

education otherwise



Newsletter Winter 2014

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 normally be acknowledged within a few days. If you require a postal acknowledgement please enclose a stamped S.A.E.. If no acknowledgement is received, or in case of queries, please contact the NL co-ordinator (see below). *Please also ensure your EO membership is up to date before submission.*

Deadline for the Spring issue is February 10th

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

NL Co-ord<EONL@educationotherwise.org>

[postal contributions to: EONL Co-ord, PO Box 1309, Blackpool, FY1 9HN]

~~~~~ N.B. postal system subject to forwarding delays so allow extra time ~~~~~

### **Section Editors**

**REVIEWS** *Tammy Dolling:* [bookreviews@educationotherwise.org](mailto:bookreviews@educationotherwise.org)

or EO Reviews, PO Box 1309, Blackpool, FY1 9HN

### **DISCLAIMER**

The opinions in this publication are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the co-ordinator, editors, nor of Education Otherwise as a whole. This newsletter is edited by volunteers and its primary purpose is to provide support and communication between members.

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

Hello and welcome to the Winter edition of the newsletter! I have decided this will be my last stint as newsletter co-ordinator, so we are now in URGENT NEED OF A NEW EDITOR/CO-ORD.

If you can download attachments from emails, have a good standard of English to edit or write submissions, and can create documents and PDF in an office program (I use freeware Libre Office for the newsletter), you can do this job. It usually takes me a few days of work to get it all together just before the deadline, which is flexible. Images are downloaded from [openclipart.org](http://openclipart.org) - black and white line drawings work best for the printed page, and I will be happy to advise anyone unsure of what to do. An understanding of copyright law is also important as EO must set an example in this, and don't need a lawsuit, so submissions must be original or in the public domain (as from Gutenberg.org)

If this job doesn't appeal to you, there are many other vacancies for volunteers to help run EO and continue the important work it does in defending our basic right as parents to educate our children in a way which is 'suitable to the age, ability and aptitude of the child' – a luxury which schools, with their need for crowd-control, league table supremacy, and strictly 'ages and stages' order of work, simply can't offer. So if you can help out in any way, please see the Volunteer Vacancies page overleaf.

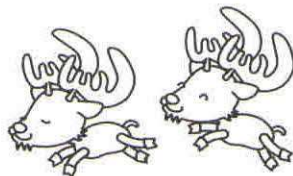
I would also like to encourage readers with grown-up children, or those readers who have seen the benefits of home education for their children, to write in with their stories. De-registering a child to educate them yourself is a very brave, optimistic (and scary) thing to do – sometimes a last resort when 'the system' has failed them. It is a shot in the dark – we really have no idea how it will affect our children long-term; we just have to travel hopefully and do our best for them. What works for one child won't necessarily work for another though, as each family is unique. We all have good days and bad days, and 'just too tired' days – I know I had many 'wondering if I did the right thing' days (especially as everyone was happy to tell me I hadn't), so it is reassuring to read about the experiences of those who have finished (or nearly finished) their home ed. journey – because we all do things differently, and yet our children turn out fine. If you want to share your 'I Did it My Way' story, then please post or email me your contribution (I will forward submissions to the new co-ordinator if we have one). Don't worry if you are not 'a writer' – your contribution can be edited to your approval before going to print, and you may remain anonymous if you wish, although we will need your contact details.

Your money-saving tips, book reviews (by you or your child) and ideas for resources and activities are also very welcome, so please send them in (contact details inside front cover.)

Thanks for reading, and supporting Education Otherwise. I hope your days are merry and bright this Winter, in spite of the weather!

*Fiona Stewart, newsletter co-ord.*

(images in this newsletter from [openclipart.org](http://openclipart.org))



## VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

*Please contact the trustee named for more information. If you feel you could contribute but don't fancy any of these vacancies, please send your ideas to our Volunteer Co-ordinator, Wendy <vol-coordinator@educationotherwise.org>*

N.B. all EO volunteers are eligible for a reduced membership subscription, and may claim reasonable travel expenses for attendance at AGMs.

### Helpline Telephone Volunteers

The Helpline is always in need of new volunteers. There's a rota, with 3 lines at a time (on 08445 numbers which are diverted to your own phone when you're on rota) so you don't have to be 'in' all the time you're 'on' (currently about one week a month, but could be less with more volunteers coming forward). You need to have experience of home education, but apart from that the main requirement is to be a good listener, as most callers need to 'tell their story' and to be reassured that HE is legal, that you don't need to make it like school, etc. before they can start to think about anything further. There's a whole sheaf of information that you can refer people to (or look at yourself) for deregistration procedures and so on, as well as backup from EO Local Contacts (who should know about HE activities in their area and how their own LA operates) and other EO specialists. For more detailed information we 'signpost' to a range of other organisations. The Helpline co-ordinator is Edwina (who also does a lot of other stuff!) and if you want more information you can contact her by email: [Edwina Theunissen](mailto:Edwina.Theunissen@educationotherwise.org) [e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org](mailto:e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org) or ring her on 01978 661 882

### Local Contact Volunteers

The primary role of the Local Contact is to welcome new HE families to EO and to provide contact with their local HE community, information about local activities, reassurance that HE doesn't need to be 'school at home' but that a wide range of approaches are possible, encouragement to be confident in their ability to provide for their children's needs by home-based education, and non-judgemental listening. It's also valuable if the LC can offer information about deregistration, the procedures and policies of their Local Authority, and support the family's interactions with the LA. Some LCs like to organise local activities, but that's not essential and often shared by a number of local families. If there is no LC in your area, and you have some experience of home education, please consider volunteering to provide this valuable connection. For more information, please contact Edwina as above.

### Newsletter Co-ordinator

As newsletter co-ord I use freeware Libre Office and download images from [openclipart.org](http://openclipart.org). Emails should be checked regularly and replied to, or forwarded to someone who can reply (I use a separate email sub-account for EO). The publications secretary Anne Rix checks the finished work before sending to print, to make sure I haven't overlooked something vital. I am also responsible for editing the local groups information with any updates – these are sent to me by another member of the team who collates them, as are the book reviews.

The newsletter needs pages to be produced in multiples of 4, for the printers (eg: 28 or 32 pages, etc.) If there are not enough pages I either write something myself or use bits from the archives (ask Anne) or use something copyright-free, in the public domain, usually from [Gutenberg.org](http://Gutenberg.org) – Copyright law is very important and must be adhered to, as EO has to set a good example and doesn't need a lawsuit! Numbering the pages once finished, and creating the contents list on page 3 is the final job before saving in PDF for Anne and the printers. It's an interesting job if you are computer literate, organised, methodical and creative, with a good standard of English and an eye for detail. Contact Anne Rix for further information: [arix@educationotherwise.org](mailto:arix@educationotherwise.org)

## NEW TRUSTEE STATEMENTS

These statements from new trustees were published on the EO website (Member Home area) prior to the AGM, but are reproduced here for information. The AGM on 18<sup>th</sup> October at Snibston Museum was inquorate (14 SUMs present; another 1 who could have been called upon – but a quorum is 16) therefore, as stipulated by our Memorandum and Articles of Association (governing documents) it was adjourned for 7 days (at which point it is deemed to be quorate however few SUMs attend). The Open Council Meeting that followed the inquorate AGM, gave those SUMs present the opportunity to discuss all the AGM agenda items and to indicate their wishes, although no final decisions could take place. The adjourned meeting took place in Wrexham on 25<sup>th</sup> October, when all three candidates were elected and the remainder of the AGM business also concluded.

Anne Rix, EO Chair

### TRUSTEE NOMINATION STATEMENT – JONATHAN ADAMS

I have been a home educator for almost five years. Actually that's not true, because, like all of us, I've been educating my kids (and others too if they're in range) for many years longer, and long before they were school age.

I have five children, two of whom are teenagers by my first wife with whom they live, and who suffered the trials of a state education I was powerless to prevent. I did manage to glean some insight into the state system having been variously the chair of the PTA and a governor at their comprehensive high school, which did nothing whatever to dispel either my deep mistrust of state indoctrination boot-camps we call school, or my horror of the bear-pit gladiator academy (not always merely a metaphor) which is the contemporary school peer group.

My younger clutch are 8, 6 and 4 and only the eldest has spent any time at all in school. Overcoming my better instincts she joined one September as a 'rising five' (i.e. 4 years old) and by Christmas we had seen her so wither that we put a stop to it for good. Apart from the unwanted attentions of the local authority resulting from now being 'known', to whom I have been at pains to explain in no uncertain terms precisely where the limit of their power lies, we've never looked back.

I am an avowed libertarian, and take the view that the state can damn well take its nose out of my business generally, but especially when it comes to my children. I passionately believe that a parent knows their child best, and it is to them that all others should defer.

