

educati<sup>o</sup>n otherwise



Newsletter Winter 2015-6

## **SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE**

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

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

**Deadline for the Spring issue is 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016**

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

*Anne Rix (Acting)* eonl@educationotherwise.org

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

[NOTE NEW PO BOX NUMBER]

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

### Section Editors

**REVIEWS:** *Tammy Dolling:* bookreviews@educationotherwise.org

or EO Reviews, PO Box 63, PE37 9AT [\*\*\*NOTE NEW PO BOX NUMBER\*\*\*]

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

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

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(cover picture – *Rogue the Dragon*, by Amber, 12)  
(other drawings from [openclipart.org](http://openclipart.org))

## Co-ordinatorial

Here I am again. Still hoping Someone will step up to the Co-ordinatorial job so that I can spend more time on EO trustee work; but now I have less than one more year as a trustee!  
EO needs new volunteers able to share some of the work, and for most of it you don't need to be a trustee ... *Anne, December 2015*

## Reader Contributions

Many thanks to our regular contributors – and to those who surprise us with something new ... Members often tell us how much they enjoy reading other home educators' experiences and ideas – but often these are written on blogs, email lists, facebook, etc. and can easily be lost.

Please consider also sending your thoughts to the newsletter, to share in a more permanent form and provide inspiration for others. Short or long(ish!) letters, articles, ideas for activities, how home education works for you ... anything HE-related is interesting for other families.

Many thanks to Amber for cover drawing – we'd love to have more contributions from children!

Please send to: [eonl@educationotherwise.org](mailto:eonl@educationotherwise.org)

Or: PO Box 63, Swaffham, PE37 9AT



## EO VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

### Local Contacts and Helpline Volunteers

Always needed! If you've had support from EO in the past and want to give something back; or you now have enough experience of home education to share with others and want to experience the 'glow' you can get from supporting new home educators, please get in touch to find out more.

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

### Reviews/Amazon Store Co-ordinator

Tammy's family commitments have increased and she's finding it difficult to give time to book reviews and the EO Amazon Store. If this would interest you, please contact Tammy at [bookreviews@educationotherwise.org](mailto:bookreviews@educationotherwise.org)

### Revising Website Pages

Do you have expertise in a particular section? Notice anything out of date (there's probably lots!)? Do tell us – but please, if possible, offer also to revise and update the section or article.  
Contact: [publications@educationotherwise.org](mailto:publications@educationotherwise.org)

### Newsletter Co-ordinator

To liaise with other members of NL team, collate contributions into complete file and ensure it is delivered to printer on time ... N.B. Co-ordinator does not normally write articles but minor editing is involved. Further details of what actually happens in practice and FAQs from [arix@educationotherwise.org](mailto:arix@educationotherwise.org)

## FIRST YEAR OF HOME EDUCATION

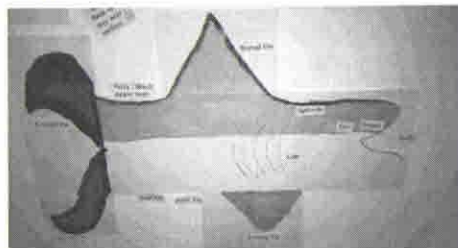
We were introduced to the concept of Home Education through a friend, who suggested we go along to a local Arts and Crafts group called Eureka. Although a little daunting, the families were friendly, inviting and openly honest about their Home Ed experiences. We were immediately struck by dedication of the parents to providing exciting educational activities and the enthusiasm and confidence of the happy children completing them.

My partner and I have two children, a girl aged 10 and a boy aged 7. Both went to Montessori Nurseries for their pre-school years and then attended our local village Church of England Primary School. We are not anti-school and have generally had good experiences, but following a period of ill health we decided to spend more time together as a family and didn't want to be restricted by rigid term-times. Thankfully, we had a Head Mistress who was totally supportive of our decision and we were able to de-register easily. We are known to the LA but to date have not yet received a visit.

Predictably, we have had mixed reactions from non-home educators as to our decision. Interestingly, the main concern raised has been whether our children will miss out on the socialisation that school provides. However, this notion couldn't be further from the truth. We are out and about with our local group nearly 3 or 4 days a week and the children have more close friendships than ever before, without the negative influences of peer pressure and bullying.

Initially, we began by providing a very structured curriculum, almost school at home. However, over time it became apparent that this approach did not suit their learning style and we have moved

towards project based learning, focusing on their interests. So far we have covered The Ancient Egyptians, The Victorians, Sharks ...



... and their Ecosystems...



The Tundra and The Battle of Hastings; we are just about to embark on a project about Africa and a science project investigating states of matter.

Being fairly new, we have found local Home Education Facebook groups extremely helpful for support, inspiration and organising activities. Additionally, PopArt Education has been very useful for reviewing online resources.

It has been very satisfying to see the progress the children have made over the year and the increase in their confidence. Obviously, we have had our ups and downs, but have to confess it would not have been such an easy ride if it had not been for our local Home Education group's support and inspiration.

*Sarah, Norfolk*

## Further Exploring New Patterns of Education

One of the interesting outcomes from family history discussion groups which are now quite popular is that many participants have recorded the results of their research in very readable books. These now give vital additions and explanations to the formally available historical background, helping us to understand in much better detail why history took place in the way that it did. Some participants have also been able to correlate aspects of this between family members in different countries and this has educational implications for history and our ability not only to know more about it, but to advance education itself by understanding so much more about why as well as how our past occurred.

Home educators are free to enable their own children to benefit when such advances in education are being pioneered, which even governments are now slowly realising, are capable of addressing specific and essential needs of their families, which more formal approaches often have considerable difficulty in first acknowledging and then trying to address.

Some investigations into education have partly arisen because of the news of so many avoidable disasters, arising themselves from strongly polarised views. This has prompted some parents to ask how it is that education is failing to effectively co-ordinate the avoidance of such destructive effects on civilization, after so many opportunities have occurred for that to have been more effectively achieved by now.

Investigation into such failures seems to show that the traditional study of history has been failing in its educational requirement to adequately prepare and assist us to avoid repeating the disastrous mistakes of the past. This seems to have been caused by the historical lessons that would have provided critical understanding and so avoidance of such past problems, having been sidelined and even removed for different reasons from the curriculum. This has left history as a subject unable to carry out its most important educational function for all of us in today's international world, unfairly leaving many of today's families to face polarisation and war, and severely damaging their lives and futures as a result. As this failure has now become a major cause of the migration crisis, governments are now having to look for a more appropriate and longer term solution for such a serious problem than just more fences and new border regulations.

For any reasonable chance that this problem can be addressed and so start to safeguard the future of everyone's children through education, essential historical lessons from the past must not be lost. Instead they must be investigated and duly restored to the curriculum, where they must be part of the essential learning curve for understanding and co-operation required by everyone for protecting and improving civilization for following generations.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS



SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS

One example of a vital historical lesson now accepted as having been lost from nearly all British sourced history curricula, is the omission of the major discussion in the League of Nations after World War I, about the need to introduce international education in all schools through the use of Esperanto.

*"Flag of the League of Nations (1939–1941)" <http://www.fotw.net/>. Licensed under Public Domain via Commons - [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flag\\_of\\_the\\_League\\_of\\_Nations](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flag_of_the_League_of_Nations)*

The League discussion was a response to the war, the timing of the outbreak of which caused the cancellation in August 1914 of the largest International Esperanto meeting by far ever held in the world up to that time. Any continuing omission now, of such a major international effort to prioritise education over war, would be to continue to ignore the personal wartime sacrifice of millions of families, who believed that their suffering and losses had provided the international

opportunity via the League, to identify and then to overcome such a failure in formal education for following generations.

Reading the sad record now of how official arguments were continually being made against such an obvious educational advance, giving the effect of being officially against the learning of anything from history, seems to suggest that it may still be families themselves through their ongoing efforts and research, who still need to be relied upon for practical advance in overcoming such educational barriers.

The present ongoing World War I centenary provides the opportunity to learn from history and be sure now, that such an advantage of education is certainly not lost for our children and families everywhere this time. Just examining such an issue opens up the discussion so essential now, of how to avoid the abuse of national and public feeling that enabled the wrecking of one of the first opportunities in recent history for advancing education and understanding that was already planned to be held in Paris in August 1914.

