

education otherwise



Newsletter  
Winter 2017-18

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

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

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

*N.B. EO postal address for any other correspondence (not newsletter):*

2 Senlac Green, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1NN

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### Section Editors

**REVIEWS – Kerri:** bookreviews@educationotherwise.org Or: EO Reviews, PO Box 63, PE37 9AT

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

### DISCLAIMER

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

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

### EDITORIAL POLICY

Submission does not guarantee publication. EO reserves the right to edit or reject contributions in line with editorial policy.

**PLEASE NOTE:** We normally print only first name and Town or County of adult EO members. If you wish you may use a pseudonym, but we still need your full name and address for administrative purposes. For **CHILDREN'S CONTRIBUTIONS:** We print first name and age – but again, we also need family name and contact details (of parent). **We do not print anonymous contributions.**

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Membership Secretary, Education Otherwise, 2 Senlac Green, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1NN*

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### Co-ordinatorial CHILDREN PLEASE READ (also parents)

I'm sorry this issue is a bit on the late side. There's been a great deal going on, including rather too much 'Granny Duty', which has meant delay in getting it to the printer.

However, it has ended up as a rather more extended issue than usual, and I hope will keep you entertained well into the New Year. Many thanks to all our regular and new contributors. If you enjoy reading, please consider writing something yourself.

We'd really love to have some more drawings from EO children – maybe for the cover? Also stories, poems... whatever you want to write about. We only print your first name and age, but we still need to know your family surname and contact details so that we can contact you/your family if there is any query about your message or drawing. So please include your email or phone number, and postcode.

I still have a drawing from a child, with no contact information at all – so I have been unable to print it. If you think that might be yours, please ask your parents to email, phone or write to me before next issue.

Clue – it involves a trampoline ...

*Anne, December 2017*

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Education Otherwise Assoc. Ltd.

For the year ended 30 June 2017

We apologise for the delay in holding the AGM, which was caused by the need to resolve an internal issue before calling the meeting. The AGM was scheduled for the 13th January. Notices were sent to Signed-Up members in December and a copy placed in the members section of the website.

**Apparently, some members have also received a letter claiming to be the notice of a "legitimate AGM" to be held on the 28th January. This notice is not in any way legitimate. It is an attempt at discrediting EO and its management by a group of disgruntled individuals. We apologise to those who have been inconvenienced by this irresponsible action and would like to reassure you that we are already taking legal advice and working to resolve the matter as swiftly as possible.**

Information about the official AGM can be found on the website. Minutes and reports will also be published as soon as they become available.

*EO Trustees, January 2018*

## VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

EO relies on the generous support of both members and volunteers who feel it is important to contribute to the home education community.

At present, we are short of **Local Contacts** in several areas – please see article on page 13 – and it would be useful to have additional volunteers to fill the **telephone Helpline** rota.

Anne is always hopeful of finding someone to take over the job of **Newsletter Co-ordinator**. For more information just drop a line to [eonl@educationotherwise.org](mailto:eonl@educationotherwise.org) or ring 01760 441810 (leave message if no reply)

If that doesn't appeal, we have a number of different volunteer roles available to suit; whether you have many hours to spare or just a few minutes. There's no obligation and we'll be happy to discuss with you what is involved.

To find out more please **contact EO's Volunteer Co-ordinator:**

**Wendy** <[vol-ordinator@educationotherwise.org](mailto:vol-ordinator@educationotherwise.org)> who will point you in the right direction.

## YOUNG WRITERS PAGES

It's exciting that more contributions from younger members of EO families are coming in to the NL. This seems to be growing into a regular section! There's more in the pipeline, but if you'd like to add your stories, poems, drawings etc., or to make suggestions, please send them along.

We can type up from handwriting, arrange formatting, etc. Only – *please* make sure you include family contact details in case we need to get in touch with you or your parents.