My wife and the mother of our three little ones, is from Macedonia, and is an accomplished fine artist and animator. I'm a company director, running a small independent TV production company [www.pentos.tv](http://www.pentos.tv)

I have been an EO member since 2010, and would bring all my various experiences to bear as an EO trustee, but perhaps especially as a veteran campaigner (I successfully had the heinous child-fingerprinting regime abolished at the Suffolk comprehensive my elder children attended) and someone well used to the boons and pitfalls of jousting with the media.

#### TRUSTEE NOMINATION STATEMENT – VICKI HON

I have been home educating for ten years during which time my family and I have been active members of the local and online home education scene. I strongly believe that every child has the right to a childhood free from unwarranted state intervention and that home education can and should be able to deliver that right.

In the past I have been on management committees for national and local charities including MIND the mental health charity.

In recent years I have battled health problems, but despite this, continue to support home educators via the internet, who have needed support with their decision to home educate in North Wales and the UK. I feel that my advice has been valued and made a useful contribution to HE.

Having been members of EO as a family, for some years followed by a break, our membership was renewed early in 2014, as I looked forward to using my experience to help and support others as I had been helped and supported.

In my capacity with EO I can give time; something which any busy parent doesn't normally have. I have experience and support for web based activities and am keen to help take EO forwards into the next generation.

#### TRUSTEE NOMINATION STATEMENT – JILL INGLE

My name is Jill Ingle. I live in Sheffield. I am a home educating Mum of three. My background career was in nursing and I was a ward Sister but left to look after my children when they were very young.

We have been home educating for almost ten years now after deregistering our eldest two at the end of primary school and this is when we originally joined EO (in 2005). They continued their education at home through to A-levels. We also spent a lot of time travelling in our camper van. They completed their GCSEs/IGCSEs and A-levels as private candidates studying independently. They are now both at university. My son is studying Business and my daughter had just started a degree in Midwifery.

My youngest son is five years old and we have no plans to send him to school.

We live in a very active home educating community. I'm one of the moderators on the local email group and collate a monthly summary list of all the regular activities. There were just over twenty on the last one that went out. One of the main weekly meets that I organise has up to eighty children attending. I'm also one of the admin team on the Facebook group Home Education UK which has over 5000 members.

I organise the weekly meet and help moderate our local list because they were very important to me when we started home educating and I want to make sure that they are available for others now and in the future. I know that it is only through volunteers that this remains possible. For the same reasons, I would welcome the opportunity to become a trustee of Education Otherwise.

**Draft Minutes of adjourned Annual General Meeting  
of Education Otherwise Association Ltd**

on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2014 2:00 pm at Pumrhyd, Wrexham, LL13 OTS  
(Adjourned from 18<sup>th</sup> October at Snibston Museum, where 14 SUMs were present)

**PRESENT**

| Trustees                              | SUMs  |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Anne Rix (Chair)    Edwina Theunissen | ----- |

**APOLOGIES**

| Trustees            | SUMs                |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Julie Arnold        | Clive Ansell*       |
| Lei Ashe*           | Andrew Kennell      |
| Shena Deuchars*     | Tom Kennell         |
| Fe Mukwamba-Sendal* | Katherine LaFleur*  |
| Hanna Newton*       | Cornelia Muzael*    |
| Kathleen Thompson   | Maged Muzael*       |
| Jonathan Adams      | Mandeep Ogbodabri*  |
| Ljubica T-Adams     | Ann Samuel Till*    |
|                     | Rosemary Stace*     |
|                     | Andries Theunissen* |

Charlie Till\*\* = Proxy  
vote held by Chair. There  
being no further arrivals  
by 2:30 pm (half an hour  
after scheduled start  
time) the Chair declared  
the meeting open

1. Minutes of AGM 16 November 2013 were agreed as a true record and signed.

2. Consideration of Accounts for y/e 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014

(a) Formal accounts not yet available as paperwork had only just been sent to Accountant. Delay had been caused by difficulties regarding change of bank signatories following previous AGM, which was only completed in May this year. Accounts will be made available when ready. In meantime, summary of financial information was accepted.

(b) It was noted that the circulated copy of financial summary had an error in the heading – date should have read 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014 (not 2013). Similarly, the date for the previous year figures at foot of sheet should have read 2013 (not 2012). However, in both cases the figures given were correct for y/e 30-06-14.

(c) The figure of £24 for book sales was queried, as we no longer keep stocks of books for sale. This was from old stock supplied to the organiser of HesFes.

3. Auditor's Remuneration Agreed to pay this when the invoice is presented by Barry Darlington of Darlington & Co. It is anticipated that the cost will be similar to the previous year.

4. Appointment of Auditor Independent Examiner for 2014/5 Agreed to re-appoint Barry Darlington & Co.

5. Election of new Council Members

The following Trustees retired from office by rotation, and offered themselves for re-election: **Shena Deuchars, Anne Rix, Edwina Theunissen.**

The following were proposed individually for election as Trustees: **Jonathan Adams, Vicki Hon, Jill Ingle.**

All those proposed were elected by majority, taking into account preferences indicated by SUMs present at the original AGM/OCM on 18<sup>th</sup> October, and proxy instructions held by the Chair.

Meeting closed 2:55 pm.

**GROUP ORGANISERS PLEASE READ**  
**Have you renewed your**  
**PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR 2014-15 ?**

If you book a venue for Local Group activities, they will want to know that your Public Liability Insurance is up to date. The EO Group Policy runs from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> August, so we are now into the 2014-15 year. PLEASE RENEW NOW to ensure that your group is covered.

The cost to groups is still £10 for the year (or part year) which is a very good deal. Not everyone in your group has to be a member of EO, but at least 3 EO member families must take responsibility for organising the group and ensuring that the terms of the insurance policy are followed. There's nothing onerous – only the usual commonsense guidelines for HE groups, e.g. parents stay with children; non-profit making; no dangerous activities, and so on.

Detailed guidance and an application form are available to download from the Member Home area of the EO website. To minimise work for volunteers, we would request members to obtain these from the website, but in case of difficulty you may request details by email from the Local Groups Insurance Co-ordinator <[lgic@educationotherwise.org](mailto:lgic@educationotherwise.org)>



## First Impressions of an EO AGM

Coalville isn't quite the centre of England, but it's very close (the actual centre is said to be Meriden some 30 odd miles to the SW). Coalville is where you will find the Snibston Discovery Museum, built in, on and around a colliery which was working right up until Margaret Thatcher and Ian MacGregor got their hands on it. And it was the location of this year's EO AGM.

We were delighted to discover that it was perfectly OK to bring our kids with us and in hindsight, being a Home Ed gathering, I can't imagine why we thought it would ever be any other way really. The unfathomable excesses of the Highways Agency and their infallible gift for making a mess of things notwithstanding, we got across from Suffolk in a little under three hours, to find a very welcoming bunch of folks and, thankfully, a museum that was, in equal proportion, eclectic and robust enough to hold the hands-on attentions of three lively children of 3, 6 and 8. Had we the foresight to have got there a bit earlier, I'm sure we could have got even more out of it.

You could lift a Mini car with pulleys; there were "olden days" (as my daughter put it) video games consoles, like the Sega Megadrive; a Van Der Graaf generator (I think – the bzzzt machine beloved of old Frankenstein movies) and a miniature steam railway, which the boys absolutely loved. But for my 8 year old daughter, the favourite was a very well put together section not unlike a mini V&A, sporting displays of fashion through the ages.

We had come on two counts really. Firstly to get a closer look at this mythical beast that had coaxed us into the unknown waters of home education: Education Otherwise; and secondly, for my own part, to stand for election as a trustee (I'm happy to say I was, along with two others, duly elected).

The event itself was very well organised with Anne having done most of the organisation, ably assisted by Edwina and Shena, with Cornelia In support taking the minutes. There were teas, coffees, juice and biscuits on arrival, for us and for the kids, and the cafe provided a range of snacks and simple lunches at reasonable prices. Even when we adjourned to the meeting room for 'the formal bit', all the kids came too - quietly drawing or playing with each other, and occasionally joining the grown-ups to show examples of their work. The business of the day never felt hurried or forced, and we frequently took the children off for another wander around the museum, and got to know some of the other HE families there. We were surprised at 5pm, when it was time to leave (they were trying to close the centre) as time had simply flown by. For our kids, leaving was the last thing on their minds! They had an absolute ball. We have had to make them a solemn promise to return again next year, and have made some new friends whom we hope to see again very soon.

I can't recommend it highly enough! It's not that far from anywhere really - there are some good weekend break deals to be had, which we might just take up next time; not least so we can get even more "discovery" out of Snibston. And as there seem to be more HE'rs than ever before, perhaps it's time to get out from behind the computer screens and connect with folks with whom you probably have a great deal in common. Oh and the kids will love it too!

*Jonathan, Suffolk*

## Remembering Old Friends

Leicestershire and home ed have lost two dear friends and oldie stalwarts this past year, Lucy Charlton and Pete Fisher. Current members and readers may not know them but each in their own ways played very full roles in national and local home education in the last generation where the young folk are now in their 20s and early 30s. Lucy died at home on August 23<sup>rd</sup> last year (2013) after a sharp decline in a very slowly progressing condition, diagnosed two years earlier. Pete died very suddenly and unexpectedly at home on May 20<sup>th</sup> this year.

