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Newsletter Winter 2016/17

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Deadline for the Spring issue is 1st February 2017

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

Anne Rix (Acting) eonl@educationotherwise.org

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

N.B. EO has a new address for general correspondence:

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

Section Editors

REVIEWS: Kerri – bookreviews@educationotherwise.org

Or EO Reviews, PO Box 63, PE37 9AT

Got an idea for a section you'd like to edit? Contact Newsletter Co-ordinator:

eonl@educationotherwise.org

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and keep writing well away from picture**

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Co-ordinatorial

There's a good deal about the recent AGM in this newsletter – it was one of those (like 2007 and 2010) that gave rise to some major changes. Please read the message from trustees below, the informal report from a member (page) and statements from newly-appointed trustees.

Though now retired as a trustee, I am still looking after the Newsletter for the time being – but if anyone else would like a go, please get in touch.

This is *Your* Newsletter

So please contribute to it, to make sure it reflects your interests! Many thanks to all our regular writers, and I look forward to receiving more 'out of the blue' contributions. Perhaps you have some ideas about 'Becoming a Reader' that you could share with others? It would also be great to have stories and drawings from home educated children.

Anne, December 2016

Send to: eonl@educationotherwise.org

Message from Trustees

The AGM in October marked something of a milestone for the organisation as long-standing trustees: Anne Rix, Edwina Theunissen, Shena Deuchars and Kathleen Thompson retired, having served a cumulative total of more than 20 years on the council. A vote of thanks was offered to the retiring trustees for their service. We are also grateful that some are continuing to serve as

volunteers. Tom Crellin, Graeme Evans and Barry O'Donovan (all of whom were co-opted during 2016) were elected as trustees and, immediately following the AGM, Denise Kennell and Ljubica Temelkoska-Adams volunteered and were duly co-opted. These five join existing trustees Fe Mukwamba-Sendall and Jonathan Adams to form your new council.

In addition, the two special resolutions were both passed and so the minimum number of trustees is now 6 (we currently have 7) and the council will begin preparing to convert to a charitable incorporated organisation (see explanation in the last newsletter). As well as the business of the day, we heard two fine talks: one on the early history of EO and the difficulties faced by home educating families in those days, by Iris Harrison; and the other a vision of the future of education, by Peter Humphreys.

At the time of writing, only a few weeks have passed since the AGM and your new council are still very much grappling with the handover and understanding their new roles. Some of the top priorities for the new council were discussed on the day of the AGM and these are:

- Bringing the membership database up to date and streamlining the joining/renewal process
- Completing the work to launch the new website
- Better engagement with both volunteers and members

I am happy to report that we have already made considerable progress on the first two of these priorities. Keep an eye on the website in the coming months as you should start seeing the fruits of these labours very soon now.

As I mentioned earlier, we currently have 7 trustees, which is above the minimum. However, it is still a long way short of the maximum, which is 15. Many hands do, of course, make light work. Therefore, if you would like to join the refreshed and energised new council, now is your chance. Please feel free to contact an existing trustee (contact details at the back of this newsletter) for an informal chat about what is involved and for information about how to put your name forward.

*Fe Mukwamba-Sendall, EO Chair
trustees@educationotherwise.org*

Home Education Around the World: Italy

By Corinna Spellerberg

All children who have turned 6 before December 31 and are not yet 16 are supposed to attend school in Italy. And even though home education is actually legal in the country and anchored in the constitution, it is not particularly well known or common, with no concrete numbers currently available. Some home ed families started to tackle this problem in 2011 by organising conferences and by networking.

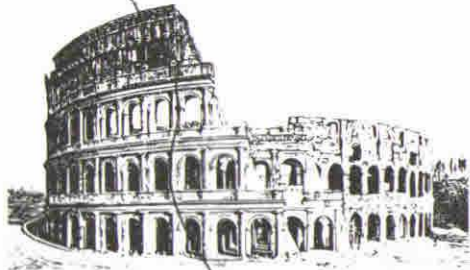
Similar to the UK, the law states that parents have the duty and right to support, instruct, and educate their children and education at home is officially recognised, with a few restrictions applying. Parents have to:

- notify the respective school authorities annually about their intentions;
- demonstrate their technical ability (the educating parent themselves must have completed two years of schooling beyond their children's level) and
- show economic capacity (sufficient financial means)



While parents may struggle to show they have these capacities without any guidelines or legal papers, proof has so far not been officially demanded, so this seems a fairly relaxed request.

There are no compulsory exams for home taught kids, but parents have the right to request for their children to be tested, and can apply by providing a personal curriculum in March or April of each year to the approving school for the June exams.



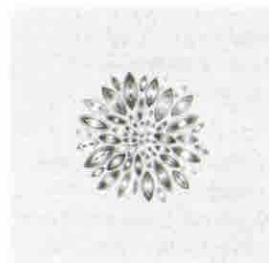
Websites and sources:

- <https://hslda.org/hs/international/Italy/default.asp> (Christian organisation that offers legal advice and help. The website usually also has some newspaper articles, but nothing recent on Italy, which may or may not be a good sign?)
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homeschooling_international_status_and_statistics
- <http://educazioneparentale.org/> (network of past, present and future home ed families; registration required; in Italian, but try using Chrome and Google Translate)
- <https://www.facebook.com/educazioneparentale/> (FaceBook page of above)
- <http://www.controscolotta.it/english/> (private page by a US/Italian mother of 5 who has also written a book about home education in Italy)

Gifts from Nature

Christmas time we really love!

As well as the jams and chutneys we make for gifts, bathbags are quick and easy to make. You need muslin, oats and dried petals (we use rose or marigold) or herbs. Cut a square of muslin (5-6" square) and put in some oats and petals or herbs of your choice. Pull the corners together and tie with a ribbon or small piece of muslin.



Another little gift we like to give visitors or put on the table on Christmas day is what call 'apple candles'. You need apples, tealights and



cloves.