Anne, EONL Co-ordinator (see inside front cover for contact details)



### The Three Crazy Friends

Once upon a time there was a crazy creature named Chomp. He was from Crazy Creature Land. Chomp was a slug. One day he was kidnapped by Crazy Creature Villain and Fly Catcher wondered, *where did he go?* But Smelly could smell him and he told Fly Catcher where to find him. Fly Catcher was fighting with Crazy Creature Villain and Crazy Creature Villain was about to win but Fly Catcher used his eye laser and defeated him. Fly Catcher and Chomp headed back and lived happily ever after in Crazy Creature Land. Very happily indeed.

Jason (7)

[I am told that 'a grown up' helped Jason with spelling - Anne]



### The Empty Inn

[our continuing saga ...]

#### Part Four: Dark in the Light

Instead of darkness, there was light. Blinding bright white light. He couldn't see a thing. He put his hands out in front of him and felt resistance, like water, and in doing so he dropped the torch. A beam of darkness came from it; in it he could see the shapes of things. He reached down to where the torch must have been and picked it up. He looked around. He could see a lot more now, fuzzy shapes of tables and chairs loomed out of the dark. Ghost-like figures moved around him, not seeing him. And everything was eerily silent, even his footsteps made no sound.

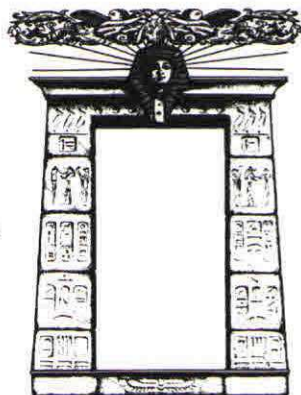
Then he saw it. A white double door, ornately carved with mythical creatures and faces.

He walked over to the door and was just stretching his arm out to push it open when one of the faces moved and spoke. 'Many do not get this far' it said. 'And you may not pass without answering three riddles correctly.'

He let his arm drop to his side and nodded.

The face twisted into what must have been a smile. 'Answer me this', it said.

'What always runs but never walks,  
often murmurs but never talks,  
Has a mouth but never eats,  
has a bed but never sleeps.'



He got it straight away, but when he tried to say the answer no sound came out. It's a river, he thought and the face said 'correct'. Water started to trickle out of a hole in the door. 'Next riddle.'

'Die without me, never thank me. Walk right through me, never feel me.

Always watching, never speaking. Always lurking, never seen.'

This one took longer, but he eventually got it. Air, he thought, and the face said 'correct'. A gale started to blow and the trickling water turned into a stream. 'Last riddle.'

'What force and strength cannot get through, I with a gentle touch can do,  
And many in the street would stand, were I not a friend at hand.'

He was stumped. A - a friend?

'Wrong,' the face said, smiling triumphantly. 'Two goes left.'

He was struggling with the one. A door?

'Wrong.' The water was coming faster and the gale became stronger. Then he got it.

Half the answer was staring him in the face. A door needed a lock, and a lock needed a key. It's a key! He thought, and the face said, 'correct.' Its mouth opened and a keyhole appeared in the middle. The water and the gale slowed to a stop and a key appeared in his hand. He put the key in the lock and turned it. The door



swung open to reveal the next room ...

[To be continued next issue.]

by Amber age: 14 (The Barefoot warrior.)

### Computer-free H.E. – Fun in the Workshop

Last year turned out busier than I expected. Apart from work and generally looking after home and garden, I was asked to run a lantern-making workshop. I said 'yes' and then thought to myself – *how do I make one?* So Amber and I went to a lantern workshop and we really enjoyed the day. I made a small lantern to carry on my own, and Amber was in a group making a really big star. The Cardigan Lantern Walk was on 8<sup>th</sup> December: we went last year and loved it – so we went this year also.

The workshop I took was with a group of other crafters doing different crafts, where anyone can come in and have a go; that was on 2<sup>nd</sup> December in Canolfan Hermon. I also held a natural Christmas wreath making workshop at my home, with mulled wine etc. – that was a great day!

My daughter Amber writes short stories and enters competitions; in November we had two letters from the Young Writers Association to say they liked Amber's stories and want to publish them. The books will be out at the end of January and feature short stories, a collection of ghost stories and other creepy tales. I can't wait to see them in print.