There is now a responsibility on all of us to ensure that international education becomes more effective, so that there is a realistic and practical chance of getting together to address the issues facing all of our children. Amongst these is Climate Change, which for progress in addressing it requires a good foundation of co-operation and understanding that has often been missing from the formal attempts to get agreement up to now. Governments being aware of that and the other ongoing problems they still face, will be relieved to know that there are concerned parents who are prepared to support the necessary educational advance that will ensure that there is progress in educational areas that for too long have suffered from unnecessary traditional barriers to progress.

The whole issue of requiring international education to establish peace on a more secure foundation did not come as a surprise to the pre and post World War II education community, as many had started their teaching careers in the interwar years. During that period public knowledge about Esperanto and the discussion about its proposed use in schools was much better known about than now. This was because the League of Nations' discussion for three years from 1920 to 1923 had required the League to make a full investigation into Esperanto use here and around the world, so that the case for its use would be properly known and understood. The result of that investigation was made available as an official League document in the UK from 1922. As the discussion about this continued, in 1923 the German education minister stated that he supported the use of Esperanto. This provided the British government with an ideal opportunity to respond appropriately and introduce Esperanto into British education so that our education systems would then be jointly providing the foundation for better international understanding and educational advance towards dealing with the real problems that still needed to be addressed. Attending to these issues, which families everywhere after World War I were still waiting and hoping for their governments to deal with, would have greatly reduced the chance of a media-supported drift into international confrontation and World War II.

It is no wonder that soon after World War II, some heads, often of girls' schools, were making quite pointed comments during their speech days about the state of the world into which they would shortly be expected to release their pupils. This was because they were aware of the advance that should have been introduced into British education, but which had not taken place, leaving open the chance of failure once again to introduce an educational foundation much more likely to support understanding and peace, after the interwar experience had already shown how dangerous such a failure would be.

Their protests indicated that they were further aware that the League research had shown that because Esperanto is a planned language, which was specifically designed to be easy to learn by

avoiding the irregularities of grammar and spelling in nearly all national languages, it provides a far more efficient and better introduction to language learning for young children than other languages. This was demonstrated when it was seen that Esperanto was mastered much more quickly by pupils in comparison with any national language. This enables it to provide the basic training in language learning first, while children are young and still at an age when they cannot be expected to know which foreign languages they will feel it appropriate to learn later. But in the meanwhile they will already have achieved a language skill they can use anywhere in the world, an appropriate preparation for the life they will be living.

Schools have sometimes tried to give children experience tasters in several different languages. This is better done as part of language learning training using Esperanto, which itself gives experience of the same word roots that Latin used to do, so acclaimed by educationalists. It achieves this by dispensing with the waste of actually learning Latin, since a widely used affordable international language like Esperanto gives the same word root benefits, together with a language that pupils can actually master and use for the rest of their lives. Its unique low learning cost and confidence building ability gives the opportunity for all children to have a good word root foundation for their language learning by not restricting that benefit only to fee paying and grammar schools. It is amazing that this advance is not officially recognised now and in use everywhere because of its sheer affordability, as even the foremost Professor of Latin at Cambridge as far back as 1907 had declared, after examining the case and supporting it, that Esperanto is the 'Latin of Democracy'.

There is probably an even more fundamental reason for children especially in the UK to learn Esperanto, and that is because it gives them, uniquely, the opportunity to become internationally the best educated children in the world. This is because as their birth language, English, is already an international language, they uniquely then have the opportunity to learn the more affordable international language of Esperanto. This will potentially open communication for them, with all the rest of the children in the world, being the majority, who will never have the chance to learn English because of its quite unaffordable expense for them. So the English child with Esperanto is truly prepared and ready in communication terms for the world they will inhabit. They and their parents will also be co-operating with those parents in other countries, who have already made the commitment for their children to learn Esperanto, having been able to do this because of the vastly lower cost of that choice for their children's international education when compared to the unaffordable cost of learning English.



This language decision, the benefits of which for the rest of the world can only really be taken for their children by British and other English speaking parents, provides the equivalent of a vast cash donation to charity for improving life for those in the developing world. This is because of such a decision's ability to increasingly reduce the cost of all the international communication necessary for work by charities, for which otherwise they must use considerable funds from their donations for the translations necessary for their work to take place. This is truly an example of families in the industrial world using their freedom to take educational decisions to achieve an expanding beneficial effect, that just making donations could never achieve in any equivalent way. As governments are now faced with having to address the migration crisis within the budget limitations that exist, then they have before them a fundamental part of the solution, for which parents in the developing world are already showing the way, by putting it into practice for their own children.

*Mike, Rye*

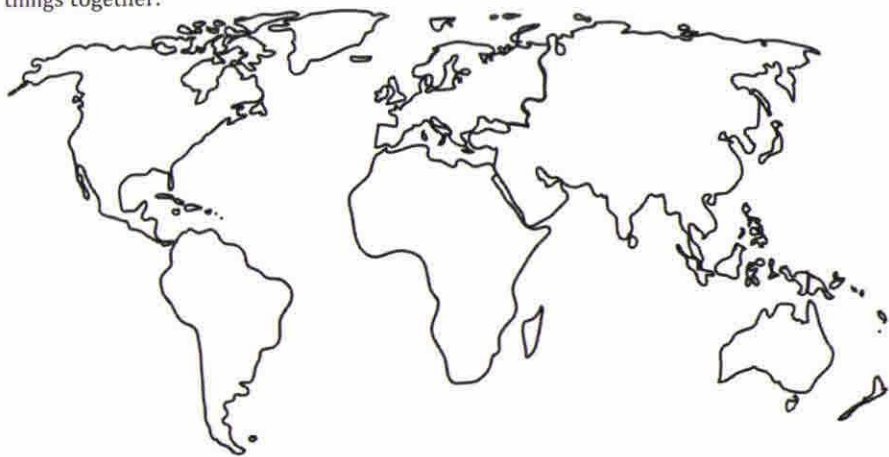
References: Tuition available: [www.lernu.net](http://www.lernu.net)

An excellent example of how parents in Africa are encouraging their children with international education at the Zamenhof Institute in Lome in Togo can be seen at: <http://unuighotogolandaporesperanto.jimdo.com/>

## Musings of a Permanently Frazzled Mummy – Meeting one of the Greats

You'll be relieved to hear that we have survived our little foray into life without technology, and we're entering November remarkably unscathed. The first few days were met with an unexpected positivity by all four ragamuffins, and they enthusiastically helped me draw up a list of 'Things to do without using a screen' to hang on our kitchen wall (an idea I'd pinched from my old friend who loves her greenhouse!) We made it to nearly 50 before my hand started to ache, but we figured we'd got enough to be getting on with. My biggest screen addict, number two child, was frequently to be found staring at the list and looking glum because he 'honestly can't decide what to do', yet on day four, he was the child who virtually skipped down the stairs in the morning declaring that 'It's so wonderful to have so many interesting and exciting things to do'. I wish all habits were so quickly and easily broken!

So, how did we pass our time? Well, I got on with my usual baking, chatting on the EO support line, indulging my little OCD habit of sweeping my floor (obviously a 'good' habit to have!) researching interesting activities to provide at my next monthly home-ed meet-up, researching possible Christmas presents for the ragamuffins that wouldn't break the bank, were preferably not plastic, and possibly had some sort of educational value. But for the gang, their month looked dramatically different: they were allowed to keep their early morning screen time, and we did all enjoy catching up on episodes of 'The Yorkshire Vet' (number two has decided he wants to be a vet, so I put it down to research) but the large chunk of each day was spent doing things together.



They became immersed in our new family hobby of 'post-crossing' and spent ages scouring the world map to identify where we were sending cards to and where we'd received them from, and finding out what life is like in each location; they re-discovered countless science kits and board games; they invented many new dramatic characters and role-played to their hearts content; they rehearsed their parts for their drama class; chose a multitude of new vegetarian meals from my recipe books that they wanted me to try out for them; the girls spent a fair few hours playing 'schools'; and the boys re-ignited their obsession with lego. Actually, they spent their time doing many, many more things than that, and I was surprised at how they managed to fill the hours with only the very slightest whine now and again. In fact, hubby and I were so thrilled at how beautifully they got on together all month that we've decided to continue our 'screen-free' daytime, indefinitely....