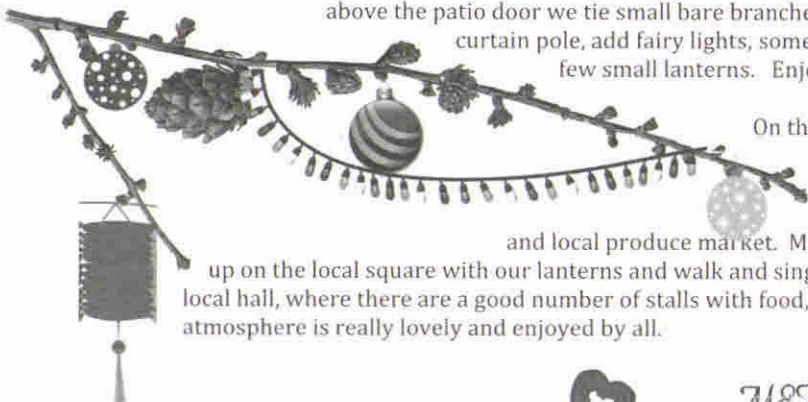
Cut the shape and size of a tealight in the top of an apple, put in a tealight and press some cloves into the apple around the candle.



Wreathes are another 'make' that is quite easy. We weave willow into a wreath and just add a bit of ivy or different greenery. We also use honeysuckle because when this grows it twines around in a spiral and you have a ready-made wreath - just twist the ends together to join.



We like to decorate the house with natural items too. I bring in a bare branch to decorate, and above the patio door we tie small bare branches onto the curtain pole, add fairy lights, some baubles and a few small lanterns. Enjoy!



On the 14th December in our village we are having a lantern parade

and local produce market. Many of us meet up on the local square with our lanterns and walk and sing carols to the local hall, where there are a good number of stalls with food, crafts, etc. The atmosphere is really lovely and enjoyed by all.

Carol & Amber, Dyfed



MERRY
CHRISTMAS



Musings of a Permanently Frazzled Mummy: A season of 'firsts'

Several decades ago when I started teaching, I used to get the kids to do some auto-biographical writing, and they would draft some ideas under the headings Firsts/Lasts/Bests and Worst to get their idea juices flowing. The last few months here in the Permanently Frazzled household could pretty much have come under the same headings.

My first 'first' is something I'm quite proud of: I've learnt to sand walls down using a noisy, whizzy machine, and have done a grand job of decorating both the ragamuffins' bedrooms. Normally, I start off helping hubby with decorating, then quickly get distracted (read 'bored!') and leave him to it. But this time, buoyed on by a potential move next year, I've spent over a week on each bedroom, filling holes, sanding bits down, even painting with gloss, which is something I've always assumed would be far beyond my meagre DIY skills. However, the rooms look great, and we're now in the final stages of prettifying each bedroom with unusual photo frames, flashing lights, a groovy disco ball for the gurlies, that kind of thing. We've spent far more than we intended, but the kids have rarely had anything new for themselves, so we wanted to treat them. I'm not sure we'll want to leave here when every room is looking as lovely as the bedrooms are though!



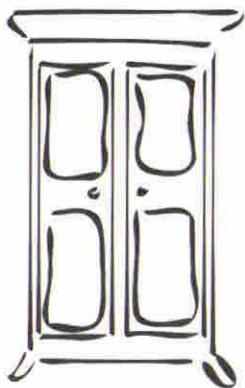
Since ridding the house of fresh paint fumes, we've been frequently vacuuming up tiny slithers of wood from assembling all the new bedroom furniture. We spent two weeks barely able to get through the door into our den, with many boxes of parts that would slowly combine to become a set of swanky bunk-beds for each bedroom (both sets able to take the weight of an adult: taking into account how expensive it is to leave home these days, we sensibly thought we better prepare for having at least some of the ragamuffins with us well into adulthood), with 4 new wardrobes set to be delivered a week later so as to stagger the workload of the little production line that it seems we've recently become.



We'd had to spend a blissful day at our nearest store of a certain, well-known Swedish company (definitely one of my 'bests' if you're interested!), measuring up different items, discussing the look the kids wanted for each room, and enthusiastically redesigning every room of our home, with no regard to available finances or space. I used to take our eldest for regular days out when he was a toddler and we were living in Nottingham, where we'd both devour meatballs to our hearts content, and drive home laden down with yet more items that we didn't really need, but somehow couldn't quite do without. These days, we're to be found munching on veggie meatballs, followed by dime cake, of course, but our enthusiasm for all things of Swedish style remains. The girls had never been before, but soon pronounced it their best place in the world to play, ever, and gleefully helped us load the trolley with goodies!



Having dismantled all the old wardrobes the day before our expected delivery, and piled up all four ragamuffins' clothes precariously on every available surface around the house, I was a tad upset to find out that someone at the store had inadvertently 'forgotten' to pick my items off the shelves and give them to the delivery company to send on their way.

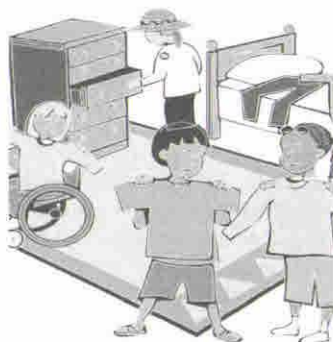


Customer services were delightfully helpful and apologetic, agreed with me that yes, someone obviously did need retraining, and offered to discuss some compensation when the items could be delivered. The earliest that would be was three weeks later, apparently. Three weeks of living in a disorganised charity shop with piles of clothing falling over each time one of us walked past, was something that my OCD just couldn't countenance.

So, I played my trump card: I proceeded to inform them that I write for an international publication, have an increasingly large audience, and would not hesitate to discuss the tardy and sub-standard service that I had received from their company, in my next article, whilst reminding them that negative publicity can be extremely damaging for a company in today's cut-throat world of competition. The line went quiet. I had to dig hubby in the ribs because his giggles were

becoming increasingly raucous next to me - he always enjoys the odd time I feel the need to make a formal complaint!

Needless to say, a manager very quickly intervened and assured me that my goods would be delivered the following week, that heads would indeed 'spin' for this gross incompetence, and that the company would not hesitate in reviewing their delivery procedure. I doubt that any of their promises will actually be carried out, but it tickled me to think that writing the odd 'musing' for EO could prove to be so useful! At the time, I declared that this was the first and last time that I would ever order anything from this particular store, but I'm already being tempted to renege on this by a rather attractive sideboard-type-thing that would look quite fetching in our lounge, when I finally get around to throwing paint round in there. My lack of stickativity amazes even me at times!



I've recently experienced a horrendous glimpse into the future: the boys had their first trip away from home with three nights spent at Caldecotte outdoor adventure centre with the youth team at church. I had reluctantly agreed with hubby that it would do them good, would be a safe environment for them to experience being away from home, might help us ascertain whether the eldest is indeed on the autistic spectrum, and would give us a few days to spend with just the girls for the first time ever.