### Lucy Charlton 1953-2013

Lucy Charlton was an active member of EO from very early days (about 30 years) through to the big change in EO around 2007/8. Amongst many other aspects Lucy will probably be remembered well by home edders for how she really cared about EO gatherings and saw the important part they played for families. This manifested in how much she put into them. Very often she, along with Keith, had not only organised the gathering but planned the food, brought it and did a fair share of the preparing, all with Keith in partnership whilst he was playing his own wider role too. She saw that living and eating well together for these short times helped us all to go back to our day to day lives and enjoy and live them better for the shared community and support. She kept a caring eye open and made sure that families were welcomed and included and along with others encouraged that culture within EO and gatherings. It was a culture of mutual parenting support without being structured as such... and the young ones flourished in it and usually had a ball.

There was of course so much more to Lucy than the EO jobs she did (nationally, as well as local EO group in Leicestershire). She worked for social justice in every aspect of her life whilst always paying good caring attention to those she embraced and encountered, inevitably making many friends along the way. The first anniversary of Lucy's death has just passed (23/8/13) with much remembering, and she is missed greatly by so many; not least of course by Keith and the family which currently includes five grandchildren as well as adult children: Laurie, Hazel, Sam, Alex and Ben. Lucy Charlton's legacy is Love in its broadest most universal sense.

PS late news is that there is a sixth Charlton grandchild as of early October: Isabella Lucy, sister to Raffia and Max has arrived for mum Laurie and dad Rob!!

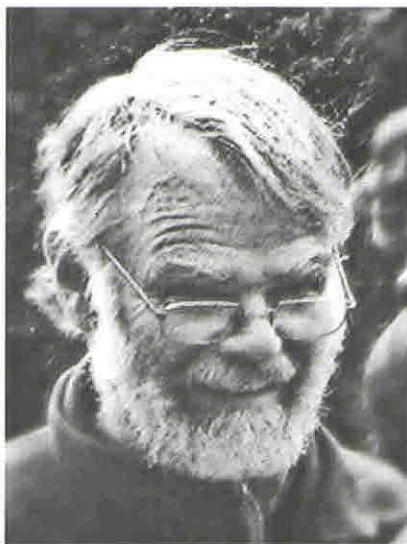
### Pete Fisher 1955-2014

In an EO context, Pete Fisher was a home ed dad. That meant he was all the best of things which that can be... a supportive and participant parent in the actual home education of his and Jill's three children, and lending his energy and resources to supporting the movement through its national and local groups. Those of you who know the family will be very aware of Pete and his cheery, witty and helpful contributions but others may be much more familiar with Jill, his spouse who was chair of EO for a few years and an active council member before that. Jill was a strong and effective chair and to turn the old cliché on its head 'behind every good woman....' Well in this case there was Pete! A university professor in his own right (with many plaudits in that field and a lovely academic tribute on facebook) Pete supported Jill in her role all the way. That support extended to others in many forms from giving the benefit of his expertise and good thinking when needed, to he and Jill hosting meetings and gatherings at their home in Leicester, again in both national and local Leicester home ed. (Anyone who's been to their home will recognise fondly the image of Pete unobtrusively gathering the dishes into the dishwasher in the latter course of an evening... engaging in conversations as he went.) Pete was good company. He was a good thinker and certainly helped keep more than a few discussions with their feet on the ground. He liked to laugh too, and his hearty laugh will echo for a long time for those who knew him. It turns out Pete was modest too, as even those of us home edders who knew the family well have only discovered in his death just how much else Pete did and did so well. Pete's loss is a sharp pain for everyone, but most of all for Jill who has lost her closest buddy as well as her life's love, and of course for Beth, Kate and Ian who've lost their lovely dad far too soon.

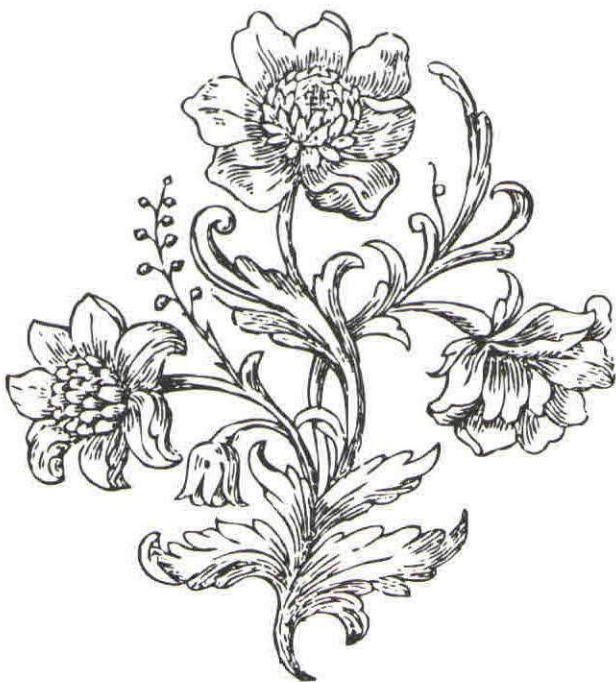
In many ways in his home ed capacity, Pete Fisher represents the many members and parents over the years who have, often quietly but invaluable, in the background, made EO work and grow and be supportive and informative.



Lucy Charlton 1953-2013



Pete Fisher 1955-2014



## Musings of a permanently-frazzled mummy

### Busting the myth...

Well so much for having a pseudonym! It seems that I must have a pretty distinctive 'voice' because I've been identified all over the place. Apparently it sounded just as if I were talking - sorry to those who know me - you have to hear me rattle on more than enough! The feedback to my first article has been interesting: several friends have commented that our family life sounds idyllic, and that I sound so content with home-edding. I had a bit of a panic when I heard that to be honest - if friends who know me well have been given that impression, goodness knows what the rest of you must have thought. So I figured I'd better reveal the truth about what it's really like home-edding, especially for any newbies out there who might have super-high expectations of their new lifestyle.

Our home-ed life is not all peaches and cream, honeysuckle round the door, 'sugar and spice and all things nice'. In fact, at least half of the time, it's much more 'snips and snails, and puppy-dog's tails'. Well it is for me here in my little corner of the Universe anyway; and particularly this last month or so. I've been really struggling with a severe allergic reaction that has left me deprived of sleep, energy and anything vaguely nearing a sense of humour. Cue 'grumpy mummy' rather than 'yummy mummy! Hubby has been working silly hours at his school, with numerous late nights; money has disappeared out of our account much faster than normal, which sparked a mini melt-down as I realised there was no way we could make it through the month without getting into debt; and my to-do list has been increasing at an alarming rate, despite my best efforts to tick off one item every day. Our first-born has perfected his 'wind everyone up' routine, number 2 has achieved an A\* in his 'Woe is me, everyone picks on me' dramatisation, number 3's dulcet tones have reached an all-time high and are now breaking the sound barrier, and number 4 has been enjoying refusing to co-operate with even the smallest or most pleasant of requests. Numbers 1 and 2 can't be in the same room without falling out, number 3 (age 5) is declaring that she needs some space... and number 4 can't do anything without at least one of her siblings to pay court to her every wish.

In my feeble and pitiable state, I found myself declaring to hubby, as he trudged in from one of said late nights, that I simply 'couldn't and wouldn't do this any more. The children simply had to go to school, the following morning if possible, and he would have to do all the school runs because I needed to sleep! Now there will be those of you reading this who'll know that this isn't the first time in my home-edding journey that I've threatened the kids with school, but it was, in all

seriousness, the first time that I'd said it and meant it. At least for five minutes anyway. There are times when it all becomes just a little too much. When it's all too easy to lose sight of the Big Picture; the reasons why we're doing this in the first place, and to focus on the small skirmishes we're currently losing, rather than on aiming to win the overall campaign. As much as I love my children, and find them rather interesting and amusing on a good day, we have plenty of bad days where I find myself longing for bed-time to arrive just so that I don't have to feign interest in whether Superman or the Hulk might win a head-to-head; or spend precious time looking for a missing Barbie shoe; or pretend to enjoy eating some sticky, plastic, odd-looking vegetables that the little assures me is a yummy soup.... Sometimes I need some time off.

I've recently found myself imagining what life would be like now if I'd returned to teaching full-time after becoming a mummy, returned to the challenge of being Head of Department in a tough, inner city Nottingham school; if we'd never even considered home-adding in the first place. We'd have a lot more money in the bank for a start. I'd be able to cover my mummy scars, lumps and bumps in brand-new clothes rather than charity shop finds or eBay wins; we'd be able to treat ourselves to a passport each and enjoy at least one foreign holiday each year; I wouldn't have to plan our meals a month in advance to ensure I stay within our tight food budget; we could pop out to a local restaurant when I didn't feel like cooking...