October also brought with it a little trip to Coventry for the EO AGM, where it was great to catch up with friends we'd made at the AGM the previous year. The kids took up where they'd left off with each other, and enjoyed a few hours exploring the museum while we chatted all things EO. This year we had the added bonus of having Iris Harrison join us, and I must admit, I felt like we had home-ed royalty in our midst. I was more than a tad excited! I had to try really hard to hold my excitement in and not let it bubble over into the high-pitched, relentless chatter that friends often hear when I'm enthusiastic. It was all I could do to restrain myself and not ask for her autograph (hubby had made me promise beforehand!). Eek! It's THE Iris Harrison – the intrepid explorer who single-handedly fought off the mountain lion, then swam the Nile with her kids perched on her back....Ok so perhaps not, but for those of you who may not be familiar with Iris, it is down to her family's strength and resilience, and determination to fight, that the British Court of Law recognises autonomous education as a legal and acceptable form of home education. Do a bit of research sometime: it's an inspiring and humbling tale.

Whilst chatting with Iris, I was struck by just how much freedom she had encouraged her children to enjoy, and how she never once worried about them leaving home illiterate, despite several of them being severely dyslexic. She had simply remained confident that their skills would develop when they were ready, and had not even thought of coercing them into doing any



phonics whatsoever. Tales of her children taking an old car engine apart, then teaching themselves how to put it back together again, made me reflect on how controlled my children's largely unschooled existence still is. We do very little that looks like school, but I find I'm frequently encouraging them to perhaps not do that muddy activity today, because I'm having a bad OCD day and can't face anymore mess, or suggesting that they get such-and-such activity out, so that I can then mentally tick off that they've done at least one thing recently that an LA visitor might approve of (even though we remain 'unknown'!)

I think it may be time for me to loosen the reins somewhat, with my boys at least, and learn to trust them a little more with what they need to learn, and when. Although having researched the entry requirements for a Veterinary degree for our 2<sup>nd</sup> born, I found my anxiety levels rocketing, so I quickly purchased a textbook (my first 'formal' purchase since those heady early days of deciding to home educate), and I settled down at the kitchen table with both boys for us to get started on the first rung on the 'working towards our future' ladder. Does a builder need GCSE Biology, my first-born wanted to know. This one does, I replied! I guess it's partly the ex-teacher in me, partly the financial cost of any of the kids potentially wanting/needing to take a bunch of GCSEs at any one time, and also the tiny little fear that resides in me, and sometimes rears its ugly head, that perhaps my kids aren't up to directing their own learning. I know that truly and honestly, they are, and it all happens beautifully when I manage to keep my sticky beak out of their business, but I can't seem to totally quash that niggling little doubt. Perhaps some lengthier chats with Iris would do the trick...

We intend to spend the next couple of months hiding away from the wind and rain, experimenting with some new festive culinary creations, making cards and gifts to send to relatives, and enjoying some good ole' classic Christmassy films in front of the roaring fire. It's a wonderful life!

Wishing you all a happy and healthy festive season.

*(name and address supplied)*

## HE Around the World – Poland

By Carinna Spellerberg

Since 2012, the school starting age for Polish kids attending school has been lowered to 5 (goes up to 18). The good news is that homeschooling is legal in this Eastern European country. And the even better news that the law has been changed recently – in favour of home educating families!

Whereas in the past parents could only apply to their local head of school exclusively (with the decision to permit or forbid homeschooling entirely in the hands of that principal), they can now in fact approach any school and ask for the required permission. In practice this means they can find and apply at a school that is friendly and well-meaning towards home educators (a so-called umbrella school).

Despite that change for the better, the HSLDA estimates that only 500 families are actively involved in learning outside of school, the reasons for which are unknown: maybe parents are just not aware of their options. Or they shy away from the strict and highly regulated supervision provided by the schools. After all, the school that grants the permission is also the one where children sit their end of year exams, and on failing these the permission to homeschool is revoked – which could create quite a lot of pressure on families.

With the new, improved law in place, the Polish Association for Home Education states that in 2013 the numbers had already increased to 1 500 students and were constantly rising .  
(<http://www.hslda.org/hs/international/poland/201305090.asp>).

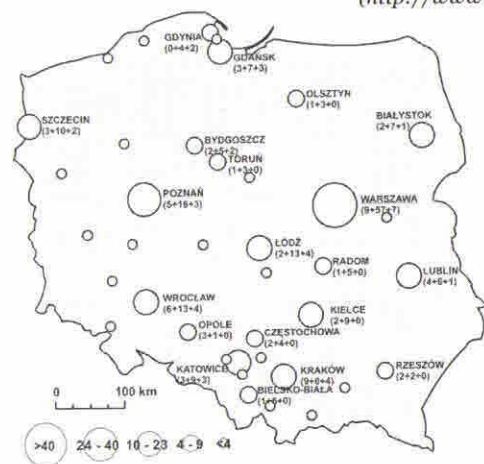


Image: Map

Density of collegiate-level institutions of higher education across Poland

"PL-uczelnie" by Reytan - Own work. Licensed under Public Domain via Commons -  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:PL-uczelnie.png#/media/File:PL-uczelnie.png>

Websites and sources:

(Sorry people, there is a lot of information out there, in the form of blogs and Facebook pages, but most of it seems to be in Polish. My Google Translate was not able to tackle it. Give it a go and try your luck with the links below.)

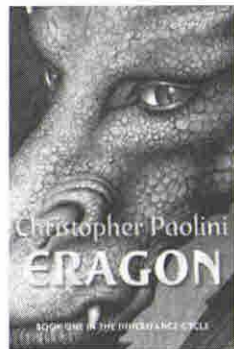
- A Christian organisation that offers legal advice and help. The website also has many newspaper articles, not quite so recent:  
<http://www.hslda.org/hs/international/poland/default.asp>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homeschooling\\_international\\_status\\_and\\_statistics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homeschooling_international_status_and_statistics)
- Polish Home Education Association: <http://www.edukacja.domowa.pl/> (only in Polish); contact: [homeed@poczta.onet.pl](mailto:homeed@poczta.onet.pl)
- Another Polish home education organisation: <http://www.edukacjadomowa.pl/> (only in Polish); contact: [info@edukacjadomowa.pl](mailto:info@edukacjadomowa.pl)
- <http://roadtopoland.blogspot.co.uk/p/moving-comapny.html> (blog by an American expatriate family homeschooling in Poland)

## Book Reviews & EO Amazon Store

On these long, dark evenings, snuggling on the sofa with a good book is one of life's greatest pleasures! If you and your family like to indulge why not share with us the books that you are currently enjoying? We love getting book reviews from our readers so please consider submitting a review of a book. The email address is: [bookreviews@educationotherwise.org](mailto:bookreviews@educationotherwise.org).

Did you know that Education Otherwise has an Amazon store? It is full of a wide range of books and games for parents and children that are perfect for home educators. By shopping in the store you are helping Education Otherwise in its work to support home educators in the United Kingdom. You can access the store by visiting [www.educationotherwise.net](http://www.educationotherwise.net) and clicking on the link in the top right hand corner.

Thank you to Amber for the review of your favourite dragon books (and also for cover picture!).



Title: *Eragon* [book 1 of The Inheritance Cycle]

Author & Illustrator: Christopher Paolini

ISBN: 978-0-552-55209-7 Price: £7.99

Reviewed by: Amber Rose, age 12.