The night before they left on the trip, I was an absolute mess, incredibly way more frazzled than normal, and my usually calm hubby was even threatening to call a paramedic if I didn't promptly get my asthmatic breathing under control. I just couldn't face the idea of being away from my babies, not being able to see them first thing in the morning and last thing at night, having to trust someone else with their well-being, which really doesn't come naturally to me. Having only been away from any of the ragamuffins whilst in hospital giving birth, or one night a year going to Cardiff for work, it was the first time, ever, that I was having to truly relinquish my control over my little nest. (I realise I'm not painting a very positive picture of myself here, but, readers, you have me, warts and all!) I begged him to cancel the trip, then when I realised he wasn't going to give in, pleaded with him to drive us behind the coach, so that I'd know they'd arrived safely. Fortunately for the boys, and any remaining

scrap of street cred that they've got simply from being my relatives, he refused that plea as well.

I do confess that once they were actually on the coach and I'd wiped away the couple of tears that had spilled over, I did get through the following four days without too many emotional upsets. (I won't mention the tears that surfaced each time they text me, or the frantic breathing that ensued each time the phone rang - well, it could have been an emergency, you know! - or the sobbing myself to sleep each night because I hadn't been able to give them a goodnight hug).



Needless to say, they had an amazing time with caving, archery, climbing, high ropes, zorbing, midnight bonfires, and generally having far too little sleep. The minute the coach pulled back into church though, really was a moment of sheer relief for me, and I think for the girlies as well. They'd missed the boys dreadfully, had both had a few episodes of upset (although that could have been encouraged by a certain someone's waterworks), and our home had just seemed rather empty. Setting the table for only four rather than six, getting through night-time showers in half the time, getting double the amount of sweets when we shared a pack, having much less squabbling in the car, none of it was, you know, normal.

I know that they will all have to leave home eventually, but for now, I want us to carry on in our little 'Waltonesque' world: always eating as a family, spending the large part of each day together, signing off each day with 'Goodnight ragamuffin one, goodnight ragamuffin two'.... Yes, I am a fruit-loop, and I'm sure I'm going to need more than one session of therapy when the time comes for them to start leaving home, but for now, I'm happy to bumble along in our little family bubble. We've already started to retreat for the Winter into the relative warmth of home, and have been enjoying our afternoons catching up on Victorian Slum and the latest series of Planet Earth, accompanied by bowls of popcorn and plates of home-made gluten-free goodies.

Ragamuffin three has just leapt into the world of reading, largely independently (incidentally the first member of the permanently frazzled household to do so without hours of phonics work!), and even the previously very reluctant male ragamuffin readers are asking for new books each time we're out shopping. We have five cinema trips planned as part of the Into Film festival, and my mum has treated us to Panto tickets for Boxing Day, but for the rest of the season, we'll be spending as much time as possible wrapped up in our fleecy blankets, challenging each other with numerous board games, probably having more screen time than is healthy, and just bumbling along as we in the permanently frazzled household like to do.



Festive greetings from all of us, to all of you.

Name and address supplied.



EO SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) News

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

Flexi Schooling

Whilst at first glance, flexi schooling may seem to be the ideal choice for a child with special educational needs and disabilities because of what the title suggests – ‘flexibility’. However, when we take a closer look, it does seem to be not so flexible. To be clear, this article refers to mainstream schools rather than special schools.

The Registration Complexity

Flexi schooling could be seen as an education that is part school and part home education; but to do it, your child will need to be registered at school. If your child already attends mainstream school, then you may feel it that it will make no difference but if not, then there has to be some thinking of the consequences of being registered at school. Legally, a child with SEND does not need to attend school (section 7 of the Education Act 1996) and so therefore does not have to comply with the usual obligations from a school or to notify the Local Authority, as it is the parent’s responsibility to take into account any special educational needs when they educate otherwise than at school. Not all special needs and disabilities are obvious or straight forward to deal with, so to give away some parental rights and real flexibility may be a very difficult decision.

An Agreement That Is Temporary

The process of flexi schooling is very much at the discretion of the Head teacher and would be by agreement between themselves and the parent (usually reviewed on a regular basis). Whilst there would be expected flexibility and support regarding the child, (e.g. when leave is needed during school hours for health appointments), the usual tests and following the curriculum would be expected as with full time school attendance (although there may be temporary exceptions if there are health problems, statements, Educational Care and Health Plans to consider).

‘Labelling’ Your Child

If the parent feels that their child may have a health condition but feels that with the correct support, the child may grow out of it, they may not want their child to be ‘labelled’ with a diagnosis (which would be the only way to have access to extra support in a school). There have also been cases where even when a child has a Statement of Special Educational Needs, the school will take the extra money to provide support but actually hold back from giving the specific type of help needed. These dilemmas could be an important factor in the decision to Flexi School.

Conclusion

If a child is missing time at school and really wants to be back in full time school, then flexi schooling could probably be the best approach; as it seems to be set up as a temporary measure to bring the child back into regular school hours.

References:

Education Act 1996: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/contents>

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

What is flexi schooling?: <http://www.gettherightschool.co.uk/what-flexischooling.html>

Flexi Schooling article: <https://www.theguardian.com/theobserver/she-said/2014/sep/25/theres-nothing-irregularabout-flexi-schooling>

Are Schools unfairly labelling children: <http://www.circleofmoms.com/political-debating-moms/are-schools-unfairly-labeling-children-in-order-to-receive-money-or-are-parents-in-denial-411903>

Should I label my kid?: <http://www.parenting.com/article/special-needs-children>

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

BECOMING A READER

Review, by Fe Mukwamba-Sendall, of:

Pattison, H. (2016) Rethinking Learning to Read. Educational Heretics Press. £11.99

Launched at the CPE-PEN Alternative Futures Conference in June 2016, this book gives a unique insight into how children learn to read outside the didactic teaching methods applied within the traditional setting of school. The book drew on Pattison's doctoral study of 311 home educating families who completed questionnaires on how their children acquired reading skills. The book is illuminated throughout by the voices, thoughts and experiences of home educating families. These families described radically different approaches and experiences from those experienced within mainstream educational settings and yet these children became able and proficient readers. It is acknowledged that the study is 'small scale', qualitative and exploratory, and that the responses may not necessarily reflect the experiences of all home educating families. Nonetheless this study not only provides new insights into the achievement of reading but challenges assumptions about learning (p.26).