But then I think of all the things I wouldn't have time to enjoy: those light-bulb moments with one of the kids when a tricky concept suddenly sinks in; the light shining in a pair of eyes as they excitedly outline what the next chapter in their story is going to entail; those lazy afternoons spent cuddled up together, munching on popcorn as we enjoy a nature documentary, with one of the boys very seriously explaining to the girls that 'The lions are mating, you know - that's how they make lion cubs!'; those impromptu cuddles from one of the gang as they race past me at the kitchen sink, declaring that I'm the best mummy ever...On reflection, I reckon I can do without those brand-new clothes (I've always enjoyed the thrill of competition anyway, so eBay fulfils that need.) Who needs to explore foreign lands when we have the stunning Norfolk coast on our doorstep? The challenge of sticking to our budget keeps me on my toes, and no-one makes a lasagne quite like mum.

I guess it all comes down to perspective really. When you're in the middle of a mini-crisis, and it seems that there's no easy way out, it can feel that packing the little varmints off to school would be a suitable Band-aid. But that's all it would be - a Band-aid. Parenting isn't meant to be easy, however you choose to educate: it's always going to be a bit of a challenge; a bit of an uphill struggle, at least from

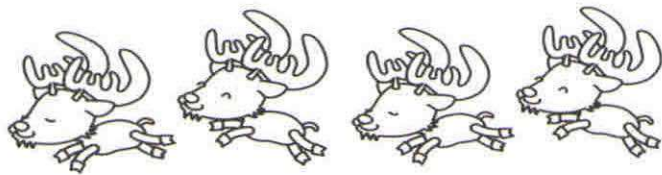
time-to-time. However much I sometimes feel that I could cheerfully throttle them (metaphorically, of course - no need for anyone to contact Social Services), and however much it sometimes feels that I'm stuck between a rock and a hard place, I wouldn't give up the time I have with my ragamuffins for all the posh clothes, fancy holidays and meals out that my previous teaching salary could buy.

I've found that it helps me to regard home-eding as my profession. It helps to give me a sense of worth, to reassure me that I'm playing a vital role in my children's lives, because I think it's all too easy to slip into the world's view that being a mummy isn't a full-time job, and certainly not a valuable one. Whatever my kids have to go without financially, they are certainly richer for all the hours we can spend learning together and laughing together, and they are developing a mean streak in accepting apologies from a tearful mummy who's had yet another blow-up!

Maybe it helps to be honest about our struggles as well. When crying on the shoulder of a wonderful friend recently, she asked if I'd reached the stage where I didn't really 'like' my children anymore. I gasped, and spluttered, and hesitated to answer. Surely I was the only one who ever felt that strongly about my children? But she assured me, very calmly, that that was an emotion she felt on a fairly regular basis, and that no, it didn't mean she no longer loved them or wanted the best for them. It simply meant that she'd reached the end of her tether and needed a bit of 'time out'. This same wonderful friend then explained that her gang know that when she escapes to her greenhouse for a few hours, they're probably best to give her a wide berth and sort their own lunch, while she has a little time to take stock and re-charge.

I'm going to keep aiming for the honeysuckle round the door, and for days made of 'sugar and spice and all things nice', because it's good to aim high. But I'm going to do so with a healthy dose of realistic expectations, and accept that I will have days, possibly weeks, perhaps even months, when I can't quite pull it off successfully. I will accept that just being 'good enough' IS good enough, on those days when being any more than that just doesn't seem humanly possible. Oh, and I might have to invest in a greenhouse...

*(name and address supplied)*



## Book Reviews

We would love to hear about the books which you and your family have read and enjoyed, so please send us your reviews for the newsletter! The email address for submissions is [bookreviews@educationotherwise.org](mailto:bookreviews@educationotherwise.org). Also, don't forget that the EO Amazon store has a wide range of books on offer, and by using the store you not only get Amazon's great prices, but you also help EO to raise funds. The store can be accessed via the main EO website.



### Apartheid and Me

Author: Monica Clarke (only on kindle)

This book is about apartheid and how it affected people of different culture. It made them unhappy and sad. There is good example of this on page 17. I think it is unfair that just because you are different, you would be treated differently. I think it should be for younger age 5 -11.

*(Review by Cove, aged 11)*

From the amazon website, this is a book designed to introduce primary school-aged children to the issues of apartheid, to promote discussion with parents or teachers about the dangers of accepting social practices and laws which attack and erode human rights.

For every book sold 20% is donated to I PROTECT ME (IPM), which trains school children, women and other vulnerable adults in South Africa self-protection skills. IPM is a non-profit organisation registered in the Western Cape, South Africa (No 127-027). <http://www.susiladhama.org/i-protect-me> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IPProtectMe?fref=ts> Twitter: @IPProtectMeSA

### Taming the Tiger Parent

Author: Tanith Carey

Publisher: Robinson (18 Sep 2014)

ISBN-10: 1845285492

ISBN-13: 978-1845285494

This is a fascinating look at MODERN parenting, with its competitive edge (or claws!) sharpened as never before. I've never been a competitive mum, or a competitive person in general, so the world which this book describes is a mystery to me, although both my son and I were very badly affected by the atmosphere of fierce competition prevailing in schools, before I removed him to home educate from the age of nearly 9 years old (by which time he was a school refuser with severe behavioural problems).

Tanith discusses the damaging effects of the huge pressures on children nowadays, to perform

exceptionally well in tests, exams, and also in extra-curricular activities. With everything focused on gaining that top university place in the end, and nobody actually questioning the real value of it all. Fierce competition in schools results in fiercely competitive parents, who may unwittingly push their children to breaking point 'for their own good in the long run'. Tanith draws on lots of research and studies to illustrate the harm this does to children, their families and friendships – and ironically to their education too!

The loss of childhood for this generation of children, pressured as never before, and the lifelong damage being done to their mental and physical health in the name of 'education' is a travesty which affects all children, even those in home educated settings. The general atmosphere of competition prevails all around us, and causes many home educating parents anxiety over their child's academic performance, not helped by Local Education Authorities breathing down our necks demanding evidence of 'progress' constantly.

The last part of Tanith's book looks at remedies for pushy parents, and gentler ways of encouraging your children to do their best and reach their potential, without damage to their health, childhood, self-confidence or relationships. An excellent book on parenting and education, and very readable with lots of interesting anecdotes – plus an amusing look at different styles of 'Tiger Mums' whom you may have met and will probably recognise!

*(Review by Fiona Stewart – Newsletter Co-ord.)*

### Stray Sock Sewing

Authors: Dan Ta and Are Wei

Publisher: David & Charles (26 Sep 2008)

ISBN-10: 0715330160

ISBN-13: 978-0715330166

We all have stray socks – those whose partner sadly developed a hole or were eaten by the washing machine monster. Now they can be given a new lease of life (having been washed first of course!) Alternatively brand new pairs of socks can be made into cheap, unique cuddly toys and 'friends' for any age-group. The ideas in this book are very cute and easy to make, and there is a section on embroidery of faces etc. Cheap pillows are great for toy stuffing – just cut off a corner and pull some out! The book is full of whimsical characters, charmingly photographed in real life settings, with easy-to-follow, step-by-step instructions.

*(Review by Fiona Stewart – Newsletter Co-ord.)*

### Art Lab for Kids

Author: Susan Schwake

Publisher: Quarry (1 Mar 2012)

ISBN-10: 1592537650

ISBN-13: 978-1592537655

Written by a mother who has run a private art school for children for nearly 20 years, this inspiring book covers essentials for setting up an area for your children to explore art, drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and mixed media. Each section features the work of practising artists as Susan believes that through viewing the art of a wide variety of artists, students can identify with a particular movement or artist's work, which can reassure them about their own work. The book is designed as a teaching aid for you to use with your children. Although aimed at children, it would be equally suitable for adults wanting to explore art-making.

*(Review by Fiona Stewart – Newsletter Co-ord.)*

## EO SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) News

The up dated SEN Code Of Practice is now with us. If you have a statement, it should be honoured and gradually changed over to an EHCP by 2018:

*'Children and young people who currently have a statement of special educational needs will gradually have this converted into an EHCP through the Annual Review process between September 2014 and July 2018' (Haringey, about EHCPs).*

**Gov.uk has now issued a document entirely for SEN and 'HOME EDUCATED CHILDREN' :**

### REVISED FUNDING GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES ON HOME EDUCATED CHILDREN

1. This document provides revised guidance for local authorities on the funding of home educated children, in the light of various changes to the school and local authority funding system that come into effect in 2013-14. In that respect only, it replaces guidance on home education issued by the Department in a letter from Hardip Begol in 2010.
2. It remains the case that when parents choose to electively home educate their children they assume financial responsibility for their children's education. However, the Department continues to recommend that local authorities should take a flexible approach to support for home educating parents where appropriate. Particular issues are addressed below.
3. In the previous funding system up to 2012-13, the Dedicated Schools Grant was calculated by totalling the number of pupils on various annual census forms and multiplying them by a guaranteed unit of funding. Home educated pupils for whom the local authority was providing significant financial support in respect of special needs could be entered on the Alternative Provision Census.