*I love dragons, and the best books I have read so far are: Eragon, Eldest, Brisingr & Inheritance - by Christopher Paolini.*

*I have made 12 dragons out of material, and some have wire in the wings-head. One of them had wire down his body.*

*[Christopher Paolini was educated at home. His abiding love of fantasy and science fiction inspired him to begin writing his debut novel, Eragon, at age 15.]*

\*\*\*\* VACANCY FOR REVIEWS/AMAZON CO-ORDINATOR \*\*\*\*

Having looked after the EO Amazon Store and Book Reviews for some years, Tammy would like to hand the job over to someone else. Tammy is happy to give you an outline of what she actually does, but then it's rather up to you what you make of it. If this would interest you, please contact Tammy at: [bookreviews@educationotherwise.org](mailto:bookreviews@educationotherwise.org)

### ARCHIVE REVIEWS

*[A taster of previous contributions from EONL 158, June 2004. There used to be a team of EO family reviewers, who sometimes got a new book free on condition they reviewed it. In NL 158 there were 5 pages of reviews!]*

#### **The Gold Spectre by Elizabeth Arnold**

A wonderful ghost story about a city boy, Joe, who is sent to stay with grandparents in Scotland only to get involved with a crime from the distant past involving the Gold Rush of 1868 and what turns out to be his murdered ancestor. One of the Black Cat series, a fabulous read.... Mum C with J (7)  
£4.99 ISBN 0-7136-6655-2 A&C Black

#### **The Usborne Book of Art Skills by Fiona Watt**

This book has not stopped being looked at since we received it! We all love art and have several books along the lines of 'things to make and do', but many either seem too basic, or have pictures of finished works which are so perfect that they can be demoralising for our budding artists. This one, however, is different. It contains many fresh ideas, or old ideas given a new

twist, and is both written and presented in such a style that it is appealing and accessible to all ages. We were all desperate to get started straight away. The only drawback is the arguing over whose turn it is to look at the book next.... Mum K with H (7) and H (4)  
£12.99 ISBN 0-7460-4746-0 Usborne

#### **Fall Out by Lynda Waterhouse**

Stella Kirby is a girl who has had a huge argument with her best friend, Lottie. They never see each other any more. This book is about what her life is like without a best friend and while her other friends are all behaving oddly. As the book progresses, Stella realises that she actually wants to go back to being best friends with Lottie, but it seems to be very difficult. This is a good book which I enjoyed reading. E (13)  
£5.99 ISBN 1-85340-758-5 Piccadilly

**Sir Gadabout Goes Overboard** by *Martyn Beardsley*

A story about a knight who is clumsy and dippy. It made us laugh sometimes especially the Chilliwillly Islands!, but on the whole it wasn't a good story, quite boring..... Mum (6)  
£4.99 ISBN 1-84255-2740 *Dolphin*

**The Usborne Illustrated Dictionary of Maths**

Another excellent value book from Usborne this is for anyone studying maths. Suitable for a wide age (including adults) it has over 500 clear definitions of all the main mathematical terms and concepts. There are hundreds of clear explanatory illustrations and diagrams with plenty of worked examples showing how to put the theory into practice. Lots of useful cross-referencing and many Internet links for those who like to use the web. We have found it to be a most valuable and frequently used resource. A book you will dip into time and time again.... Mum S, with O (10)  
£8.99 ISBN 0-760-5157-3 *Usborne*

**Maisie Morris and the Awful Arkwrights**

by *Joanna Nadin*

Maisie must save all the old people at Withering Heights Retirement Home from the evil owners Mr and Mrs Arkwright. Enter Mr Cumberbund and Monkey Onassi! I liked this book because it's strange, I think Mr Cumberbund is funny with all his magic equipment and medicines. Maisie is great with her flying bed and Monkey Onassis - international jewel thief - is really funny.... Mum D, with L (9) and K (5)  
£4.99 ISBN 0-7445-9091-4 *Walker*

**Let's Go Shoolie-Shoo**

by *Helen MacGregor and Bobbie Gargrave*

Comprises book, CD with 41 audio tracks and CD-Rom with 48 video clips to enable children to explore different sound and musical styles. Includes music from different times and different cultures. Easy songs to learn and dance movements to interpret. An enjoyable resource for any child interested in music and movement. Suggests age 5+ but younger children could easily take part. Mum C, with J (7) and L (4)  
£19.99 ISBN 0-7136-6615-3 *A&C Black*

**Woolly Jumper – the story of wool**

**Sticky Jam – the story of sugar**

both by *Meredith Hooper and Katharine McEwen*

The beauty of these books is that they are presented as a storybook while incorporating how wool and jam are made. R's interest was kept throughout the books by the use of rhymes and each page ending in the same line, which he enjoyed saying. The books cover the process of how wool is made starting from the sheep eating the grass and ended up in a jumper being knitted. With the jam the process began with the sun and the rain and ended with a boy Harry eating a jam sandwich. Also at the end of each book there is a summary of the

procedure and more facts as to how the wool and jam are made. R has enjoyed these books and we have now read them quite a few times, each time he is learning a bit more about wool and jam..... Mum K, with R (5)  
£4.99 each *Walker*

**The Snail Patrol** by *Chris d'Lacey*, illustrated by *Philip Reeve*.

A great book! T read it from beginning to end (124 pages) in a day and thought it was wonderful. It's a very funny story about enterprising Darren Winterburn: he goes into business getting rid of snails which are eating his neighbour's cabbages - but then the neighbour won't pay up. Darren has to get Mr McDuff to hand over the promised cash and find a new home for the snails (his mother doesn't want them in her bread bin) - this all involves a giant talking snail and his friend Sharon. We thought the story hilarious and well written; the text is unjustified, a good size and broken up by some very excellent illustrations; T did spot that some speech marks were missing, but we still thought it was a brilliant book.... Mum S, with T (8)  
£4.99 ISBN 1-903015-30-8 *Barn Owl*

**The Body in Action**

*Thinking & Feeling* - ISBN 0-7136-6337-5

*Moving* - ISBN 0-7136-6336-7

*Eating* - ISBN 0-7136-6335-9

*Seeing* - ISBN 0-7136-6338-3 Absolutely wonderful books for helping children understand what their body looks like, how it works and what it needs to work effectively. Full of excellent pictures and diagrams together with interesting facts means children of all ages are able to get something out of these books. We particularly enjoyed finding reflexes, pulses and various bones! There is a section at the back of each book giving further reading, websites and organisations to build on the excellent foundation laid down in the books.... Mum C, with J (7) and L (4)  
£11.99 each *A & C Black*

**My Dad's Got an Alligator** by *Jeremy Strong*

A funny read, great characters set in a realistic family environment. Nice illustrations with good-sized chapters. Basically Nicholas's dad brings home an alligator and it causes all sorts of mayhem. G and I both laughed out loud at it. It was a shame to come to the end of the book. G hopes there are more books about this family's adventures.... Mum L with G (7)  
£3.99 ISBN 0-403-6584-2 *Puffin*

**The Blends Book** by *Rachel Goodchild*

This spiral bound book of photocopiable worksheets is ideal for short 'chunks' of learning, for children who find spelling patterns difficult and for those like C who like to do 'work' whilst I make the tea!  
... Mum K, with C (5) *Brilliant Publications*

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

Possible financial help for home educating with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, from the Educational, Health and Care plan (EHC) and the 'Pupil Premium Funding' (PPF).

*We may have covered this in the past but due to it being discussed from a high level recently and due to its potential importance, it seems worth covering again.*

Oliver Heald, an MP for North East Hertfordshire, asked the Secretary of State for Education if there was any financial help for home educators (including guardians) regarding SEN?

Edward Timpson replied that there is funding available called the 'high needs block of the Dedicated Schools Grant' but also stated that its use for help was 'where it is appropriate to do so'. He also went on to describe how it was part of the EHC and how parents and the Local Authority (LA) would need to meet, setting out a plan, before implementing the 'special education provision'.

In his reply, Mr Timpson also makes the point that if a school is named in the EHC plan, the LA may still give permission for children to be home educated, as long as the conditions set up by the parents are suitable. He also implies that the LA 'should' support home educating, even if there is no EHC.

In the latter part of the reply, the Secretary of State for Education generally focuses on the guardian who wishes to home educate due to SEN reasons. He explains that 'looked after children should access full-time learning in an education setting that best meets their needs' and only if there are 'exceptional circumstances' should a child be home schooled. It is also mentioned that the guardian needs to have a 'special guardianship order' in order to have the same rights for home educating as the parents would.

The LA 'Virtual School Head' was mentioned as 'responsible' for making the decisions regarding the Pupil Premium Funding. Although somewhat vague, some of Mr Timpson's statements suggest that those responsible for a child to whom they are related could well be more at a disadvantage for accessing the financial help than a foster-career.

