:essexhomeedmod@btinternet.com)  
<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/essex-he-e-group/info>  
**Haverhill HE group** – Covering South Suffolk/North Essex.  
Eve 01440 788228 or 07768 763913 [wixde@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wixde@yahoo.co.uk)  
**Southend HE Group** – Meets weekly. Lots of outings and activities.  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/southendhomeeducation/> or  
Email: [southendhomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk](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

**Forest of Dean HE group** – Bridge and dam building, river clearance, fire building, woodland walks etc.  
Rox: [cdsnhf@googlemail.com](mailto:cdsnhf@googlemail.com)  
**Glos HE** – 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: [nick@nickweir.co.uk](mailto:nick@nickweir.co.uk) 01453 840036

## Hampshire

**ActiveEO** – West Sussex and Hants <http://www.activeeo.com/>  
self-help group for home educators living near the south coast:  
Cate: [bevmats@btinternet.com](mailto:bevmats@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/seeds/>

## Herefordshire

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

## Hertfordshire

**Barnet Home Educators Hub** – where children can grow and develop together and friendships are formed. Contact: [szteIn@yahoo.com](mailto:szteIn@yahoo.com)  
**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.ansell@aol.co.uk](mailto:mandy.ansell@aol.co.uk)

## Isle of Wight

**Isle of Wight Learning Zone** – Network of HE families.  
<http://www.iwlearningzone.co.uk/>  
**IW Home Ed** – Facebook & yahoo group for any and all home educators on IOW. Karen: [Karen@curvespace.com](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/dragonflykidzhomeeducationgroup/>  
**HEarts & Minds** – Hernehill, various games, arts, crafts and organised activities. Davinia: [daviniaedmunds4@gmail.com](mailto:daviniaedmunds4@gmail.com)  
**Kent ASD Home Ed** – For parents/carers of ASD/Aspergers children who are educating them 'otherwise'.  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/asd-home-ed-medway>  
**Medway and Maidstone HE activity group (HE Omega)** – Group of home educating families in Medway and Kent.  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HE-omega/>  
Esther: [e.selhi@yahoo.co.uk](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-1a/>  
**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 HErs in the Leicestershire area. <http://he-al.weebly.com/index.html>  
**Leicestershire Christian Home Educators** – monthly meet up every 3rd Tuesday. Free play opportunity in a safe and fun place. HE Off-Peak Pass available: £1.50 per child £5 per family, free drinks. All welcome! Email: [mrsamarshall@googlemail.com](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)

**Stonegate** – Weekly play session, £3.50 per family, including drinks. Large, safe, grassy area. Cat: [catbellinger@gmail.com](mailto:catbellinger@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

## London

**Adventures with Education (Hackney)** – HE group based in Hackney London. <http://awe.gn.apc.org/>

**Brandam 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.  
Ingrid: [ibertritt@gmail.com](mailto:ibertritt@gmail.com) 0203 566 8706

**Maggie Home Educators (East London)** – Fun, play and socialising for HE families. Phil: 0208 500 1053

**The Otherwise Club (NW)** – A community centre for HE families. <http://www.theotherwiseclub.org.uk/> 07952 616 352

**WIGWAM** Jubilee Park N9. Informal drop-in group for families with children of any age. Eleanor: [elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk](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/>

**Home Ed Discoverers** – Norwich area; events, parties, trips, days out etc. Vikki: [Watts85.rv@gmail.com](mailto:Watts85.rv@gmail.com)

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

**West Norfolk Home Educators** – Meeting place for HEs and families interested in home educating. Lots of activities! <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/WestNorfolkHomeEducators/>

## Northamptonshire

**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/)

**Non School Nottingham** – Online hub for info about events, classes, meetups, and local Facebook or email groups, for finding home ed community in the Notts area.

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

Contact: [info@non-school-nottingham.org.uk](mailto:info@non-school-nottingham.org.uk)

## Oxfordshire

**Expanding Horizons** (See Berkshire).

**Oxfordshire Home Educators** – A group for all home educators living in Oxfordshire and neighbouring counties; all welcome. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OxonHE/>

## Shropshire

**Inspire HE Group**. Educational activities in Shropshire. Families from Shropshire and surrounding areas welcome to find out more. Alison: [fellows-weir@megmag.plus.com](mailto:fellows-weir@megmag.plus.com)

**Oswestry and surrounds**. Regular meetings around area. Katie: [llanfyllinhe@gmail.com](mailto:llanfyllinhe@gmail.com)

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

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

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

**Shropshire Home Education** – For 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/BothHomeEducation/>

**Bridgwater Home Education** – weekly social meet + *ad hoc* trips and activities. Contact: [Mfstainer@gmail.com](mailto:Mfstainer@gmail.com)

**HEY Yeovil** – All HE families welcome. Lyn: 01963 23669  
[heyeovil@hotmail.com](mailto:heyeovil@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)

**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: [ellyweir@gmail.com](mailto:ellyweir@gmail.com)

## Suffolk

**Haverhill HE group** – South Suffolk/North Essex.

Eve: [wixde@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wixde@yahoo.co.uk) 01440 788228 or 07768 763913

**Ipswich HE Wednesdays** – Shared lunch and activities.

Emma: [emma@nattyem.co.uk](mailto:emma@nattyem.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: [schrodingerscat81@hotmail.com](mailto:schrodingerscat81@hotmail.com)

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

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

Maria: [mariaof.reyna@gmail.com](mailto:mariaof.reyna@gmail.com)

**Home Educators Learning Project (HELP)** – educational support, outings. <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/HELearningProject/>  
**Leatherhead Home Education Group** – Leatherhead and surrounding area regular day trips and activities.