Pattison questions the fundamental nature of 'teaching' reading, providing a clear and accessible overview of the concept, acquisition and participation in learning. It is noted that within the school system the acquisition of reading has become a 'method', a formulaic 'one size fits all' approach that sees failure to read as being with the child and not the method, while within schools children's participation and relationship to reading is limited by the didactic form of teaching and this in itself can kill the joy of learning. The study's responses highlight the diverse nature of approaches to acquisition of reading adopted by home educators. They may start formally by using a school-at-home approach or at the other extreme be totally child led; no matter what the original style, over time approaches to reading evolve in response to the child's needs. Parents see the child as an active participant, acknowledging a relationship exists between the reader and the subject; methods need to change to suit the child's interests and needs.

This recognition that children's needs vary with the individual child, that all children are different and learn differently, forms a central theme within the book. Pattison suggests that the application of an offshoot of chaos theory – 'complexity theory' (discussion pp. 187-92) – might be usefully applied to understand the diverse ways by which children acquire reading skills. Parents in the study highlighted that learning to read is not a linear process; that children can successfully read without knowing the alphabet or following the rules of phonics; that they can learn in what seems a haphazard manner, their reading following their own interests – thus mastering words deemed 'hard' before perceived 'easy' words.

Other important points are identified within this study. Parents were revealed to have a particular issue with the very notion of 'teaching', and were seen in their responses to reject the didactic of formal teaching relationships and guided learning approaches (as adopted within schools). Instead parents' responses exhibited an innate flexibility to learning; they co-created their approaches to reading with their children. Parents also viewed themselves as learners, learning how to assist their child's learning; thus parents were flexible, able to change their minds and their approach towards reading. Reading is seen by the parents to be a life event rather than a classroom-like 'teaching' event – reading is absorbed into the everyday life of the child and thus acquisition is far less formalised than within a classroom. Therefore, parents saw themselves as facilitating their child to acquire reading through day-to-day life via play, television, shopping trips, computers; reading was seen to be present in multiple possibilities rather than in the limited structure of formal 'let's read a book'.

Pattison usefully applies Lave and Wenger* (1981) and situates the acquisition of reading within home education in terms of 'community of literacy practice'. This allows the acquisition of reading to be recast not as a cognitive skill but as a social practice that is meaningful in the family setting. Parents encourage their children to become participants in the literate world that already exists around them; therefore, the parents' role is not to teach but to facilitate their children's peripheral participation in a broader culture of literacy for life (pp. 73-77).

The study allows a new lens to be focused on how children learn to read outside the traditional structures of a classroom. The fact that children do successfully learn outside the school system challenges theories that underpin models of teaching, and tests our fundamental notion of 'what is education?' and how we learn.

*Lave, J. and Wenger, E. (1991) *Situated learning: Legitimate peripheral participation*. Cambridge University Press.

Fe Mukwamba-Sendall is Chair of Education Otherwise and a 'retired' home educator. She is currently a doctoral student researching 'Local Authority policy and practices towards home education' and a registered (not practising) Social Worker.

Book Reviews

Hi everyone, a few crafty book reviews this time.

By Kerri: bookreviews@educationotherwise.org



The Usborne Big Book of Christmas Things to Make and Do

Usborne, Fiona Watts & Rebecca Gilpin, £9.99 ISBN 978-1409555674

This is a great art and craft book that can be pulled from the shelf year after year. It is split into five sections. The first has a variety of paper and card art including advent calendars, finger and hand-painted robins, angels and reindeer and other sparkly fairy pictures. The second part focuses on Christmas decorations, lanterns, beads and garlands. This is followed by six pages of Christmas stickers and a section on Christmas cards and wrapping paper. The last section includes some very simple and yummy Christmas Cooking recipes, including Christmas Tree cakes, coconut mice, fudge and gingerbread. All of the

craft ideas are very simple to make with clear pictures and instructions using basic materials such as paper, card, glue, glitter and paint and they provide endless fun for children of all ages.

Craft Techniques and Projects DK, £6.94 ISBN 978-1409383901

This is a comprehensive all-year craft book which contains a wide range of craft projects mostly for older children, but there are some that younger children would enjoy. The book contains sections on textile crafts, paper crafts, jewellery, ceramics and glass, candles and soap and eco crafts. The textile projects include tie-dyeing, fabric marbling, fabric and silk-painting and block printing. In the paper-craft section it shows you how to make paper and paper mache, scrap-booking, printing and decoupage. In the jewellery part there are projects on beading, silver wire-work and different types of beads made from clay. You can learn how to etch and paint in the ceramic and glass section, and make mosaics. There are three different soap and candle making ideas and the eco craft section includes basketry, rag-rugging, pressed flower work, recycling and many other projects. At the start of each section there is a description of the tools and materials you will need followed by a step by step guide to the process and techniques involved. For each process there is a worthwhile project to complete with clear pictures and instructions. The book is very colourful and has some fantastic projects from making tissue paper pom-poms to more complex screen printing on a scarf and making a patchwork bead-spread that will provide a wide range of practical art and craft skills.



Make Build Create - Sculpture Projects for Children

Black Dog Publishing, Paula Briggs, £ 13.46 ISBN 978-1910433706

This is an unconventional book with projects for the slightly more adventurous using plaster, modroc, clay, wire and other materials. It begins with a section on how to make the plaster and modroc and use them safely. The projects encourage children to be creative and imaginative with the different materials making sculptures including mini magnet structures with magnets and washers, nuts and bolts; a house using layers of cardboard for construction, a 3D pirate map with lolly pop sticks; wire insects and a sunken treasure ship out of plaster with embedded jewellery. Many of the projects can be completed by younger children but with close supervision with very unique 'art gallery' type

results. Paula also has a book entitled Drawing Projects for Children which is in a similar style with imaginative projects for all ages such as, 'Dress like a Caveman' using a white sheet as a canvass for cave drawings, drawing a picnic on a sheet whilst eating the food once drawn, drawing pouring water and dressing up as a fossil.

AGM Day at Coventry Transport Museum

Informal Report on the EO Meeting of 22nd October 2016

I had not been to an EO AGM for a very long time and so was very interested to meet members and trustees present that I had previously only read about. The venue in Coventry turned out to be accessible and very appropriate for the children who were with their parents and it was good to see quite a number already present when one signed in.

Initial introductions enabled one to start to know many of those there including Guest of Honour and founder member Iris Harrison whose story, some of which she agreed to retell, reminded one that long overdue essential breakthroughs especially in education have to be fought for and then defended.