*Whilst there are many philosophies for home educating, we recommend thorough research with this topic as 'An EHC plan identifies all a child's needs and brings together education, health and care services to achieve agreed outcomes' (see last link below) and may be difficult to reverse.*

### References:

They work for you, Home Education:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox?compose=1511c6470f6a336c>

Elective Home Education guidelines for local authorities:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/288135/guidelines\\_for\\_las\\_on\\_elective\\_home\\_educationsecondrevised2\\_0.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/288135/guidelines_for_las_on_elective_home_educationsecondrevised2_0.pdf)

Elective Home Education revised funding information for local authorities:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/294898/revised\\_funding\\_guidance\\_-\\_local\\_authorities\\_on\\_home\\_educated\\_children.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/294898/revised_funding_guidance_-_local_authorities_on_home_educated_children.pdf)

Department for Education special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/398815/SEND\\_Code\\_of\\_Practice\\_January\\_2015.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398815/SEND_Code_of_Practice_January_2015.pdf)

More information on EHC plans:

<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/EducationandLearning/special-educational-needs-disability-support/EHC-assessment-plans-policies/ehc-plans/Pages/default.aspx>

*Feel free to contact us if you would like to get involved with EO SEND:  
e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org*

## EO AGM – 17/10/2015 – PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS

Well, a few of us turned up at the venue that I'd taken so much trouble to find in the hope that it would prove attractive enough to tempt more EO members to join in the business and have their say about running EO; but sadly, not enough for a quorum, so the formal business couldn't take place. Under EO's governing documents – the Memorandum & Articles of Association – in this circumstance the meeting is re-convened 7 days later, at which time whoever turns up may be regarded as a quorum.

I duly trogged over to Beckie's house the following Saturday, and we settled the formal stuff over several cups of tea at her kitchen table, while Griff kept the children entertained. Draft minutes will be posted on EO website (member area); but briefly – Minutes of last year's AGM were approved. Draft accounts were presented (there were no questions). Independent Examiners' fee was approved (in advance) and Accountants re-appointed. Beckie was appointed as a trustee; Hanna and Lei retired. All the proxy votes received (thank you to those who sent them!) were taken into account.

BUT – EO really needs more members to take an active interest in how it is run; and attending AGMs is a really valuable contribution, if you haven't time for regular volunteering. We do try to arrange these at venues that will be interesting for families to visit, and to provide some space/activities for children in the meeting room. You only need spend 30-45 minutes in the actual meeting (though of course we'd prefer you to stick around and contribute more!). Please consider becoming a SUM (Signed Up Member – see form on p.14) if you aren't already, and look out for next year's AGM, around the end of October 2016. Maybe we can even persuade Iris to come again ...

Those who made it to the Herbert enjoyed chatting to each other again (we'd mostly been to Snibston the previous year), meeting Iris Harrison (a founder member of EO, who had been persuaded at the last moment to come along) and had lots of delicious soup and sandwiches. Some of the children played chess, and most made good use of the flip-chart and marker pens – well, the adults weren't using them!

Iris said: *'I so enjoyed meeting the EO members and their families at the Coventry meeting and also sharing with them a little of the early days of home education when the authorities threatened to take my children from me, including my breast fed small baby, if I did not put them into schools. To see the enormous changes in home education is wonderful.'*

Please see 'Musings' for another member's impression; a couple more follow.

Anne (Trustee)

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### Thoughts on the AGM.

I was somewhat apprehensive to learn the Herbert Museum was in the centre of Coventry but we located in with very little trouble. The staff treated us very well and supplied mountains of sandwiches and plenty of tea and coffee.

My granddaughter, Minkey, liked the museum and was very pleased when she encountered a room full of sea shells and was intrigued with an old-fashioned dentist's chair. She enjoyed meeting and playing with the other children very much. In fact the children seemed to have the best time of all.

Our amanuensis, Cornelia, had a thin time of it as far as minutes were concerned, so she able to sit back and enjoy the friendly atmosphere of the small gathering. She says she found it a relaxed and optimistic meeting.

I felt quite cheered with the goodwill and friendliness of our small group. It was pleasant to see Iris again and folk were most interested to hear some of her home educating story. The intimacy of the group enabled good conversations and a cementing of friendships. Some of us even discussed the value of eating nettles.

Edwina (Trustee)

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## The AGM at "The Herbert" in Coventry

Our 120 odd mile trip across from East Anglia was relatively painless, traffic unusually behaving itself for a Saturday morning. We got to the Herbert around noon and found a lively, interesting modern museum-cum-gallery. (It was in fact, livelier even than usual, as the University had chosen both that day and location to host induction for freshers and their parents!)

Being the birthplace of Lady Godiva there was an entire section devoted to her (in the museum not the university) and I found my own hazy recollections of the story returning to the fore and even more detail being filled in. It was actually a tax protest! Who knew?

The rest of the museum I'm afraid I have to say I know little of, as I saw not really much more of it, other than a brief tour just before closing time, of an exhibit my 7 year old son dragged me to which appeared to be a celebration of war toys through the ages. Can't say that part met with my approval, although he really enjoyed putting on chain mail which weighed a ton.

We soon made contact with the rest of the EO attendees amongst whom was the very hallowed Iris Harrison, EO co-founder and all-round outstanding heroine. The fire of this lady still burns bright, and what she withstood to bring HE in the UK to a reality, really is quite astounding (google it).

Our meeting though, despite being a great opportunity to meet in the flesh, didn't manage to achieve a quorum and so we were unable to process any actual business.

And herein lies the rub. If we are to maintain not just a presence, but a relevance in the rapidly expanding world of HE in the UK, we really must find a way to get more folks to actively participate. To actually come to the events, especially the AGM. I'm sure we could all come up with some ideas to help achieve this.

Because if we don't, we may just end up a footnote to history, as the newbies flock instead to the entirely unaccountable and completely transient Facebook, where no one's privacy is safe, where the state can monitor us at will, and where any semblance of cohesion is entirely ephemeral and respect from authorities, nonexistent.

*Jonathan (Trustee)*

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### DRAFT Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Education Otherwise Association Ltd on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2015 At The Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry

#### PRESENT

| Trustees          | SUMs           |                   | Other Members |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Jonathan Adams    | Ljubica Adams  | Cornelia Muzael   | Iris Harrison |
| Anne Rix          | Paul Griffiths | Rebecca Griffiths |               |
| Edwina Theunissen |                |                   |               |

#### APOLOGIES

| Trustees            | SUMs           |                    |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Julie Arnold        | Brian Beers    | Vivienne Manning   |
| Lei Ashe            | Alison Botting | Kirsten Murray     |
| Shena Deuchars      | Sue Cardus     | Maged Muzael       |
| Vicki Hon           | Nicky Green    | Elizabeth Oselton  |
| Jill Ingle          | Anna Heffron   | Ian Oselton        |
| Fe Mukwamba-Sendall | Andrew Kennell | Rosemary Stace     |
| Hanna Newton        | Denise Kennell | Andries Theunissen |
| Kathleen Thompson   | Thomas Kennell | Coral Valentine    |

16 proxy votes were held by Trustees attending (including 3 from members personally present)

The meeting being inquorate by 2:30 pm (half an hour after scheduled start time) was adjourned to Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2:00 pm at the private home of a trustee. Meeting closed 2:35 pm.

# EO SIGNED-UP MEMBER (SUM) FORM / GUARANTOR DECLARATION

## EDUCATION OTHERWISE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

### Make Sure You Have a Vote at EO General Meetings

Only Signed-up Members are entitled to vote at EO General Meetings. These include Annual General Meetings (AGMs) where Trustees are elected, and Extraordinary General Meetings (EGMs) which may take place between AGMs. Even if you are unable to attend a meeting yourself, you can still have a vote by appointing a proxy to vote on your behalf.

*N.B. Please Complete Form in BLOCK CAPITALS and sign both sections*

I (FULL NAME) ..... Membership Number: .....

of Home Address (print in full): .....

.....  
wish to become a guarantor (Signed-up Member) of Education Otherwise Association Limited ('the Association').

I confirm that I am over the age of 18 and a paid-up family member of the Association. In the event of the Association being wound up I agree to contribute up to £10 in payment of any debts and liabilities it may have incurred.

I understand that the details I give on this form will be entered on to the Association's Register of Members and that under the Companies Act 2006 it is possible for someone to request sight of or a copy of this Register for a proper purpose. The Association may then disclose the details on this form.

I further understand that in the event of my ceasing to be a paid-up family member of Education Otherwise, or if at any time I resign as a SUM by written notification to EO's correspondence address, I will cease to be a guarantor and Signed-Up Member of the Association one year later.