Chrissie: [christabelthorpe@hotmail.com](mailto:christabelthorpe@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

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

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

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

**Eastbourne EO Group** – Regular gatherings & activities.

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

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: [leliot@gmail.com](mailto:leliot@gmail.com)

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

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

## Warwickshire

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

Sarah: [sarah@nellyb.co.uk](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: [katehstrickland@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:katehstrickland@yahoo.co.uk)

**F.R.E.E. HE Group** (Shropshire) – Free Range Exciting Education Group meets once a week for a variety of fun & educational activities including trips. Jan: [freeheg@yahoo.co.uk](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.dillaway@yahoo.com](mailto:dee.dillaway@yahoo.com) 07753 260317

## Worcestershire

**Bewdley HE Group** – Weekly meetings, social/activities etc. all welcome. Sophie: [s.a.moore@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:s.a.moore@hotmail.co.uk) 01299 405196

**Worcester Home Educators** – Meetings usually at least weekly throughout term time at various locations round the county. [www.worcestershire-home-educators.co.uk/](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

**Free Range Home Education** – playgroup, babies to 8ish, HE or considering it. Sheffield. Fl: [fhennesy81@gmail.com](mailto:fhennesy81@gmail.com)

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

Lisa: [lisa\\_riley@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lisa_riley@tiscali.co.uk) [henny-owner@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:henny-owner@yahoo.co.uk)

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

Jane: 01484 645034

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

Jane: 01484 645034

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

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wyhec/> or Mandy: [meandchi7@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:meandchi7@yahoo.co.uk) 01484 460026

**NYHEC (group for HE parents)** – for parents HEing in North Yorkshire. Email: [nyhecowner@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nyhecowner@yahoo.co.uk)

**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: [collieecandydog123@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:collieecandydog123@yahoo.co.uk) 077764 06409

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

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

**SYHEC South Yorkshire Home Education Communication** –

Email group for home educators in the South Yorkshire area.

Contact: [inglefamly@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:inglefamly@hotmail.co.uk)

**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/yorkshirehomedders/>

## Regional Groups (England)

### East of England –

**East Midlands – East Midlands HE Yahoo Group (EMHE)**

inform & support HE families in E.Midlands.

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/emhe/info>

Katya: [katyalamb@aol.com](mailto:katyalamb@aol.com)

**North East England – North East Home Educators** Thriving group with several activities in the region happening every day!

We welcome new members. Treena: [treenafenwick@gmail.com](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. [southdevonhc@gmail.com](mailto:southdevonhc@gmail.com)

<http://hecontactssandeventssw.yolasite.com>

**HE in Bristol and SW** – see Bristol

### West Midlands

**HELM** – home education group located mainly within the Birmingham, West Midlands area. Any and all HE families

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

## Isle of Man

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

Yvonne: [isleofmanlc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:isleofmanlc@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

### Mid Wales

**AberSHed (Aberystwyth Special Home Education)** Special needs group in Aberystwyth area. Anna: [annaandrich@googlemail.com](mailto:annaandrich@googlemail.com)

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

[thislittlelightofmine@phoncoop.coop](mailto:thislittlelightofmine@phoncoop.coop) Mia: 01570421529

**New Leaf HE Group** (Newtown, Powys) – 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)

## North Wales

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

**Froncysyllte HE group** (Denbighshire) – Fortnightly group meets

10-4pm. Social play and chat. Email: [vivodsam@gmail.com](mailto:vivodsam@gmail.com)

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

**Langower HE Group** (Gwynedd) – Weekly meetings.

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

**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)

## South East Wales

**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)

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

Emma: [emmr75@gmail.com](mailto:emmr75@gmail.com)

**Cardiff HE Group** – Meets Mondays during term time, Pontcanna.

Social group children all ages, all welcome. Sarah:

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

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

**Monmouth Home Educators** – Meet weekly for fun and

friendship, arts, crafts, games and sports. All ages welcome. Check for dates and times. Roxy: 07765 058 777

**New Foundations HE** – Meets Cardiff weekly.

Varied activities, all free. <http://www.newfoundationshe.com>

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

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

Hayley: [hayleydraco@gmail.com](mailto:hayleydraco@gmail.com)

**Swansea Home Educators** – EHE families from Swansea and surrounding areas. Eleanor: [eleanoreva@aol.com](mailto:eleanoreva@aol.com)