With the number present enabling us to be quorate, this meant that the important business of the two special resolutions, to reduce the minimum number of trustees necessary for EO to function, and also to agree to start the process of restructuring EO as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation – CIO, were able to be voted on and approved. This latter is to enable EO to take advantage of the better facilities for conducting business that the newer format will give it as a charity while not changing any of its aims. Minutes and accounts were also approved along with the auditor's remuneration, while leaving open an option to agree any change in auditor later. With a considerable turnover of trustees also voted on, then there was also going to be a handover period necessary, so they could take up their roles enabling reasonable continuity.

With the formal business over, this gave time for the previously announced talk by Peter Humphreys whose work in advancing education in constructive new directions is already known to many through his involvement in the Personalised Education Now – CPE PEN movement. He was able to give background of how so many improvements were still overdue and why, and the part that important practitioners in these fields, like Roland Meighan and Philip Toogood had played during their lives, in opening up advances and so expanding the opportunities for parents who feel they need to be more directly involved in their children's education. Through the PEN website there is information about available resources, enabling flexi-schooling and other alternatives to be investigated by parents, to give them a wider choice for participating in such advances in their children's education. This is timely, since home education is a major decision for parents when they make that choice, and needs even more thought and consideration about its planning when family resources are being stretched as is usually the case. The other aspect that arises from studying such background material is that when groups of parents communicate together about the possible options for their educational aims for their children, then new possibilities arise from the co-operation that becomes possible.

Peter also made the case for liaison between home education organisations and other types of alternative education, indicating that there are possibilities for looking at international educational co-operation. However, effective advance will depend on communication and co-operation initially between parents, for which practical progress will need educational communication that will enable international projects being put onto an affordable basis for the majority of all families everywhere.

After reluctantly leaving such an interesting meeting one received another reminder of the urgency of applying such progressive ideas in education, when as one headed along the street, one passed the area in the city centre that was named Lidice Place in 1972. Here a plaque described the atrocity committed in Czechoslovakia in WWII against innocent families; probably only international education that is affordable can ever reduce the chance of such repetitions continuing.

Mike, Rye.

Ref: www.personalisededucationnow.org.uk

NEW TRUSTEE STATEMENTS

(from the three trustees who had been co-opted prior to the AGM)

Tom Crellin (co-opted 4th April, elected 22nd October 2016)

I am a home educator and business owner and was co-opted as a trustee in April 2016. It has been a steep learning curve for me to understand the internal workings of EO and I recognise that I still have much to learn. However, I believe I have already made a positive contribution in using by experience in business and in the running of other charities to begin looking at how EO is governed and improving our processes and policies. I believe that EO has a vital role to play in supporting and encouraging families on their home education journey, protecting the rights of families to make their own lifestyle choices and promoting knowledge, understanding and acceptance of alternative forms of education. I passionately want to make sure that EO remains ready, willing and able to carry out this role.

I live in East Sussex with my wife and my 12-year old autistic daughter whom we have home educated for the past four years. I have run a consultancy business specialising in IT, security and resilience since 2003. I also volunteer and sit on the board for a number of other charities and associations in community resilience and autism.

Graeme Evans (co-opted 1st August, elected 22nd October 2016)

My initial interest in home education arose in 2006, when our second child was born. I first joined EO in 2007 and we commenced home education of our two children in 2014. Having seen first-hand the benefits of home educating our children, I am philosophically opposed to any change in legislation which either restricts EHE or imposes conditions upon it that disrespect family autonomy and privacy.

I am strongly opposed to the imposition of a curriculum, or any form of 'in the home' or 'in person' monitoring and assessment of EHE children. I support the offering of additional support and services for EHE children generally, and particularly for those children with SEN who are currently disadvantaged by the education system and LAs failing to adequately provide service.

I want to see EO re-establish its reputation as the primary charitable organisation voicing, promoting, supporting and defending learning outside of the formal schooling system. I will work with Education Otherwise trustees to help in any way I can to broaden and deepen the membership base, provide meaningful support to members, update (where necessary) information about EO, EHE and EOTAS provision, conduct or commission research beneficial to EHE, and be actively involved with opposition to changes in policy towards EHE by local and national government.

Barry O'Donovan (co-opted 1st August, elected 22nd October 2016)

I have been a home educator and member of Education Otherwise since 1993, when my first child was three years old. I played a major role, along with their mother, in the home education of my three children from 1993 until 2010, when my youngest started at Sixth Form College. During this period I also worked part-time as a primary school teacher, mostly on a supply basis.

When my children were young I was - for a time, along with the mother of my children, the co-ordinator of a home educators' group that met weekly in a community centre in Lewisham, South East London.

I have edited several issues of Choice in Education newsletter and the Education Otherwise Newsletter (with my daughter). For the past couple of years I have been a volunteer on the EO Helpline, answering queries from prospective home educators.

My experience teaching in schools has led me to see from the inside how damaging schooling can be to children's health, and by implication the health of society as a whole.

Having been involved in HE and EO for a generation now, I am keen to help others to undertake what I believe has been the best thing I could have done for my children, and to promote education in families and communities as the healthiest and most holistic way for children to grow up, now and in the future.

LOCAL HOME EDUCATION GROUPS

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

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

N.B. Some groups have been removed due to lack of contact – if you wish your group to be reinstated in EO Newsletter and on Website, please contact Local Groups Co-ordinator:

eolg@educationotherwise.org

England

Bedfordshire

BedHed – for support and organising meet ups.