Signed: .....

Date .....

### Communications by email

I consent to Education Otherwise sending or supplying any document or information (including any notice) to me using electronic means. My email address for this purpose is:

Email address (please print clearly): .....

Signed: .....

Date .....

Education Otherwise will continue to send any correspondence related to your Signed-up Membership to the email or postal address given on this SUM form until the Association is advised in writing by the SUM of resignation or that the address on the Register of Members should be changed. Such changes should be notified to Education Otherwise SUMs, at EO's Registered Office Address (check current with website).

Please return this form to: EO SUMs, Bridgend, Meadow Lane, Swaffham, PE37 8LE



## LOCAL HOME EDUCATION GROUP ORGANISERS

*if you have not yet renewed your*

### **PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR 2015-16**

*Your Group will no longer be covered  
by the EO Public Liability Policy!*

**BUT – You can still join the scheme for the remainder of the year  
(to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016) read on ...**

This benefit for Local Groups run by EO members continues this year, and the cost has been held at £10 per year **or part year** from 1<sup>st</sup> September. This is excellent value compared with insurance arranged by individual HE groups. As it is subsidised from EO funds (which means from the subscriptions EO members pay) there are some terms and conditions – for example, we ask for 3 EO family members to sign up to take responsibility for the group and to keep in contact with us.

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

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

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

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

Detailed guidance and application and renewal forms are available to download from the Member Home area of the EO website. To minimise work for volunteers, we would prefer 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, who will also answer any queries you may have (Anne is still acting):  
<[lgic@educationotherwise.org](mailto:lgic@educationotherwise.org)>

Please also drop me an email when you post off your form and cheque; this helps me keep up with the administration. *Anne* Local Groups Insurance Co-ordinator [lgic@educationotherwise.org](mailto:lgic@educationotherwise.org)

***N.B. please note the current PO Box address – PO Box 63, SWAFFHAM, PE37 9AT***

*[Sending to the old PO Box in Blackpool will incur significant forwarding delays]*

## LOCAL HOME EDUCATION GROUPS

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

**Group organisers** – please remember when giving details of events, that this list (both in Newsletter and on main area of website) may be seen by people who are not members of Education Otherwise, and adjust your information accordingly.

Please also notify us promptly of contact & other changes via the Local Groups Co-ordinator: [eolg@educationotherwise.org](mailto:eolg@educationotherwise.org)

### England

#### Bedfordshire

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

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

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

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

#### 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) Contact 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.

[www.bristolhomeeducation.moonfruit.com](http://www.bristolhomeeducation.moonfruit.com)

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

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

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

**Home Education in Bristol and the South West** – local website with information and links for groups, events and activities in Bristol and the surrounding areas + national info & resources.

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

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

#### Buckinghamshire

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

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

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

**Home Education Milton Keynes** – informal non-hierarchical group for HEs in Milton Keynes & surrounding areas. <http://www.he-mk.org.uk>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MadCows-MK/join>

**Milton Keynes Home Educators Network (MKHEN)** – Educational and social activities and events, online support groups, mentoring and an active relationship with the LA. <http://www.mkhen.org.uk>

Georgeanne 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) Contact

Taryn: [tarynearley@googlemail.com](mailto:tarynearley@googlemail.com)

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

**Expanding Horizons** (see Berkshire).

#### Cambridgeshire

**Cambridge Home Educating Community Activity List** – summary of sessions and regular groups in Cambridge. Karen: 01223 573220 [www.educationchoice.org.uk](http://www.educationchoice.org.uk) [karen@karenrodgers.co.uk](mailto:karen@karenrodgers.co.uk)

**Cambridge Home Educating Families (CHEF)** – for parents/carers who HE or considering HE. Morag: [morag2000@hotmail.com](mailto:morag2000@hotmail.com) 01223 464918 <http://www.cambridgehomeeducators.org.uk/>

**Cambridgeshire Home Educators** – Website all about HE-ing in Cambridgeshire including local groups and how to contact them. [www.cambshomeed.co.uk](http://www.cambshomeed.co.uk) Jane: [cambshomeed@gmail.com](mailto:cambshomeed@gmail.com)

#### Cheshire

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

**South Cheshire Home Educators** – Jacqui,

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

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

#### Cornwall

**Home Grown** – S E Cornwall HE Group - Alternate Mondays in Liskeard: classes in drawing & draughtsmanship/drama for ages 8-15. £6 per session. Contact Kath: 01579 340591

**Lostwithiel area HE group** – Started 2013 – range of HE activities, all welcome! Contact Samantha: [samsawinna@hotmail.com](mailto:samsawinna@hotmail.com)

#### Cumbria

**West Cumbria Home Education Group** – friendly group, members from all over W.Cumbria, structured or free range – All welcome!

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

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

**West Cumbria Home Educators** (including Keswick) – mutual support for HEs in West Cumbria:

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

#### Derbyshire

**Chesterfield Home Education Grop (CHEG)** – weekly meetings and days out for all ages: 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 HEs 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.

[www.hogco-devonrcc.org.uk/index.asp?pageid=279900](http://www.hogco-devonrcc.org.uk/index.asp?pageid=279900)

**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)

**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) Neil 01363 82314

<http://exeterhomeeducationcommunity.co.uk>

**FLAGS Home Education Group** – Exeter, every Friday. Friendly group for children of all ages. Contact: Lisa 07969299543 or Sue su.gold777@yahoo.co.uk

**Freedom Fields EHE** – Weekly social group for families [http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/PlymouthUK\\_HomeEd/](http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/PlymouthUK_HomeEd/)  
**NDHE (North Devon Home Educators)** – Meeting up for local trips and activities. Contact: [ndhomeed@gmail.com](mailto:ndhomeed@gmail.com)

**South Devon Home Education Group** – <http://www.southdevonhomeeducation.co.uk/> Contact Helen: 01803 390639 [helenlloyd-hoare@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:helenlloyd-hoare@blueyonder.co.uk)

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

## Dorset

**Bournemouth HEED** – Weekly Monday meetings. Contact Carol: 01202 677066 [carolstone@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:carolstone@yahoo.co.uk)

**Bournemouth & 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). Contact Emma: [bmth.home.ed@gmail.com](mailto:bmth.home.ed@gmail.com)

**HEoND (Home Educators of North Dorset)** – Friendly group meeting regularly in Sturminster Newton. Contact June: [bugchick@mac.com](mailto:bugchick@mac.com)

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

**HERA** – friendly group meets weekly in Poole. Provides support for HE families/prospective HE. Contact Tracie:

[scallieuk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:scallieuk@hotmail.co.uk)

## Durham

**County Durham Home Educators** - contact, information, activities, get togethers and trips.

<https://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/durham-home-educators>. Contact: Emma, [emmadfisk@gmail.com](mailto:emmadfisk@gmail.com)

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

## Essex

**Essex Home Education Yahoo Group** - Members organise HE events and meetings in Essex, and offer support, advice and encouragement to other Home Educators. Contact Lou: [louise.thorn@googlemail.com](mailto:louise.thorn@googlemail.com)

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/essex-he-e-group/info>

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

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

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

**WIGWAM Epping Forest** – A weekly informal drop-in group. Eleanor Stapleton 07866 701442 [elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk)

## Gloucestershire

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

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

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

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

**Glos Otherwise Club** Fiona 01684 290087

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

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

## Hampshire

**ActiveEO** – HE group based in West Sussex and Hampshire.

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

**East Hampshire Home Education Group (EHHE)** Social activities mainly for 5-11 yr but all ages welcome. Fields & playground.