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

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

## South West Wales

**Cardarthen HE Group** – Regular meetings in Johnstown, Cardarthen. 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)

## 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: [cdshnf@googlemail.com](mailto:cdshnf@googlemail.com) 01989 768128

**New Foundations** – HE group/charity, social & educational activities and support, Cardiff/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)

**Home Education/Schooling Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen** lots of educational meets. Email: [mykidshomeschool@yahoo.com](mailto:mykidshomeschool@yahoo.com)

## International (UK based)

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

### Parents 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 directory on 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) or email EO Local Groups Co-ordinator:

[eolg@educationotherwise.org](mailto:eolg@educationotherwise.org)

## EO PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

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

EO can provide this at just £10 per year (or part year) from 1<sup>st</sup> Sept.

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.

You can join at any time during the year – £15 now will cover you for July and August 2017 and the year to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018.

Queries/Further information from Anne:  
Local Groups Insurance Co-ordinator  
[lgic@educationotherwise.org](mailto:lgic@educationotherwise.org) – 01760 441810

## Who does What in EO

### Current Trustees [Council Members]

[trustees@educationotherwise.org](mailto:trustees@educationotherwise.org)

**Jonathan Adams** (Publications Secretary)

[jadams@educationotherwise.org](mailto:jadams@educationotherwise.org)

**Tom Crellin** (Treasurer, Secretary)

[tcrellin@educationotherwise.org](mailto:tcrellin@educationotherwise.org)

[treasurer@educationotherwise.org](mailto:treasurer@educationotherwise.org)

**Graeme Evans** (Membership Secretary)

[g.evans@educationotherwise.org](mailto:g.evans@educationotherwise.org)

[membership@educationotherwise.org](mailto:membership@educationotherwise.org)

**Denise Kennell**

[d.kennell@educationotherwise.org](mailto:d.kennell@educationotherwise.org)

**Fe Mukwamba-Sendall** (Chair)

[fmukwambasendall@educationotherwise.org](mailto:fmukwambasendall@educationotherwise.org)

**Barry O'Donovan** (Enquiries Secretary)

[b.odonovan@educationotherwise.org](mailto:b.odonovan@educationotherwise.org)

**Ljubica Temelkoska-Adams**

[l.temelkoska.adams@educationotherwise.org](mailto:l.temelkoska.adams@educationotherwise.org)

N.B. Email to: [trustees@educationotherwise.org](mailto:trustees@educationotherwise.org)  
goes to all trustees

Address for general correspondence by letter:

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

**OFFICE 7, 35-37 LUDGATE HILL,  
LONDON EC4M 7JN**

*[This is EO's new address, but the Swaffham PO  
Box will still operate for a while]*

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

**Webmaster:** Tom & Denise

[webmaster@educationotherwise.org](mailto:webmaster@educationotherwise.org)

## Membership

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

[membership@educationotherwise.org](mailto:membership@educationotherwise.org)

or by post to: **EO Membership,**

**Office 7, 35-37 Ludgate Hill,**

**London EC4M 7JN**

## Other Useful Contacts

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

**Benefits & Work Guides:**  
[send@educationotherwise.org](mailto:send@educationotherwise.org)

**GCSEs at Home:** Louise 08445 003 688

**GCSE/Exams email list:**  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HE-Exams-GCSE-A\\_AS\\_Levels-OU-Others/](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 Co-ordinator:** Cornelia Theunissen  
[c.theunissen@educationotherwise.org](mailto:c.theunissen@educationotherwise.org)

**Dylexia Contact:** Iris Harrison  
[Irisharrison6@aol.com](mailto:Irisharrison6@aol.com)

**EO Stalls:** Habiba Willow [habibawillow@gmail.com](mailto:habibawillow@gmail.com)

**Flexi-schooling:** VACANT

**Local Contacts Co-ordinator:** Lei Ashe  
[lei.Ashe@leiashe@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lei.Ashe@leiashe@hotmail.co.uk)

**Local Group Insurance:** Anne Rix  
[lgic@educationotherwise.org](mailto:lgic@educationotherwise.org)

**Local Groups Listings:** Kennell Family  
[eolg@educationotherwise.org](mailto:eolg@educationotherwise.org)

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

**School Anxiety Support:** VACANT

**Single Parent Contact:** Sam Kruger 08445 003794  
[singleparent@educationotherwise.org](mailto:singleparent@educationotherwise.org)

**Special Needs:** Alisa: 01458 448286 / 07401 421903  
[send@educationotherwise.org](mailto:send@educationotherwise.org)

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

**Volunteer Co-ordinator:** Wendy Knight  
[vol-coordinator@educationotherwise.org](mailto:vol-coordinator@educationotherwise.org)

*Note current postal address  
and registered office.*



# education otherwise

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

Our principal aims are to:

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

Education Otherwise Association Ltd.

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

*\*\*\* NOTE NEW ADDRESS \*\*\**

Helpline 0845 4786 345

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

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