Contact Susan: susanthrossell@msn.com

<http://bedhed.org.uk>

Berkshire

Expanding Horizons – www.expandinghorizonsuk.com regular meet ups, trips, activities, and information for other Local groups. Rebecca: 01494 852484, expandinghorizonsuk@gmail.com

Heroes-HE – weekly Home Education Club at animal farm, with workshops, etc. www.heroesberkshire.co.uk/homeeducators.html

Bristol

Bristol Home Education – Local support group Bristol area. www.bristolhomeeducation.moonfruit.com

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

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. Terese: 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

High Wycombe home ed group – Friendly weekly group meet up with activities. Email: cm2002@yahoo.co.uk

Milton Keynes Home Educators Network (MKHEN) – Educational and social activities and events, online support groups, mentoring and an active relationship with the LA. <http://www.mkhen.org.uk>
Georgeanne 01908 662256 sienna-swift7@powernet.co.uk

South Bucks Home Educators – (& surrounding areas) Taryn: tarynearly@googlegmail.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 karen@karenrogers.co.uk

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

Cambridgeshire Home Educators – Website all about HE-ing in Cambridgeshire including local groups and how to them. www.camshomeed.co.uk Jane: camshomeed@gmail.com

Cheshire

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

Cornwall

South East Cornwall – (was Home Grown) Different courses and activities including Drama, Physics and English Lit. Kath: kafrevell@phonecoop.coop

Lostwithiel area HE group – range of HE activities, all welcome! Karen: kazincornwall@yahoo.co.uk

Cumbria

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

www.facebook.com/groups/WestCumbriaHE/
West Cumbria Home Educators (incl. Keswick) – mutual support for HErs in West Cumbria: WestCumbriaHomeEd@gmail.com

Derbyshire

Chesterfield Home Education Group (CHEG) – weekly meetings and days out for all ages. Sandy: sandymariott@gmail.com

Derby HE Group (DHEG) – Weekly Gym Club at sports centre with instructor. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/derbyhe/>
Lynsey: lynseyptic@ntlworld.com

Home Ed Buxton Area – Local meetings/activities for HErs and those considering HE
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/homeedbuxtonarea>

Devon

Dartmoor and SW Home Education Group. Based in 5. Dartmoor, All members may organise events and meet ups on our email list
Email: dartmoor-sw.he.group@gmail.com
<http://dartmoor-sw-he.yolasite.com/>

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

FLAGS Home Education Group – Exeter, every Friday. Friendly group for children of all ages. 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/
NDHE (North Devon Home Educators) – Meeting up for local trips and activities. Email: ndhomeed@gmail.com

Paignton and Torbay homeschooling – social meet ups, play and activities, twice weekly. Tessa: Tessacoles@hotmail.com

South Devon Home Education Group – near Totnes
<http://southdevonhomeeducation.yolasite.com/>
Ambuka: ambuka5planets@yahoo.com

Stover HE Group – Informal educational and social meets in local and surrounding areas. Email: stoverhegroup@gmail.com

Dorset

Bournemouth HEED – Weekly Monday meetings.
Carol: carolstone@yahoo.co.uk 01202 677066
Bournemouth & Poole Home Educators – play dates, trips/visits, etc. Emma: bmth.home.ed@gmail.com
http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Bournemouth_and_Poole_HomeEducators/?yguid=419936795

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

June: buchick@mac.com

www.facebook.com/groups/NorthDorsetHomeEducation

HERA – friendly group meets weekly in Poole. Provides support for HE families/prospective HE. Tracie: scalleuk@hotmail.co.uk

Durham

County Durham Home Educators – information, activities, get-togethers and trips. Emma, emmadfisk@gmail.com

<https://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/durham-home-educators>

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

Essex

Essex Home Education Yahoo Group - Members organise HE events and meetings in Essex, and offer support, information and encouragement to other Home Educators.

Lena: essexhomeedmod@btinternet.com

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

Haverhill HE – Covering South Suffolk/North Essex.

Eve 01440 788228 or 07768 763913 wixde@yahoo.co.uk

Southend HE Group – Meets weekly. Lots of outings and activities.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/southendhomeeducation/> or

Email: southendhomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk

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

Eleanor Stapleton 07866 701442 elmajose2@yahoo.co.uk

Gloucestershire

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

Roxy: cdshf@googlemail.com

Glos HE – HE links and local resources in and around

Gloucestershire. www.gloshe.org.uk/

Glos Otherwise Club – Fiona 01684 290087 or Email:

brookesfam@tiscali.co.uk

Stroud email list – different activities arranged via email list.

Nick: nick@nickweir.co.uk 01453 840036

Hampshire

ActiveEO – West Sussex and Hants <http://www.activeoe.com/>

self-help group for home educators living near the south coast.

Cate: bevmats@btinternet.com

Basingstoke Under 10s – Academic club plus regular meet ups in different locations. Vanessa: education@zee2a.com

East Hampshire Home Education Group (EHHE) Social activities,

mainly for 5-11 yr but all ages welcome. Fields & playground.

Alison: a.johns@btinternet.com

FAREGOS Home Education Group – Fareham, Gosport, S. Hants.

Several meetings each week for sports, social activities, art, maths and English tuition for GCSE.

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

Hampshire FRHEBEES (Free Range & Home Educated Bees) –

West Hampshire area and borders to arrange meet ups and

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

Karen: 01425 652721

Home Education Network Hants, near Winchester, ages 0-13.

Range of activities + regular club. homeednetwork@outlook.com

North Hampshire HE Group – Regular activities and meetings

organised, suitable for all ages. Email: jakimparsons@gmail.com

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

Portsmouth Home Education Group – HE or interested in HE

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

SEEDS – Southampton, every term time afternoon for sports/play

+ weekly full day activity. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/seeds1/>

Herefordshire

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

Hertfordshire

Herts Home Educators – Yahoo! group for Hertfordshire home educators. Email: newhomeeducators@gmail.com

Learning Begins In Wonder – Free and subsidised events, resources and support to HE families in Hertfordshire and surrounding counties. Mandy: mandy.ansell@aol.co.uk

Isle of Wight

Isle of Wight Learning Zone – Network of HE families

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

IW Home Ed – Facebook & yahoo group for any and all home

educators on IoW. Karen: Karen@curvespace.com 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 01304 814362.

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

HEarts & Minds – Hernehill, various games, arts, crafts and organised

activities. Davinia: daviniaedmunds4@gmail.com

Kent ASD Home Ed – For parents/carers of ASD/Aspergers

children who are educating them 'otherwise'.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/asd-home-ed-medway>

Medway and Maidstone HE activity group (HE Omega) – Group of

home educating families in Medway and Kent.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HE-omega/>

Esther: e.selhi@yahoo.co.uk

Rochester HE Group – weekly meetings Tuesday afternoon.