I hope you had a great Yuletide and enjoy the rest of winter. Carol Glogue





us is perfect, and to laugh at myself. I learnt a lot from her strategies for dealing with the people who were worried, mystified or outraged when first encountering education out of school. Reading Archie had the effect of restoring my equilibrium and getting everything back in proportion.

The Inspector was a representative of the pressure in education to control input and measure results. Mrs G was his gentle adversary and it was possible to imagine that maybe even he would eventually be prevailed upon to see the value of an education that was built upon a response to each child's different needs, character and interests.

I was interested and amused to re read the introduction to the Best of Archie, written by none other than the Inspector: 'Mrs G hardly seems to respond to the words NATIONAL CURRICULUM, instead she has this maddening habit of gazing out of the window. I sometimes get the feeling – I know it's silly – that they are managing very well without me. I fear that at the end of the day I shall be left alone with my reading schemes and my calculator, graph paper and GCSE syllabus, while Archie and Mrs G sail on into the sunset.'

Thank you Sarah for the laughter and the wisdom you embodied in these cartoons.

Jackie Fearnley



## newsletter at 40!

The first meetings of what was to become Education Otherwise took place in 1976, but it really got going in 1977 with a series of national gatherings. At first the newsletter was produced on a duplicator, so all contributions had to be typed onto wax 'skins', laid carefully on the inked drum, and turned to print off individual A4 pages which were then collated and stapled. The 'booklet' style newsletter started in 1978, but contributions still had to be typed and then arranged for the printer using scissors and glue... now it almost all comes in on email so just needs putting together – but that seems to take just as long!

I don't get much feedback from the newsletter now – So it's lovely to hear from Brian and Jackie. I hope others will appreciate their contributions and enjoy hearing about the early days of EO.

In the course of looking for original Archie cartoons, I dipped into the contributions in those early issues: some are heartbreaking. Being a relative newcomer to EO (I didn't join till 1987) and not being keen on gatherings, I missed most of that – but I well remember the huge relief when after a long campaign, the requirement for L(E)A permission to deregister a child from school was dropped. I am full of admiration for the efforts of all those early pioneers, in getting home education established in the eyes of the law. I am not sure that all today's HERS fully recognise the enormous debt that we owe to 'EOldies'.

Perhaps others will be inspired to write about their experiences. It would be great, also, to have contributions from the 'second generation' as to where they are now – and what EO/home education meant to them.

Let's have some feedback, please – what would you like to see in the EO newsletter? What can you contribute to it? And maybe someone would offer to pick up my job? *Anne (EONL)*



## Notes from the Chalkface – Barry O'Donovan

What follows is a transcript of a piece of writing by a five-year-old girl with the brief: you can write a story about whatever you want, and don't worry about spelling, tidiness or anything like that.

*Wus a pontimea there was a crsl in the crsl there was a king and there was a qign and one day a smrt pris and then the pris fel in Love Width the prisses and then day got mardee and day got haplee evr fr.*



Clearly this is not going to pass her any standard tests, but it serves exactly the purpose for which it is intended – to tell the story that is in her head. If this girl were allowed, encouraged and supported in her writing, she would develop all the skills she needs when she needs them. As regards spelling, grammar and punctuation, children ideally learn these when they need them to more accurately reflect what it is that they want to communicate, not as part of a de-contextualised series of tasks in a barren classroom.

The other day I took a Year 6 class – ten- and eleven-year-olds – as their supply teacher for one session. The class teacher wanted them to write an alternative ending to the novel they had recently finished reading. This doesn't seem, at first, to be a bad idea. It gives the children an opportunity to express themselves freely and creatively. That is, if you take away the fact that they have to be there in the first place, and they can't choose whether, and what, to write.

A couple of children were enlisted to distribute the exercise books in which the task was to be completed, whilst I introduced the task and read the line from the book that was to be the stimulus. It was something like "Maybe he'd just got lost, or maybe he'd been kidnapped, or worse...."