4. In the new funding system from 2013-14, special educational needs funding, other than in mainstream schools, comes from the local authority's high needs block within the Dedicated Schools Grant. The high needs block is not based on pupil numbers but on the historic spend on high needs of each local authority: the Alternative Provision Census is no longer used for funding purposes. So while home educated pupils supported by the authority can still be entered on the census, this no longer triggers additional funding. Local authorities' responsibilities in respect of high needs extend to all pupils who are ordinarily resident in their area, including those who are home educated. Local authorities have flexibility to move money between the other blocks of DSG and the high needs block in order to meet high needs in their area.
5. As regards children with statements of SEN which name schools as the appropriate placement for a child but parents decide to educate such a child at home, it remains the local authority's duty to ensure that the child's needs are met through the provision made by the parents. The local authority can support parents financially in these circumstances under section 319 or

section 19 of the Education Act 1996 (this would fall under either paragraph 18 or paragraph 20 of Schedule 2 to the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2012). In deciding how much support is needed, the local authority should be aware that, unlike schools, parents do not receive base funding from the public purse in support of SEN, and should not therefore be expected to pay £10,000 before they receive any support. Where children have statements of SEN that set out home education as the appropriate provision under section 319 of the Education Act 1996, the local authority has a statutory duty to arrange the special educational support set out on the statement.

6. Children with SEN but without statements may also be educated at home. In these circumstances local authorities should consider whether they require support from the public purse. This provision can also be made under section 319 or section 19 of the Education Act 1996.

7. With effect from September 2013 FE and sixth form colleges can admit pupils aged 14 or 15 and receive funding for them direct from the Education Funding Agency. This includes not only specific provision for groups of pupils but also individual admissions of pupils who would otherwise be home educated, and who may well be educated with young people aged 16-18. We would therefore not expect local authorities to be paying fees to the colleges for these pupils.

8. The Department recognises that some local authorities will have been paying fees to colleges in respect of home educated children in 2012-13 in the expectation that they would be able to reclaim a unit of DSG in 2013-14, which will no longer happen under the new funding system. The Department will reimburse authorities for this expenditure as an addition to DSG. We are consulting a number of authorities about the simplest way of doing this and will shortly set out a procedure.

9. Some local authorities may be providing other kinds of financial support for home educators such as examination fees. These smaller elements of support were never associated with additions to DSG. Local authorities can continue to provide this kind of support under section 19 of the Education Act 1996.

**There has been feedback concerning children who have been turned down for an EHCP but offered a non-statutory plan instead. The latter seems to be none legally binding:**

*'Some local authorities (on the 'Pathfinder' programme) are issuing EHC plans early in place of Statements, but these plans will no legal status. After September only EHC plans will be issued and will be legally binding' (CFDC Bill Myths).*

*'Some pathfinder authorities have developed non-statutory plans for disabled children and young people without SEN to reflect the best practice of EHCPs and we will make available the learning from these approaches' (CFDC Edward Timpson letter).*

At the consultation stage, the National Autistic Society recognised there had been some advancement in areas of the new code, although it was 'disappointed that the revised Code does not address a number of serious flaws in the earlier version':

The NAS has responded to a Government consultation on revised draft Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice, which provides vital statutory guidance for the new SEN system being introduced by the Children and Families Act.

The NAS said the previous version of the Code consulted on by the Government was not fit for purpose. It failed to clearly articulate rights and duties or provide practical guidance for professionals in meeting the needs of children and young people with SEN.

**While there have been some significant improvements in layout and accessibility, the NAS is disappointed that the revised Code does not address a number of serious flaws in the earlier version:**

*We remain particularly concerned that schools responsibilities for identifying and supporting children and young people with SEN have been eroded in the new system. As the Code stands, there is serious risk that the significant number of children and young people with autism that will not qualify for Education, Health and Care Plans will be worse off.*

*In particular, the revised Code fails to provide sufficiently clear and robust guidance on:*

- The replacement of School Action/School Action Plus: The guidance on SEN Support, which replaces School Action and School Action Plus, still lacks necessary clarity on triggers on the different levels of action schools must take to support children with SEN. A new single category with no formality around the stages within it will not improve accountability to children and young people, to parents, and to public funds. This basic lack of transparency on schools based support risks exacerbating already unacceptable delays in putting in place the support children with autism need to fulfil their potential. It is essential that the Code provides greater clarity on what parents and young people can expect from Schools and other education settings in meeting their best endeavours to support children and young people with SEN.
- Data and record keeping: Following the removal of guidance on Individual Education Plans, the Code still lacks minimum standards on record keeping for pupils with SEN. This risks leaving schools, parents and Tribunals without a clear framework for recording and reporting on a child's progress. It is essential the Code includes clear guidance on minimum standards expected of schools on record keeping for pupils with SEN.
- Redress for health and social care provision in Education, Health and Care Plans (EHC) Plans: There are multiple and overlapping processes set out for those seeking to challenge health and social care provision, with insufficient clarity for parents on the most suitable avenue to pursue. The lack of a joined up system of redress remains a major weakness of the new SEN system. It is

essential the Government address this in the review into redress for EHC Plans, promised in response to concerns raised by NAS and others.

**Feel free to contact us if you would like to get involved with EO SEND:**

[e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org](mailto:e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org)

References: Existing statements and EHCPs: <http://www.haringey.gov.uk/index/children-families/send/send-ehcps.htm> Gov.uk guidance for SEN and home education: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/294898/revise\\_d\\_funding\\_guidance\\_-\\_local\\_authorities\\_on\\_home\\_educated\\_children.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/294898/revise_d_funding_guidance_-_local_authorities_on_home_educated_children.pdf) Council For Disabled Children Bill Myths: <http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/media/529424/top-cf-bill-myths-ehc-plans.pdf> CFDC Edward Timpson letter, EHCPs and non-statutory plans: [http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/media/285915/letter\\_from\\_edward\\_timpson\\_on\\_children\\_and\\_families\\_bill\\_5\\_feb\\_2013.pdf](http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/media/285915/letter_from_edward_timpson_on_children_and_families_bill_5_feb_2013.pdf) National Autistic Society response to the new code of practice: <http://www.autism.org.uk/News-and-events/News-from-the-NAS/Response-to-SEN-code-of-practice.aspx> New SEN Code Of Practice: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/342440/SEND\\_Code\\_of\\_Practice\\_approved\\_by\\_Parliament\\_29.07.14.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/342440/SEND_Code_of_Practice_approved_by_Parliament_29.07.14.pdf)

### The Role of a School Nurse in H.E.

I am currently a trainee school nurse undertaking a BSc (Hons) course to become a Specialist Community Public Health Nurse (SCPHN). During this time it has come to my attention that home educated children and their families may be unaware that the School nursing service is commissioned for ALL school aged children regardless of their place of education. This short article aims to raise your awareness of the role we play and I hope it will encourage you to access this service. We can be contacted via your child's GP practice. The school nurse service essentially supports children and young people of between 5-19 years of age to achieve their potential for physical, emotional and social well-being so that they can get the most from life and education and become responsible for their own health. We do this in accordance with the Department of Health's *Healthy Child Programme* which recognises the importance of assessment of need and early intervention to improve young peoples' future outcomes. The key services that we provide include leading and delivering an evidence-based immunisation programme for children including Meningitis C, HPV (girls) and Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio boosters for teenagers. We also screen the growth and development of 5 and 10 year olds and are available for healthy eating, lifestyle and behaviour advice and strategies. 1:1 meetings are offered to individuals to discuss and support with issues or signpost to other agencies where appropriate. By offering health and well-being questionnaires to children and young people at the ages of 5, 10-11, 14-15 years and post teens we are able to develop and deliver appropriate interventions to address need and promote public health.

Please don't hesitate to contact us for more information on how our public health and health promotion services can be accessed for your child. If you have any problems contacting the school nurse for your area please email [buc-tr.chascphn5N@nhs.net](mailto:buc-tr.chascphn5N@nhs.net) with your details and we will get in touch with you.

*Liz Watkins (RN, RN (child) SCPHN (SN) student).*

## CRITERIA for LOCAL GROUP LISTING on EO WEBSITE

### ***Is your Local Home Education Group listed on the EO website? If so, PLEASE READ ...***

While we welcome the increasing diversity of HE groups and other alternative education resources, this has meant that some anomalies have crept in to the EO website listing of HE groups, and we feel that clarification is needed.

Inclusion in the list is dependant upon the group being organised in accordance with the general understanding of a Home Education Group, that is:

- A group of home educating families providing mutual support, sharing information and resources, whether by electronic means or by meeting for social and educational activities.
- Activities are free (or at small contribution to cover costs); parents 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.

These are essential criteria for the EO website Local Group listing.

Please note, we do require two named contact people for the group, with email and/or phone details, to ensure we can keep in touch with you, though these do not need to be shown in the public entry (the email contact form is directed to one of the given email addresses).