Sally: sally_wilton@lineone.net

SATHE (Supporting Autism Through Home Education) – West

Kent group open to all parents/carers HE/flexi-schooling or

considering HE for children with autism/sensitivities or learning

difficulties. <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/S-A-T-H-E/>

Denise: 07554 386844 or Email: S-A-T-H-E@yahooagroups.co.uk

South East Home Educators – (Kent/Sussex) Meet regularly for

trips, hall meets, swimming etc. To join Yahoo! group email:

southeasthomeeducators-subscribe@yahoagroups.com

or Lesley: lesley294@aol.com 07828 193 668

Lancashire

Boneheds – Help support information and friendship to families

home educating (or considering HE) in Bolton Lancashire and

surrounding districts. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/boneheds/>

Home Ed Leyland – Friendship, support and advice for all families

who are home-educating (or considering HE) in Leyland and

surrounding districts. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/he-1-1-0/>

LEAD Home Education – swap ideas, share stories and arrange

local social gatherings. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lead_he/

Leicestershire

HE-AL message board – details of HE Events in Leicestershire. Site

run by local HE groups, but open to all HErs in the Leicestershire

area. <http://he-al.weebly.com/index.html>

Leicestershire Christian Home Educators – monthly meet up

every 3rd Tuesday. Free play opportunity in a safe and fun place.

HE Off-Peak Pass available: £1.50 per child £5 per family, free

drinks. All welcome! Email: mrsamarshall@googlemail.com

Loughborough Home Ed – meet for various regular/one off

groups, including French and maths in Loughborough. Email:

nicky-ed@co.asd.me.uk

Stonegate – Weekly play session, £3.50 per family, including drinks. Large, safe, grassy area. Cat: catbellinger@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/groups/homeedleicestershire/

Lincolnshire

Home Ed Lincs – Yahoo newsgroup coordinating HE activities in Lincolnshire. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/home_ed_lincs/
Homeschool Lincolnshire – active and supportive group, 40+ families incl. plenty of teenagers. Monthly events & activities list. Elaine: homeschool.lincolnshire@outlook.com 01507 328688

London

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

Brandam Roaders – Weekly meetings in term time. rubyradburn@hotmail.com

Home Study Groups – small group of HE families pooling resources for tutored home study groups. ingie.iberitt@gmail.com 0203 566 8706

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

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

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

Norfolk

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

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

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

Northamptonshire

iFlow – weekly HE community group, NW Northants. Support and friendship; parent-led and professionally-led educational activities. Wide range of resources, community space, sports & outdoor play. E: welcomeflow@gmail.com W: www.iflow-hi.org

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

Nottinghamshire

Notts Sheep Special – Online support group for HE parents of special needs/differently-abled children in Nottinghamshire & bordering counties.

http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Notts_Sheep_Special/

Oxfordshire

Expanding Horizons (See Berkshire).

OHED – Website with information about HE in Oxfordshire www.ohed.org.uk Louisa: louisa.southey@gmail.com or 01865 735705

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

Shropshire

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

Oswestry and surrounds. Regular meetings around area. Katie: llanfyllinhe@gmail.com

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

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

Rushbury/Stretton HE Group – Parent and child-led activities & people from the wider community. Beverley: 01743 718429
Shropshire Home Education – For HEs in Shropshire area to chat arrange meets etc. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/shed>
Telford area HE – Activities incl. Skating, football and drama sessions. Denise: 07866 888879

Somerset

Bath HE Yahoo! Group – <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/BathHomeEducation/>
HEY Yeovil – All HE families welcome. Lyn: 01963 23669 heyeovil@hotmail.com

North Somerset HE Group – Weekly children's gym, walks, outings etc. Yahoo! group for members. Vicky: 01275 848425 victoria.preston@yahoo.co.uk

Taunton Home Education Group – Regular events and meet ups in Taunton; range of classes and workshops across Somerset www.tauntonhomeeducation.com
Email: tauntonhomeeducation@gmail.com

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

Staffordshire

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

Suffolk

Haverhill HE group – South Suffolk/North Essex. Eve: wixde@vahoo.co.uk 01440 788228 or 07768 763913

Ipswich HE Wednesdays – Shared lunch and activities. Emma: emma@natyem.co.uk

Ipswich town centre group + Book Club – regular meetings. Lisa: llw_llg@yahoo.co.uk 07538 102322

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

Surrey

Dorking Home Educators – fortnightly. Social and pre-booked activities, outings & trips.

Amanda: schrodingerscat81@hotmail.com
<http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/DorkingHomeEducators/>

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

Maria: mariaf.reyna@gmail.com

Home Educators Learning Project (HELP) – educational support, outings. <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/HELearningProject/>

Leatherhead Home Education Group – Leatherhead and surrounding area regular day trips and activities.

Chrissie: christabelthorpe@hotmail.com 07840285703

Surbiton Home Ed Group (SHED) – occasional field trips, picnics, workshops, etc. Ingrid: ingrid.meaker@mac.com

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

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

Sussex

ActiveO – HE Group W Sussex and Hants (see Hampshire)

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

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

Eastbourne EO Group – Regular gatherings & activities. <http://www.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 Catherine: 01424 812213

HEDGE Home Ed Group – Hastings/St. Leonards weekly social meetings + trips etc. www.hedge-education.btck.co.uk

Beshlie: 01424 812870

JIGSAW – social events, educational group excursions, curriculum support, etc. Email: lellot@gmail.com

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

Wealden Home Educators' Network (WHEN) see Kent

Warwickshire

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

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

West Midlands

Cradley HE Group – small group of families meeting weekly for friendships and craft activities in Cradley Heath. Kate: katehstrickland@yahoo.co.uk

F.R.E.E. HE Group (Shropshire) – Free Range Exciting Education Group meets once a week for a variety of fun & educational activities including trips. Jan: freeheg@yahoo.co.uk

Wiltshire

Salisbury Plain Home Education Circle – Parents who use the National Curriculum as guidance but believe best education from experience. Dee: dee.dilloway@yahoo.com 07753 260317

Worcestershire

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

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

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

Yorkshire

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

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

Lisa: lisa_riley@tiscali.co.uk henney-owner@yahooagroups.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/>

Mandy: meandchi7@yahoo.co.uk 01484 460026

NYHEC (group for HE parents) – for parents HEing in North Yorkshire. Email: nyhecowner@yahooagroups.com

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

Judith: 01756 791356

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

Pauline: collicandycandydog123@yahoo.co.uk 077764 06409

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

Wakefield District Home Education Group – Bowling, Ice skating, visits etc. Tracey: wakefieldHE-owner@yahooagroups.com

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

Huddersfield. Penny: pennyclarkson@yahoo.co.uk

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

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

Regional Groups (England)

East of England –

East Midlands – East Midlands HE Yahoo Group (EMHE)

inform & support HE families in E. Midlands.