It soon became apparent that the stimulus was not going to ignite a spark of creativity in many of the children. There was some searching for pens, a bit of chatting, and a few children walking around the classroom looking for pencil sharpeners, rubbers etc. At one table near me, several children sat with their closed exercise books in front of them, a pen lying nearby, gazing vacantly around the room.

"Would you like me to open your books for you?" I asked. "And would you like me to put your pen to paper?" I was teasing them, but in truth it wasn't their fault that they had so little agency in their school lives. For the past six years of their still-young lives, these children have been prevented from taking any control or initiative. They have been repeatedly discouraged from expressing themselves as they would naturally do if not faced with the constraints of the classroom.



Schoolchildren are no longer just given a stimulus and told to write their own story. In contemporary classrooms in England and Wales, children's freedom is highly circumscribed: they are either given tightly-prescribed tasks in which there is a huge emphasis on the superficial aspects of writing, or required to finish somebody else's story as in this day's example. So rather than take the initiative, they sit and wait for a prompt from the teacher.



"They need the Learning Objective", the teaching assistant explained to me. The Learning Objective is what children write at the top of their writing or maths tasks, supposedly in order to keep their focus on what it is they are meant to be learning. It is, in my opinion, highly doubtful that it has any such effect. But the children have become so used to it that they are habituated to requiring it before performing a task. Thus they are urged to insert

"powerful" verbs, for example, and go through all kinds of contortions to squeeze impressive-looking

grammatical structures into their writing. The result? What they write is no longer their own, but a stilted box-filler for the delectation of the teacher and the Ofsted number-munchers.

Those children educated outside of schools can write what they want, when they want. And even more importantly, they can read, and be read to, freely, unhurriedly, for as long as they like. Thus they can take inspiration from the literature they are exposed to. This will be a combination of what empathetic others expose them to and their own burgeoning sense of what interests them. Then, just as greater oral articulacy is facilitated by opportunities to hear and respond to others in meaningful dialogue, children are inspired to write by reading interesting, engaging literature.



### *Musing: Dark clouds over our summer of adventure*

Well, as often happens in the permanently frazzled household, our summer didn't quite go the way we'd hoped: 'the best laid plans of mice and men' and all that! We'd had a great end to the summer term, with the girls performing beautifully in their first dance show, and all four of the ragamuffins appearing on stage in a 10 minute, modern version of 'Romeo and Juliet' (with my eldest as Romeo, and his young Juliet, doing a very convincing performance of young love, which obviously necessitated many out-of-hours rehearsals being conducted by text and Instagram!) – and we were gearing up for our first family holiday on foreign soil.

We had passports and euros at the ready, list of things to pack in the car, list of food to take in case we struggled to eat out in France being pescatarians, list of people to send a postcard to, list of interesting places to visit in each town/city on our journey (I like my lists!) when I received a phone call I'd been dreading for years.

Ever since my dad spent nearly a year in hospital, fighting for his life with chronic kidney failure, I'd kinda felt in the back of my mind that we may end up going down that path again. More worry, more frustration at living so far away from him, more helplessness at being unable to make a difference. And so we did! On the last day of term, my aunt phoned to say that my dad was being blue-lighted into hospital with a suspected heart attack. The long version of the story will reduce me to tears, so the short version is that the situation basically doesn't end well, but we're glad that we got to spend a little more time with Grandpa, albeit with him strapped up to multiple machines and with lines going in and out of him all over the place, and remember him waving happily to us as we left the cardiac ward, before he passed away a week later. Having been told by him in no uncertain terms that we were to still go to France 'no matter what happens', and unsure that the insurance company would pay out if we cancelled our holiday, we decided to take the ragamuffins away as planned, much to my auntie's relief because it meant that there was no rush for her to arrange the funeral or clear his house.