Contact Alison: [a.johns@btinternet.com](mailto:a.johns@btinternet.com)

**FAREGOS Home Education Group** – HE group/email list for Fareham Gosport and South Hants.

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

**Hampshire FRHEBEEES (Free Range & Home Educated Bees)** – West Hampshire area and borders to arrange meet ups and activities. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FRHEBeees/>  
Contact Karen: 01425 652721

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

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

**SEEDS** – Meets every term time afternoon for sports/play + weekly full day activity. Southampton.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/seeds1/>

**South Hants Home Ed** – A support group for home educators

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

**Whitchurch HE Network**. Based RG28), member families across Hampshire and Wiltshire. Contact: [when\\_ac@yahoo.com](mailto:when_ac@yahoo.com)

## 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)

**Learning Begins In Wonder**. Free and subsidised events, resources and support to HE families in Hertfordshire and surrounding counties. Contact Mandy: [mandy.ansell@aol.co.uk](mailto:mandy.ansell@aol.co.uk)

## 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. Karen: [Karen@curvespace.com](mailto:Karen@curvespace.com) or 01983 568516 <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IWHomeEd/>

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

## Kent

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

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

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

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

Contact Sally: [sally\\_wilton@lineone.net](mailto:sally_wilton@lineone.net)

**SATHE (Supporting Autism Through Home Education)** – West Kent group open to all parents/carers HE/flexi-schooling or considering HE for children with autism/ sensitivities or learning difficulties. Contact Denise 07554 386844

[S-A-T-H-E@yahooogroups.co.uk](mailto:S-A-T-H-E@yahooogroups.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@yahooogroups.com](mailto:southeasthomeeducators-subscribe@yahooogroups.com)

Or contact Lesley: 07828193668 [lesley294@aol.com](mailto:lesley294@aol.com)

## Lancashire

**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, support and advice for all families who are home-educating (or considering HE) in Leyland and surrounding districts. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/he-l-lo/>  
**LEAD Home Education** – swap ideas, share stories and arrange local social gatherings. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lead\\_he/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lead_he/)

## Leicestershire

**HE-AL message board** – details of HE Events in Leicestershire. Site run by local HE groups, but open to all HERS in the Leicestershire area <http://he-al.weebly.com/index.html>

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

**Loughborough Home Ed** – meet for various regular/one off groups, including French and maths in Loughborough. Contact: [nicky-ed@co.asd.me.uk](mailto:nicky-ed@co.asd.me.uk)

**Stoneygate** – Weekly play session, £3.50 per family, including drinks. Large, safe, grassy area. Contact Cat: [catbellinger@gmail.com](mailto:catbellinger@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/homeedleicestershire/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/homeedleicestershire/)

## Lincolnshire

**Home Ed Lincs** – Yahoo newsgroup coordinating HE activities in Lincolnshire. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/home\\_ed\\_lincs/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/home_ed_lincs/)  
**Homeschool Lincolnshire** – active and supportive group, 40+ families incl. plenty of teenagers. Monthly events and activities list. Contact Elaine: 01507 328688  
[homeschool.lincolnshire@outlook.com](mailto:homeschool.lincolnshire@outlook.com)

**Lincolnshire HE** – [www.home-ed.ukf.net/index.htm](http://www.home-ed.ukf.net/index.htm)

**North Hykeham HE Group** – Weekly meetings, primarily for toddlers. 07870 787328 [debi-crow@googlemail.com](mailto:debi-crow@googlemail.com)

## London

**Adventures with Education (Hackney)** – A home education group based in Hackney London. <http://awe.gn.opc.org/>  
**Brandram Roaders** – Weekly meetings in term time. [rbyradburn@hotmail.com](mailto:rbyradburn@hotmail.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)

**Maggie Home Educators (East London)** – Phil 0208 500 1053

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

**WIGWAM** Jubilee Park N9. Informal drop-in group for families with children of any age. Contact Eleanor: 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/>

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

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

## Northamptonshire

**iFlow** – weekly HE community group in NW Northants. Support and friendships; parent-led and professionally-led educational activities. Wide range of resources, large community space, sports facilities and outdoor play. [www.iflow-he.org](http://www.iflow-he.org) Email: [welcometoflow@gmail.com](mailto:welcometoflow@gmail.com)

**Northants HE** – Informal group meets regularly for various activities <http://www.northantshe.org.uk/>

## Nottinghamshire

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

## Oxfordshire

**Expanding Horizons** (See Berkshire).

**OHED** – Website with information about HE in Oxfordshire [www.ohed.org.uk](http://www.ohed.org.uk) Louisa: [louisa.southey@gmail.com](mailto:louisa.southey@gmail.com) or 01865 735705

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

## Shropshire

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

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

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

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

**Shropshire Home Education** – For HERS in Shropshire area to chat

arrange meets etc. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/shed>

**Telford area HE** – Activities incl. skating football and drama sessions. For times and dates contact Denise: 07866 888879

## Somerset

**Bath HE Yahoo! Group** –

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

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

**North Somerset HE Group** – Weekly children's gym walks outings etc. Yahoo! group for members. Contact Vicky: 01275 848425 [victoria.preston@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:victoria.preston@yahoo.co.uk)

**Taunton Home Education Group** – Free play, arts & crafts, games, etc. <http://tauntonhomeed.blogspot.com/>  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tauntonhomeeducation/>

**Wells and Mendip HE Group (Wam)** – meet weekly for 'school age' kids, run by parents; variety of projects and activities. Contact: 01749 675176

**Wiveliscombe/Taunton** – Monthly meetings and regular outings. Contact Maggie: 01984 624651

## Staffordshire

**Mercia Education Group** – Regular, structured meetings, various venues in Lichfield and surrounding area. Academic base, many activities, wide age range.

<http://merciaeducationgroup.yolasite.com/>

## Suffolk

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

**Ipswich HE Wednesdays** – Shared lunch and activities. Contact Emma: [emma@natyem.co.uk](mailto:emma@natyem.co.uk)

**Ipswich town centre group + Book Club** – regular meetings.

Contact 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. Contact Jan: 01359 251184 [angusta@btinternet.com](mailto:angusta@btinternet.com)

## Surrey

**Dorking Home Educators** – fortnightly. Social and pre-booked activities, outings & trips. Amanda: [schrodigerscat81@hotmail.com](mailto:schrodigerscat81@hotmail.com)  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/DorkingHomeEducators/>

**Forest Families** – weekly meetings in Croydon. Sharing food, cooking & unstructured play in nature. Contact Maria: [mariaof.reyna@gmail.com](mailto:mariaof.reyna@gmail.com)

**Home Educators Learning Project (HELP)** – educational support, outings. <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/HELearningProject/>  
**Leatherhead Home Education Group** – Leatherhead and surrounding area regular day trips and activities. Chrissie: 07840285703 [christabelthorpe@hotmail.com](mailto:christabelthorpe@hotmail.com)

**Surbiton Home Ed Group (SHed)** – occasional field trips, picnics, workshops, etc. Contact Ingrid: [ingrid.meaker@mac.com](mailto:ingrid.meaker@mac.com)  
**Sutton/Epsom HE group** – Meets weekly and also monthly for outings. Contact Neia: [neia.glynn@btinternet.com](mailto:neia.glynn@btinternet.com)

**SW Surrey Home Ed** – Group for HE families based in SW Surrey and surrounding area. Weekly gatherings Farnham or Godalming. <http://www.swsurrey-home-ed.co.uk/index.php>

## Sussex

**ActiveEO** – HE Group W Sussex and Hants (see Hampshire)  
**Brighton and Hove Home Educators** – Information on HE events and groups in the area. <http://bhhe.wordpress.com/>  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bhhe/>

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

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

**HEDGE Home Ed Group** – Hastings/St. Leonards weekly social meetings + trips etc. [www.hedge-education.btck.co.uk](http://www.hedge-education.btck.co.uk) Beshlie: 01424 812870

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

**South Eastern Home Educators** – (Kent/Sussex) see Kent  
**Wealden Home Educators' Network (WHEN)** (SE England) see Kent.