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

Katya: katyalamb@aol.com

North East England – North East Home Educators Thriving group with several activities in the region happening every day! We welcome new members. Treena: treenaferwick@gmail.com

South East

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

Karen: karenlow@uwclub.net 01732 864524

ActiveEO – HE Group based in West Sussex and Hampshire

[See Hampshire for details]

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

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

South West

Home Education Centre (Devon/Dorset/Somerset) –

<http://www.homeeducationcentre.org.uk> Parent run co-operative group for HE families in Somerset, Dorset and Devon.

Julie: julia@homeeducationcentre.org.uk

HErs and Events SW – network to support new HEs or those new to the area. New input welcomed: southdevonhc@gmail.com

<http://hecontactssandeventssw.yolasite.com>

HE in Bristol and SW – see Bristol

West Midlands

HELM – home education group located mainly within the Birmingham, West Midlands area. Any and all home-educating parents welcome.

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

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

Home Education on the Isle Of Man –

Dawn: sewellbunch@yahoo.co.uk

Wales

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

thisttlelightofmine@phonecoop.coop Mia: 01570421529

Carmarthenshire

Camarthen HE Group – Regular meetings in Johnstown,

Carmarthen. Email: caroline.milburn@yahoo.com

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

Sarah: birdgirlvintage@yahoo.co.uk

Conwy

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

Denbighshire

Froncsyllte HE group – Fortnightly group meets 10-4pm. Social play and chat. Email: vivodsam@gmail.com

Flintshire

Flintshire Home Education – Regular meet ups activities & support. Email: flintshirehomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk

Glamorgan

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

Emma: emmzr75@gmail.com

Cardiff Home Education Group – Meets Mondays during term time, in Pontcanna. Social group children all ages, everyone welcome. Sarah: cardiffhomeeducationgroup@gmail.com
www.cardiffhomeeducationgroup.wordpress.com

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

Swansea Home Educators – group of EHE families from Swansea and surrounding areas. Eleanor: eleanoreva@aol.com

Gwynedd

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

Langower HE Group – Weekly meetings.

Email: rowenna73@hotmail.com

Monmouthshire

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

John: john.cranna@btconnect.com

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

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

Roxy: cdsnhf@gmail.com or 01989 768 128

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

Neath Port Talbot

Solid Foundations – Low cost or free activities, sessions and trips for all ages/abilities. Hayley: hayleydraco@gmail.com

Powys

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

Regional Groups (Wales)

Cymru ALN - HE & EOTAS: (Wales, Special interest and SEN)

Wales-wide support group for Home Educators of children & young people with Additional Learning Needs, (SEN).

Email: cymrualn@gmail.com

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

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

New Foundations – HE group and charity offering social & educational activities and support in Cardiff and South Wales.

Every Mon 10am - 3pm. All HE families welcome.

www.newfoundationshe.com

Jayne: 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/when/>

Channel Islands

Home Education Jersey – Home education group.

Jess: homeeducationjersey@gmail.com

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

Email: legguernsey@gmail.com

Northern Ireland

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

Scotland

Edinburgh & Beyond Home Educators – <http://www.ebhe.org.uk>

Large online network of families, wide variety of groups, many different social and educational activities in & around Edinburgh.

Email: @ebhe.org.uk

Home Education/Schooling Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen lots of educational meets. Email: mykidshomeschool@yahoo.com

International (UK based)

HE-DS (Home Educating a child with Down's syndrome) – Linking families who are home educating a child with Down's syndrome.

<http://www.oakwellbarns.co.uk> Facebook group (private, by invitation) by email to: oakwellbarns@gmail.com

Please Note

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

If you know of a group that's not listed, please ask the group organiser to enter it at www.educationotherwise.net or email EO Local Groups Co-ordinator:

eolg@educationotherwise.org

EO PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

Almost all venues now ask for Home Education Groups to have public liability insurance, to cover against accidental damage to the venue or injury to third parties while on the premises. EO can provide this for just £10 up to 31st August 2017

Detailed guidance and an application form are available to download from the Member Home area of the EO website or by email from the Local Groups Insurance Co-ordinator.

Thank you to those who have already renewed. If you're doing it now, please drop me an email when you post off your form and cheque; this helps me keep up with the administration.

Queries/Further information from Anne:

Local Groups Insurance Co-ordinator:

lgic@educationotherwise.org – 01760 441810

Who does What in EO

Current Trustees [Council Members]

trustees@educationotherwise.org

Jonathan Adams (Publications Secretary)

jadams@educationotherwise.org

Tom Crellin (Treasurer, Secretary)

tcrellin@educationotherwise.org

treasurer@educationotherwise.org

Graeme Evans (Membership Secretary)

g.evans@educationotherwise.org

membership@educationotherwise.org

Denise Kennell

d.kennell@educationotherwise.org

Fe Mukwamba-Sendall (Chair)

fsendall@educationotherwise.org

Barry O'Donovan (Enquiries Secretary)

b.odonovan@educationotherwise.org

Ljubica Temelkoska-Adams

l.temelkoska.adams@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]

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

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

WEBSITE: *www.educationotherwise.net*

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,

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

Other Useful Contacts

Anti-Bullying Contact: Kathleen Thompson
01942 89 77 79

Benefits & Work Guides:

send@educationotherwise.org

GCSEs at Home: Louise 08445 003 688

GCSE/Exams email list:

*http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HE-Exams-
GCSE-A_AS_Levels-OU-Others/*

HE Exams Wiki: *www.home-education-exams.org.uk*

Exam Centres list: *http://he-*

exams.wikia.com/wiki/Finding_an_exam_centre

Concessions Co-ordinator: Cornelia Theunissen

c.theunissen@educationotherwise.org

Dylexia Contact: Iris Harrison

Irisharrison6@aol.com

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

Flexi-schooling: VACANT

Local Contacts Co-ordinator: Lei Ashe

lcco-ordinator@educationotherwise.org
(or via Enquiries Secretary)

Local Group Insurance: Anne Rix

lgic@educationotherwise.org

Local Groups Listings: Kennell Family

eolg@educationotherwise.org

Newsletter Coordinator: VACANT (Anne Rix Acting)

eonl@educationotherwise.org

School Anxiety Support: VACANT

Single Parent Contact: Sam Kruger 08445 003794

singleparent@educationotherwise.org

Special Needs: Alisa; 01458 448286 / 07401 421903

send@educationotherwise.org

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

Volunteer Co-ordinator: Wendy Knight

vol-coordinator@educationotherwise.org

Note new postal address !!!



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.

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

**** NOTE NEW ADDRESS ****

Helpline 0845 4786 345

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

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