So, at the beginning of August, we began the first leg of our adventure: not quite having the joyful anticipation we'd imagined we'd have, but determined to try and make some happy French memories in honour of my dad. Having never used the Channel Tunnel before, we were all a little bemused at how we'd actually get a rather large MPV onto a train, so it was all rather a steep learning curve. I'd managed to leave my French dictionary and phrasebook at home, (ok, so my lists don't always work!) had hurriedly purchased new ones at Folkestone, and spent the crossing refreshing the kids on basic manners and niceties. It was then that it started to sink in that my appalling A-level French wasn't going to get us very far, even though Duolingo had recently informed me that I was 28% fluent, but I

needn't have worried: pretty much every time I spoke French, the person immediately replied in English, in beautiful, expressive, fluent English at that. The French nation generally have a much higher standard of English than we do of French, and are incredibly eager to practise it at every opportunity, but I was keen to have a go, so we often ended up having conversations in a mixture of French and English, with my kids and hubby needing the French translating for them. It was, at times, exhausting, and by the end of the 12 days away, I nearly cried with relief whenever I heard familiar English tones. I definitely intend to polish up my language skills in case we ever get chance to return!

Having arrived safely, we spent the first day driving south to Le Mans, but struggled to find the 'Premiere Classe' on the way into the city – we could see it from the road, but couldn't find the way off the dual carriageway and into the industrial area where it was based. Having got ourselves well and truly lost in a maze of a housing estate, in desperation I armed myself with the dictionary and approached a stationary bus driver for help. My first question was 'Parlez-vous anglais?' to which he laughed and apologised that he didn't speak a word. However, his kind heart and my dictionary got us through, and having explained that the hotel is tricky to reach, he instructed us to follow his bus and he'd lead us onto the correct route. Such a star!

Unfortunately, our little diversion meant that we arrived too late to enjoy the evening light projection show in the city centre, but did find a small and very yummy pizzeria before collapsing into our beds at the 'Premiere Classe' – one of the French equivalents of our Travelodge chain. Much better value than Travelodge though, with two family rooms costing what we'd usually have to pay for one in the UK, including our breakfast, and with the added enjoyment of having a cat wandering freely round the hotel. The French do like to take their animals away with them, and having been a little dubious at first due to my fur allergies, I needn't have worried: the hotel rooms were spotless, if rather compact.

After a night in Le Mans, we travelled down to a small town in the Vendee called Lucon, where we'd booked a *gite* for a week: with 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and an outside pool, I was in heaven! The kids enjoyed feeding the resident chickens and tortoise every day, and it made a refreshing change to be able to eat every meal outside. The only downside was that the *gite* was owned by a family with a dog – I hadn't realised this when I booked, because the information stated no dogs allowed – but it soon became apparent from a lingering doggy smell, and bits of fur in corners of rooms, so we armed ourselves with cloths and mops, threw all the floor-to-ceiling doors open, and got the place clean and shiny.