Further information about your Home Ed group should give an indication of what kind of activities take place and how it is organised, so that potential members can make an informed choice as to whether they wish to join your group. Where Facebook or other social media are mentioned, this should be part of the general group description and not as a replacement for Yahoo group/email/phone/website.

PLEASE NOTE – alternative/small/free schools/learning centres (e.g. where activities are organised only at a specified venue, requiring fees with a fixed course commitment/timetable, and children are left without parents) do NOT qualify for HE group listing. Nor do websites, Facebook pages etc. that simply list books/resources/equipment/etc. If you are unsure, please email the Local Groups Co-ordinator with a full description.

Organisers of Local HE Groups are asked to check their entries on the EO website AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, to ensure that they conform to the above criteria and that the contact information is up to date and accessible. If you find that amendments are required, please email the Local Groups Co-ordinator as soon as possible: EO Local Groups [eolg@educationotherwise.org](mailto:eolg@educationotherwise.org)

**GROUPS THAT DO NOT SUPPLY THE REQUESTED INFORMATION, OR APPEAR NOT TO FIT THE DESCRIPTION ABOVE, WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE EO LISTING BY 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014.**

*(though of course you are free to re-apply if you missed the deadline!)*

***Do you run a local group with other home educating families?*** If so and you'd like an entry on the local groups list on the website (and in the newsletter), please complete the application form on the website by choosing 'HE Groups [Area]' from the left hand menu at: <http://www.educationotherwise.net>

## LOCAL HOME EDUCATION GROUPS

**HERs** – Please contact the group organiser for full details and to check that activities are ongoing. Note also that groups are not always run by EO members. Further information on the groups 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

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

**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).

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

#### Berkshire

**Berkshire Home Educators** – for HE families in & adjoining Berkshire

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/groups/berkshirehomeeducators/>

**Expanding Horizons**: trips, activities, regular meet ups and information for other Local groups. [www.expandinghorizonsuk.com](http://www.expandinghorizonsuk.com) : 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** – A local support group Bristol area.

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

**Bristol Home Education Learn Place (HELP)** Carla 01179 354389

[carla-maria@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:carla-maria@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Bristol Home Education Co-op** – contact point for HE activities in

Bristol. E.g. music, Spanish, English and art classes, climbing sessions,

special workshops, days out, and a FREE weekly Co-op meet up with

crafts, activities & socialising. Yahoo group for event details,

information & support: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BristolHEC/>

Contact: [BristolHEC-owner@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:BristolHEC-owner@yahoo.co.uk) Or 0117 9553582

**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.

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

Contact: 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)

**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/ModCows-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)

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

Expanding Horizons, (see Berkshire).

#### Cambridgeshire

**Cambridgeshire Home Educators** – A website all about home educating in

Cambridgeshire including local groups and how to contact them.

[www.cambshomeed.co.uk](http://www.cambshomeed.co.uk) Jane: [cambshomeed@gmail.com](mailto:cambshomeed@gmail.com)

**Cambridge Home Educating Families (CHEF)** – for parents/carers who

HE or considering HE. <http://www.cambridgehomeeducators.org.uk/>

Morag: 01223 464918 [morag2000@hotmail.com](mailto:morag2000@hotmail.com)

**Cambridge Home Educating Community Activity List** – summary of

sessions and regular groups in Cambridge [www.educationchoice.org.uk](http://www.educationchoice.org.uk)

Karen: 01223 573220 [karen@karenrogers.co.uk](mailto:karen@karenrogers.co.uk)

#### Cheshire

**Mid Cheshire Home Educators** – Bi-monthly meetings and regular

outings. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mchc>

**South Cheshire Home Educators** – Jacqui, [southcheshirehe@gmail.com](mailto:southcheshirehe@gmail.com)

<http://www.southcheshirehe.btcc.co.uk/>

#### Cornwall

**Home Grown** – S E Cornwall HEGroup - Alternate Mondays in Liskeard:

classes in drawing & draughtsmanship / drama For ages 8-15. £6 per

session. Kath 01579 340591

**Lostwithiel area H.E. group** - New group just starting up - come along

and help! Contact: Craig, [hyrax@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hyrax@hotmail.co.uk)

#### Cumbria

**West Cumbria Home Education Group** – friendly group members from

all over W. Cumbria – Structured or Free-range – All welcome!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WestCumbriaHE/> Contact: Tallie,

[metallienat@aol.com](mailto:metallienat@aol.com)

**West Cumbria Home Educators** – (including 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, <https://m.facebook.com/groups/437541106366026/>

Contact: Sandy, [sandymariott@gmail.com](mailto:sandymariott@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

**Buckfastleigh Wildspace** – Nature study and gardening group based at

Buckfastleigh Town hall. Welcomes HE families.

<http://www.hogco-devonrcc.org.uk/index.asp?pageid=279900>

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

history photography and more. Members-only internet group. Hannah

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

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

woodwork permaculture pottery & more. [nbedford@btinternet.com](mailto:nbedford@btinternet.com)

<http://exeterhomeeducationcommunity.co.uk> Neil 01363 82314

**Freedom Fields EHE** – Weekly social group, for accompanied children.

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

**Stover HE Group** – Stover/ Newton Abbot. Informal educational and

social meets in local and surrounding areas.

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

**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/>

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

**South Devon Home Education Group** –

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

Helen 01803 390639 [helenlloydhoare@btinternet.com](mailto:helenlloydhoare@btinternet.com)

**FLAGS Home Education Group** – Exeter, every Friday - A friendly group

for children of all ages. Contact: Lisa 07969299543 or Sue

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

<http://www.homeeducationexeter.com/>

#### Dorset

**HEoND**, Home Educators of North Dorset, friendly group meeting on a

regular basis in Sturminster Newton. June, [bugchick@mac.com](mailto:bugchick@mac.com)

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

**Bournemouth HEED** – Weekly Monday meetings Carol 01202 677066  
carolstone@yahoo.co.uk

**HERA** – friendly group meets in Poole weekly, providing support for HE families/prospective HE. Contact Tracey scallieuk@hotmail.co.uk  
**Bournemouth and Poole Home Educators** – Bournemouth/Poole area for play dates and visits to places of interest/museums/etc.  
[http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Bournemouth\\_and\\_PooleHomeEducators/?yguid=419936795](http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Bournemouth_and_PooleHomeEducators/?yguid=419936795). Emma: bmth.home.ed@gmail.com

## Durham

**Durham HE** – Yahoo group. Get-togethers arranged between members in various areas of County  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/County-durham-homeeed>

## Essex

**A Different Class Home Education Group** – Southend-on-Sea. Non-profit weekly meetings regular outings. [www.adifferentclass.org](http://www.adifferentclass.org)

**Haverhill HE group** – Covering South Suffolk/North Essex.  
Eve 01440 788228 or 07768 763913 [wixde@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wixde@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)

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

## Gloucestershire

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

**Glos Otherwise Club** Fiona 01684 290087 [brookesfam@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:brookesfam@tiscali.co.uk)

**Forest of Dean HE group** – Bridge and dam building river clearance fire building woodland walks etc. Roxy [cdsnhf@googlemail.com](mailto:cdsnhf@googlemail.com)

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

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

## Hampshire

**Active HE** Group based in West Sussex and Hampshire,  
<http://www.active.co.uk/index.html>

Contact: Julie, [juliegoddard23@btinternet.com](mailto:juliegoddard23@btinternet.com) 01243 552168

**East Hampshire Home Education Group (EHHE)** Social activities mainly aimed at 5-11 year olds but all ages are welcome. Fields and playground access. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/808282682520757/?ref=ts&ref=ts> Contact: Alison, [a.johns@btinternet.com](mailto:a.johns@btinternet.com)

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

**North Hampshire HE Group** – Regular activities and meetings organised suitable for all ages <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/NH-HE/>  
Jaki 07731 805323 [jakimparsons@gmail.com](mailto:jakimparsons@gmail.com)

**Portsmouth Home Education Group** – HE or interested in HE  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/portsmouthhomeed/>

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

## Herefordshire

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

**Monmouth and Herefordshire Home Educators** – Local meets and events Yahoo! group. Roxy 07765 058 777  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HerefordshireHE/>

## Hertfordshire

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

## Isle of Wight

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

**IW Home Ed** – Facebook group & yahoo group for any and all home educators on IoW. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/IWHomeEd/>  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IWHomeEd/>

Karen: [Karen@curvespace.com](mailto:Karen@curvespace.com) or 01983 568516

## Kent

**Rochester Group** – Weekly meetings Tues. afternoon Contact: Sally: [sally\\_wilson@lineone.net](mailto:sally_wilson@lineone.net)

**Dragonfly Kidz HE Group** – (Canterbury & Thanet) meets socially for learning activities swimming bowling days out etc. in a wide range of locations around Canterbury Thanet Whitstable etc. All Welcome!  