## Warwickshire

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

**Warwick District HE** – Warwick/Leamington. Primarily for 0-11 but all welcome. Weekly meet for play etc. + trips etc. Contact Alison: 07782 299181  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/warwickhe>

## West Midlands

**Cradley HE Group** – small group of families meeting weekly for friendships and craft activities in Cradley Heath. Contact Kate: [katehstrickland@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:katehstrickland@yahoo.co.uk)

## Wiltshire

**Salisbury Plain Home Education Circle** – Parents who use the National Curriculum as guidance, but believe that best education comes from experience. Contact 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)

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

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

## Yorkshire

**DHE Doncaster home educators** Yahoo group for families in the Doncaster and surrounding areas. Contact Cheryl: 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 Scarborough and East coast area. Contact Lisa: [lisa\\_riley@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lisa_riley@tiscali.co.uk)

[henney-owner@yahoogroups.com](mailto:henney-owner@yahoogroups.com)

**Huddersfield Art Workshops** – Monthly 8 yrs plus. Jane: 01484 645034

**Huddersfield Book Group** – Monthly Marsden library. Jane 01484 645034

**Huddersfield Home Educators** – Monthly themed meetings. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wyhec/> Contact Mandy: 01484 460026 [meandchi7@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:meandchi7@yahoo.co.uk)

**NYHEC (group for HE parents)** – for parents HEing in North Yorkshire. [nyhecowner@yahoogroups.com](mailto:nyhecowner@yahoogroups.com)

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

**Rotherham Home Education** – friendly informal group for HERS in & around S Yorkshire. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RothHE/> Contact Pauline: 077764 06409 [collicanddyog123@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:collicanddyog123@yahoo.co.uk)

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

**Wakefield District Home Education Group** – Bowling, Ice skating, visits etc. Contact Tracey: [wakefieldHE-owner@yahoogroups.com](mailto:wakefieldHE-owner@yahoogroups.com)  
**Wildlings** – Meet weekly for in & outdoor fun, friendship, crafts, Montessori materials. HE Group for children under 8. Huddersfield. [www.wildforlearning.org.uk](http://www.wildforlearning.org.uk)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/wildlings.home.ed/>

**Yorkshire Home Edders Yahoo! group** – Friendly & active group with visits & workshops for children 8-16. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/yorkshirehomedders/>

## Regional Groups (England)

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

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

**East Midlands** – East Midlands HE Forum – inform & support HE families in E.Midlands. <http://groups.yahoo.com/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 [karenlow@uwclub.net](mailto:karenlow@uwclub.net)

**ActiveEO** – HE Group based in West Sussex and Hampshire. Contact number 01243 552168 [bevmats@btinternet.com](mailto:bevmats@btinternet.com)

**Home-EASE (Home Education for all South East)** – Group of HE families in SE England. 0753 1677 083 [homeeducatingmum@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:homeeducatingmum@yahoo.co.uk)

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

## South West

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

**HERS and Events SW** – network to support new HERS or those new to the area. New input welcomed. [southdheonic@gmail.com](mailto:southdheonic@gmail.com) <http://hecontactssandeventssw.yolasite.com>

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

## West Midlands

**Birmingham Home Ed (& W.Mids)** – meetings and events for HE families. <http://www.homeeducationbirmingham.org.uk>

**HELM** – home education group located mainly within the Birmingham, West Midlands area. Any and all home-educating parents welcome. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HELM\\_home\\_ed/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HELM_home_ed/)

## Isle of Man

**Home Educating Network - Isle of Man** – Informal group of parents HEing on the Isle of Man. Yvonne, [isleofmanlc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:isleofmanlc@educationotherwise.org)  
<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/hen-iom/>  
**Home Education on the Isle of Man** – Contact: Dawn, [sewellbunch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sewellbunch@yahoo.co.uk)

## Wales

**Cardiganshire** – group meets on one afternoon per week near Lampeter. Social with occasional activities. Contact: 01558 685521 [thislittlelightofmine@phonecoop.coop](mailto:thislittlelightofmine@phonecoop.coop)

### Carmarthenshire

**Carmarthen HE Group** – Regular meetings in Johnstown Carmarthen [caroline.milburn@yahoo.com](mailto:caroline.milburn@yahoo.com)  
**Carmarthen Home Ed** – Social group meeting weekly for play and chat, indoor and outdoor activities for all ages. Contact: Sarah, [birdgirlvintage@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:birdgirlvintage@yahoo.co.uk)

### Conwy

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

### Denbighshire

**Francysyllte 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

**Bridgend HE Community** – free play, GCSE classes, Arts Award, John Muir Award, outside speakers, activities etc. Contact Emma: [emmzr75@gmail.com](mailto:emmzr75@gmail.com)

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

**New Foundations HE** – Meets Cardiff weekly. Varied activities, all free. <http://www.newfoundationshe.com> 07913 955583  
[newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com](mailto:newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com)

### Gwynedd

**Creative Learning and Support** – Now meet every Wed. pm in Bangor. Contact Julie on 01286 678181 or Sarah on 01248 355182  
<http://www.creativelearningandsupport.co.uk>

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

### Monmouthshire

**Abergavenny HE Group** – monthly meetings at Abergavenny on first Wednesday of each month. £3 per family. Contact John: [john.cranna@btconnect.com](mailto:john.cranna@btconnect.com)

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

**Usk Home Education** – Monthly (Thurs) meet other HErs in the area for fun and games and cups of tea. Contact Roxy: [cdsnhf@gmail.com](mailto:cdsnhf@gmail.com) or 01989 768 128  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HerefordshireHE/>

### Neath Port Talbot

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

## Powys

**New Leaf HE Group (Newtown)** – Occasional meetings for varied activities all ages. [siouxcatsy@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:siouxcatsy@yahoo.co.uk)  
**Shiny Happy Children** – Regular meetings in Llanfyllin and surrounding areas. Katie [llanfyllinHE@gmail.com](mailto:llanfyllinHE@gmail.com)

## Regional Groups (Wales)

**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)

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

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

## Channel Islands

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

**Guernsey Home Educators** – Group of home educators and those sympathetic to home education in Guernsey. Contact by email to: [contactlegguernsey@gmail.com](mailto:contactlegguernsey@gmail.com)

## Northern Ireland

**HEDNI (Home Education Northern Ireland)**. Umbrella group for the whole of Northern Ireland; where a diverse community of smaller local groups and individual home educators can come together for peer support & information, to advertise and find events, and make connections. Contact Sarah: [sarah@hedni.org](mailto:sarah@hedni.org)

## International (UK based)

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

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### Please Note ....

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

If the first group you contact doesn't suit you, try others in the area or adjoining counties – often you'll find that members know of other activities nearer to you, that you can try. Or – why not start your own group? Email EO Enquiries (via 'Contact' tab on website) for information.

**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)

## Who does What in EO

**Current Trustees [Council Members]**  
*trustees@educationotherwise.org*

**Jonathan Adams**  
*jadams@educationotherwise.org*

**Julie Arnold** (Treasurer)  
*jarnold@educationotherwise.org*

**Shena Deuchars** (Membership Secretary)  
*sdeuchars@educationotherwise.org*  
*membership@educationotherwise.org*

**Rebecca Griffiths**  
*rgriffiths@educationotherwise.org*

**Vicki Hon**  
*vhon@educationotherwise.org*

**Jill Ingle**  
*jingle@educationotherwise.org*

**Fe Mukwamba-Sendall**  
*fsendall@educationotherwise.org*

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

**Edwina Theunissen** (Enquiries Secretary)  
*e.theunissen@educationotherwise.org*

**Kathleen Thompson**  
*kthompson@educationotherwise.org*

N.B. Email to:  
***trustees@educationotherwise.org***  
goes to all trustees

Address for general correspondence by letter:  
**Education Otherwise** [insert Dept. If known]  
P.O. Box 63, SWAFFHAM, PE37 9AT

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

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

**Webmaster:** Tom  
*webmaster@educationotherwise.org*

## Membership

Membership enquiries, address changes, membership cards, new member admin: please contact the Membership Secretary:  
*membership@educationotherwise.org*

or by post to:  
EO Membership, PO Box 63, Swaffham, PE37 9AT

\*\*\* N.B. NEW PO Box \*\*\*

## Other Useful Contacts

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

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

**GCSE/Exams email list:**  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HE-Exams-GCSE-A\\_AS\\_Levels-OU-Others/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HE-Exams-GCSE-A_AS_Levels-OU-Others/)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Flexi-schooling:** VACANT

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

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

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

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

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

**School Anxiety Support:** VACANT

**Single Parent Contact:** Sam Kruger 08445 003794  
*singleparent@educationotherwise.org*

**Special Needs:** Alisa: 01458 835569 / 07707 060973  
*send@educationotherwise.org*

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

**Treasurer:** Julie Arnold  
*treasurer@educationotherwise.org*

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

# education otherwise

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

Our principal aims are to:

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

Education Otherwise Association Ltd.

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

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

Helpline 0845 4786 345

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

Education Otherwise Association Ltd., Registered Charity No. 1055120

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Registered Office Address: Bridgend, Meadow Lane, Swaffham, PE37 8LE