Steph for more info: [stephgater@rocketmail.com](mailto:stephgater@rocketmail.com) 01304 814362.  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dragonflykidzhomeeducationgroup/>

**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** – A group of home educating families in Medway and Kent.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HE-omega/>  
Contact Esther: [e.selhi@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:e.selhi@yahoo.co.uk)

**SATHE Supporting Autism Through Home Education** – West Kent group open to all parents/carers HE/flexi-schooling or considering EO for children with autism/ sensitivities or learning difficulties. Denise 07554 386844 S-A-T-H-E@yahoogroups.co.uk  
<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/S-A-T-H-E/>

**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 contact: Lesley Herriot [lesley294@aol.com](mailto:lesley294@aol.com) or 07828193668  
<http://www.southeast-home-educators.co.uk>

**Wealden Home Educators' Network** – active network of home educating families in SE England. We offer help and support, information, activities, events and camps for home educators.  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wealdenhomeeducatorsnetwork/>

## Lancashire

**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/)

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

**Home Ed Leyland** – Friendship help support and advice for all families who are home educating (or considering HE) in Leyland and surrounding districts <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/he-l-0/>

## Leicestershire

**Stoneygate** Weekly play session at Stoneygate.  
£3.50 per family, including drinks. Large, safe, grassy area,  
[www.facebook.com/groups/homeedleicestershire/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/homeedleicestershire/)

Contact: Cat, [catbellinger@gmail.com](mailto:catbellinger@gmail.com)

**Leicestershire Christian Home Educators** – monthly meet up every 3rd Tuesday. Free play opportunity in a safe and fun place. Home Ed Off-Peak Pass available: £1.50 per child £5 per family free drinks. All welcome! Anne-Marie Marshall: [mrsamarshall@googlemail.com](mailto:mrsamarshall@googlemail.com)

**Charnwood & Melton Yahoo Group** – many home ed groups, gatherings and Events. Vikki, [vikkiandmartin@googlemail.com](mailto:vikkiandmartin@googlemail.com)

**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>

## Lincolnshire

**Lincolnshire HE** – <http://www.home-ed.uk/f.net/index.htm>

**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/)

**North Hykeham HE Group** – Thurs 10-11.30ish. Primarily for toddlers. 07870 787328 [debi-crow@googlemail.com](mailto:debi-crow@googlemail.com)

**Homeschool Lincolnshire** – active and supportive group, 40+ families incl. plenty of teenagers. Monthly events and activities list: Elaine 01507 328688, [homeschool.lincolnshire@outlook.com](mailto:homeschool.lincolnshire@outlook.com)

## London

**Adventures With Education (AWE)** – diverse and friendly group of home educating families who meet to socialise together in Hackney. Soft play area, outdoor playground. Accessible for children with disabilities. Parents are responsible for their children whilst at the group - all persons should be registered members of AWE unless this is their first visit. COST: £4 per family +£1 for each child aged over 12 months. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP £5 per family – includes lunch.

<http://adventureswitheducationhackney.wordpress.com/>

Contact: [adventureswitheducation@gmail.com](mailto:adventureswitheducation@gmail.com)

### London Home Ed Pre-'Schoolers'

New group for children under 5 who parents plan to home/unschool in the future. We also run a fortnightly playgroup

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/418014321653320/> . Contact:

Saski, [saskiatm@hotmail.com](mailto:saskiatm@hotmail.com)

**South London Home Education Googlegroup** – email group for HE activities in S London area. <http://groups.google.com/group/slhe>

Contact Angela: [mastweiller@gmail.com](mailto:mastweiller@gmail.com)

**Markfield - Portland H.E. Group** For children under 12yrs. Contact:

Shelly: [Shellydonael@gmail.com](mailto:Shellydonael@gmail.com)

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

**Brandam Roaders** – Weekly meetings in term time.

[rubbyradburn@hotmail.com](mailto:rubbyradburn@hotmail.com)

**Haringey Home Education Club** – meetings and other events

<http://www.hhec.org.uk/> @hhec.org.uk

**Maggie Home Educators (East London)** Informal social group for kids and parents – outdoor play area and hall – free parking. Contact: Louise, email: [lkerbiriou@gmail.com](mailto:lkerbiriou@gmail.com)

**Home Study Groups** – small group of HE families pooling resources for tutored home study groups. Ingie 0203 566 8706 [iberritt@gmail.com](mailto:iberritt@gmail.com)

**WIGWAM** Jubilee Park N9. Informal drop-in group for families with children of any age. Eleanor Stapleton 07866 701442

[elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk)

## Norfolk

**Home Education in Norfolk (HENS)** – A group for HE families in Norfolk. Those on the borders also welcome.

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

**West Norfolk Home Educators** – A meeting place for home educators and families interested in home education.

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/WestNorfolkHomeEducators/>

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

## Northamptonshire

**Northants HE** – Informal group meets regularly for various activities

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

**iFlow** – weekly HE community group in NW Northants. Professionally led educational activities. Wide range of resources in a large community space with sports facilities and outdoor play.

[www.iflow-he.org](http://www.iflow-he.org) Email: [welcomeliflow@gmail.com](mailto:welcomeliflow@gmail.com)

## 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

**Oxfordshire Home Educators** – A group for all home educators living in Oxfordshire but those in neighbouring counties also welcome to join.

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

**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

**Expanding Horizons** (See Berkshire).

## Shropshire

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

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

**Shropshire Home Education** – For HEs in Shropshire area to chat arrange meets etc. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/shed>

**Otherwise Engaged** – Online diary of group activities cultural events workshops resources and projects for Shrops and West Mids based HE families. <http://www.otherwise-engaged.org.uk/home-education.html>

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## Somerset

**Taunton Home Education Group** – Free play, arts & crafts, games, etc.

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

[tauntonhomeeducation@yahoo.com](mailto:tauntonhomeeducation@yahoo.com) <http://tauntonhomeed.blogspot.com/>

**HEY Yeovil** – All HE families welcome. Lyn Crocker 01963 23669

[heyeovil@hotmail.com](mailto:heyeovil@hotmail.com)

**Wells Swimming Group** – Weekly swimming Wells Leisure Centre term time only. Lesley 01749 689241 [mumfordturner@hotmail.com](mailto:mumfordturner@hotmail.com)

**Oake HE Group** – Monthly meetings and regular outings.

Maggie 01984 624651

**North Somerset HE Group** – Weekly children's gym walks outings etc.

Yahoo! group for members. Vicky 01275 848425

[victoria.preston@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:victoria.preston@yahoo.co.uk)

**Bath HE Yahoo! Group** –

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/BathHomeEducation/>

## Suffolk

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

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

**Ipswich Wednesdays** - Shared lunch and activities. £3.50 per family.

Contact Helen: [helen.design256.com](mailto:helen.design256.com)

**Ipswich town centre group + Book Club** – Lisa 07538 102322

[llw\\_llg@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:llw_llg@yahoo.co.uk)

**Tostock HE Group** – All families welcome to this very friendly group. Jan 01359 251184 [angusto@btinternet.com](mailto:angusto@btinternet.com)

## Surrey

**Dorking Home Educators** – Meet fortnightly in Dorking. Social and pre-booked activities. Regular outings and trips. Contact: Amanda:

[schrodingerscat81@hotmail.com](mailto:schrodingerscat81@hotmail.com)

[www.facebook.com/groups/113572308842436](http://www.facebook.com/groups/113572308842436)

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

**SW Surrey Home Ed** – Weekly gatherings Farnham or Godalming.

<http://www.swsurrey-home-ed.co.uk/index.php>

**Sutton/Epsom HE group ESHEG** – meetings every Thursday plus occasional outings. Contact: Neia, [nela.glynn@btinternet.com](mailto:nela.glynn@btinternet.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/175604625849421/>

**Leatherhead Home Education Group** – Leatherhead and surrounding area regular day trips and activities. Chrissie Thorpe 07840285703

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

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/313168112059023/>

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

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

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

## Sussex

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

**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

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

**Forest Row HE Group** – regular monthly meetings + many other fun & learning <http://www.facebook.com/groups/forestrowhomeeducators>

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

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

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

**Hastings & Rother Home Educators (HARHE)** – small number of families; activities include Forest School, cycling, daytrips, bowling and swimming. Check out our website and us or come along to an activity [www.harhe.btcc.co.uk](http://www.harhe.btcc.co.uk) Catherine: 01424 812213

## Warwickshire

**Creative Youth Adventure Club (Coventry)** – For over 11s working towards Arts Awards. Sarah [sarah@nellyyb.co.uk](mailto:sarah@nellyyb.co.uk)

**Worcestershire Home Educators Network** – Meetings usually at least weekly throughout term time at various locations round the county.

<http://www.worcestershire-home-educators.co.uk/>  
**Warwick District HE** Primarily for children 0-11 though all welcome. Warwick and Leamington, Alison 07782 299181  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/warwickhe>

## Wiltshire

**Chapmanslade H E group.** For anyone Home Educating (or considering it) in town and surrounding area. Meetings twice monthly – Facebook: Chapmanslade Home Education Group. Or Contact: Maria, [maria@trivialbusiness.co.uk](mailto:maria@trivialbusiness.co.uk)

**Salisbury Plain Home Education Circle** – Parents who use the National Curriculum as guidance, but believe that best education comes 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 01299 405669, [sophiebutcher29@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sophiebutcher29@yahoo.co.uk)  
**Worcestershire Home Ed** Yahoo Group Email list for Worcs HEs  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/worcestershirehome-ed/>

## Yorkshire

**Yorkshire and North Yorkshire. (North West)** We are a support group for HE families living in and around York. Regular monthly meetings also social, education and fun activities during the month, <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/yorkdistrict/info>  
Contact: Tracey, [tracey@littleleave.freemove.co.uk](mailto:tracey@littleleave.freemove.co.uk)  
**HEDG** – Home Education Doncaster Group. Regular H.E. meetups and outings Doncaster & surrounding area. See our Facebook or <http://www.homeeducationdoncaster.co.uk/>, or contact: Gillian, [gillycooper@hotmail.com](mailto:gillycooper@hotmail.com) 07938 007 306

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

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

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

**Huddersfield Art Workshops** – Monthly 8hrs 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/> Mandy 01484 460026 [meandchi7@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:meandchi7@yahoo.co.uk)

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

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/yorkshirehomedders/>  
**NYHEC (group for HE parents)** – for parents HEing in North Yorkshire. [nyhecowner@yahoo.com](mailto:nyhecowner@yahoo.com)

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

**Rotherham Home Education** – friendly informal group for HEs in & around S.Yorkshire. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RothHE/>

Pauline 077764 06409 [collicandaydag123@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:collicandaydag123@yahoo.co.uk)

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

**Wakefield District Home Education Group** – New Group 2013. Currently regular Bowling & Ice skating. Will be organising more trips

and visits as numbers increase. Contact Tracey: [wakefieldHE-owner@yahoo.com](mailto:wakefieldHE-owner@yahoo.com)

## Regional Groups

### East of England

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

### East Midlands

**East Midlands Home Ed** – forum to help inform and support HE families in the East Midlands. <http://groups.yahoo.com/oup/emhe>

### South East

**FLAGS (Kent/Surrey/Sussex)** – Active group (Kent/Surrey/Sussex) meeting weekly during term time <http://www.flags-education.org>

Karen 01732 864524 [karenl@uwclub.net](mailto:karenl@uwclub.net)  
**ActiveEO** HE Group based in West Sussex and Hampshire

Contact number 01243 552780 <http://www.activeo.co.uk/index.html>  
**South Hants Home Ed** – A support group for home educators

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/southhantshomeed/>  
**FAREGOS Home Education Group** – HE group/email list covering Fareham Gosport and South Hants.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FareGosHE/>  
**Home-EASE (Home Education for all South East)** – Group of HE families in South-East England 0753 1677 083

[homeeducationmum@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:homeeducationmum@yahoo.co.uk)  
**South East Home Educators** – (Kent/Sussex) See Kent for details.

**Walden Home Educators' Network (WHEN)** (SE England) see Kent.

### South West

**Home Education Centre (Devon/Dorset/Somerset)** – Meets two days a week. Workshops sports activities and support.

<http://www.homeeducationcentre.org.uk>  
**HEs and Events SW** – network to support new HEs or those new to the area. New input welcomed. [southdevonic@gmail.com](mailto:southdevonic@gmail.com)

<http://hecontactssandeventssw.yolasite.com>  
**HE in Bristol and SW** – see Bristol

### West Midlands

**Mercia Education Group** – Regular, structured meetings – various venues Lichfield and surrounding area. Academic base – many activities – wide age range. <http://merciaeducationgroup.yolasite.com/>

## Isle of Man

**Home Education on the Isle Of Man**

Contact: Dawn, [sewellbunch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sewellbunch@yahoo.co.uk)  
**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/>

## Wales

### Cardiganshire

group meets on one afternoon per week near Lampeter. Social with occasional activities. Contact: [thislittlelightofmine@phonecoop.coop](mailto:thislittlelightofmine@phonecoop.coop)

### Carmarthenshire

**Camarthen HE Group** – Regular meetings in Johnstown Carmarthen [caroline.milburn@yahoo.com](mailto:caroline.milburn@yahoo.com)

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

### Denbighshire

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

### Flintshire

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

## Glamorgan

**Cardiff Home Education Group** – Meets Mondays during term time, in Pontcanna. Social group children all ages, everyone welcome. Contact: Sarah – [cardiffhomeeducationgroup@gmail.com](mailto:cardiffhomeeducationgroup@gmail.com) website [www.cardiffhomeeducationgroup.wordpress.com](http://www.cardiffhomeeducationgroup.wordpress.com)

**New Foundations HE** – Meets Cardiff Thursdays 10-4. All activities free. <http://www.newfoundationshe.com> 02920216502 [newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com](mailto:newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com)

**Bridgend Home Educators**. free play, GCSE classes, Arts Award, outside speakers, activities, etc. See [www.bridgendhomeeducators.org](http://www.bridgendhomeeducators.org) or email [info@bridgendhomeeducators.org](mailto:info@bridgendhomeeducators.org)

## Gwynedd

**Garndolbenmaen Home Education Group** (North West Wales). Garndolbenmaen Home Education Group, Gwynedd, North Wales. Social home ed group based near Porthmadog.

<http://garngroup.co.uk/> Contact Steve, [mungfu@gmail.com](mailto:mungfu@gmail.com)

**Langower HE Group** – Weekly meetings. [rowenna73@hotmail.com](mailto:rowenna73@hotmail.com)

**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>

## Monmouthshire

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

**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/>

## Montgomeryshire

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

## Neath Port Talbot

**Wise Up Community HE Group** (Part Talbot) – Support and information for home educating families and those considering home education. <http://www.zoneseven.co.uk> [ianna.violet@hotmail.com](mailto:ianna.violet@hotmail.com)

## Powys

**New Leaf HE Group** (Newtown) – Occasional meetings for varied activities all ages. <http://newleafgroup.org.uk/> Contact: [info@newleafgroup.org.uk](mailto:info@newleafgroup.org.uk)

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

## Regional Wales

**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 01989 768128 [cdsnhf@googlemail.com](mailto:cdsnhf@googlemail.com)

**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) <https://www.facebook.com/groups/329840653796249/> [jayne:newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com](mailto:jayne:newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com) Or 02920216502

## Channel Islands

**Home Education Jersey** – New home education group. Jess: [homeeducationjersey@gmail.com](mailto:homeeducationjersey@gmail.com)

**Guernsey Home Educators** – Fledgling group of home educators and those sympathetic to home education in Guernsey. Yvonne Burford on 01481 264776 or [Atplir@hotmail.com](mailto:Atplir@hotmail.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> Yahoo group (private, by invitation) Anita Kolaczynska 01686 413502 [anitakolaczynska@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:anitakolaczynska@yahoo.co.uk)



## Who does What in EO

### Current Trustees [Council Members]

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### Membership

Membership enquiries, address changes, membership cards, new member admin: please contact the Membership Secretary: ***membership@educationotherwise.org*** or PO Box 1309, Blackpool, FY1 9HN

### Other Useful Contacts

Anti-Bullying Contact: **Kathleen Thompson**

01942 89 77 79

College/GCSE Contact: **Roger Scaife**

roger.scaife@gmail.com

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

GCSE/Exams email list:

[https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/HE-Exams-](https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/HE-Exams-GCSE-A_AS_Levels-OU-Others/info)

[GCSE-A\\_AS\\_Levels-OU-Others/info](https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/HE-Exams-GCSE-A_AS_Levels-OU-Others/info)

HE Exams Wiki: [www.home-education-exams.org.uk](http://www.home-education-exams.org.uk)

Exam centres list: [\[exams.wikia.com/wiki/Finding\\\_an\\\_exam\\\_centre\]\(http://he-exams.wikia.com/wiki/Finding\_an\_exam\_centre\)](http://he-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

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concessions@educationotherwise.org

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Enquiries Secretary: **Edwina Theunissen**

01978 661 882 [e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org](mailto:e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org)

Flexi-schooling: **VACANT**

Local Contacts Co-ordinator: **Lei Ashe**

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

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

Special Needs: **Denice** [send@educationotherwise.org](mailto:send@educationotherwise.org)

**Alisa**: 01749 830034 / 07707 060973

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

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

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# 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 1309, Blackpool, FY1 9HN  
Helpline 0845 4786 345

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

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