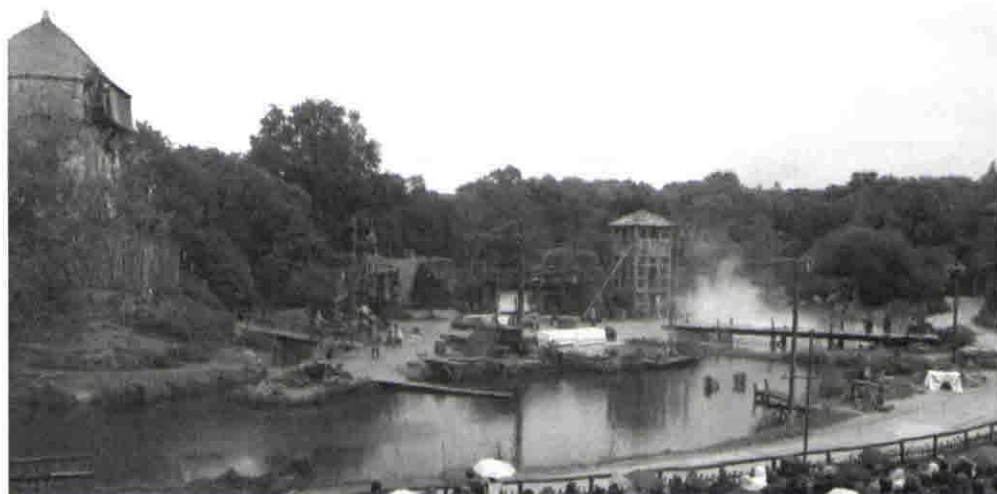


Lucon had a great range of shops and attractions: two enormous supermarkets which sell absolutely everything you could need; a beautiful park, along the lines of a secret garden with wire and foliage sculptures [above]; many restaurants and cafes, that did their best to cater for our vegetarian, preferably vegan, and in my case, gluten-free taste-buds, plus some interesting independent shops. It was astonishingly peaceful in the town, even on the rare occasion that the shops were actually open – the French appear to keep the workhours that they choose, or at least they do in the small towns we

visited (definitely a better work-life balance than many families in the UK) – but everyone we spoke to was incredibly friendly, and I found myself starting to relax, despite the inner chaos I was going through.

The town was also a great base from which to explore the south Vendee: only 30 minutes from the coast (the most exquisite, white, sandy beach you can possibly imagine is found at Faute-sur-Mer) – however, with a biting wind on the day we visited, we were unfortunately huddled in our sun tent rather than jumping around in the Atlantic waves), with quick access to major roads to travel in all directions. I think I must have totally misread the scale of the map though, because every time I estimated how long a journey would take, in reality it took at least twice as long, although the French toll-road system certainly didn't help. I'd definitely recommend purchasing a 'Sanef toll tag' which enables you to queue in a fast lane at the tolls, and instead of scrabbling around trying to find the correct cash, the tag records your journey and automatically takes the payment a month later. A wonderful gadget!

Our most exciting day of the whole trip has got to be our visit to 'Puy de Fou': a theme park with a difference! None of the usual high thrill rides, but instead, live-action historical re-enactments of events from French history [below]. I can't even begin to describe how we were all totally captivated by each and every show, despite the heavy downpour we were caught in for an hour or so



(it's not just Britain that suffers from unreliable weather!). There's so much to get round that you really need to spend 2-3 days there, so we hope to go back at some point, if finances will allow. Check out the website – it's even better than it looks!

Whilst in Luçon, we were able to catch up with some dear home-ed friends of ours who've spent the last couple of years house-sitting in Europe. The kids took up where they'd left off on their last playdate, several years ago now, and it was such a relief to be able to let the smile fall from my face, because I was with people who, unfortunately from their own experience, totally got how I was feeling after losing dad. It was a therapeutic couple of days, being able to talk openly from my heart, not worry about the tears streaming down my face as I did so; we laughed together and cried together.

I had intended writing my eulogy whilst away on holiday, but I couldn't face having to deal with all my raw emotions, and try to prevent them spoiling our holiday. Apart from the two days with our adventuring friends, it was surprisingly easy to put dad almost out of my mind. It was a situation that was happening in England, and we were in France exploring, so our days were so full, that it wasn't until the evenings when the kids were in bed that I finally got chance to sit down and think things over. Our time away was certainly a welcome diversion!

After a glorious week of swimming in the pool straight after breakfast and last thing at night, it was time to pack up and begin our homeward journey. First stop was the city of Nantes, where we enjoyed wandering round its incredibly clean streets, taking silly photos in front of the fountains [left], and



admiring the unusual 19<sup>th</sup> century shopping mall (Passage Pommeraye) that was so decadent in style, it felt like walking into a palace. We'd intended visiting 'Les Machines de L'île' but many of the reviews we'd read suggested it didn't live up to the fairly hefty entrance price – there was much talk of endless queues and extra prices for everything except the handful of main exhibits – but it might be worth a look if you're in the area for longer than an overnight visit. Another wonderful Frenchman came to our rescue when we were struggling to find an open-air carpark (so as to avoid a previous, expensive experience in a British

multistorey when we found out the hard way that we wouldn't fit!). He was just a random man who we asked for help, who promptly jumped into his big van, and delivered us safely into the centre of Nantes, despite living 30 minutes in the opposite direction. Almost makes me want to emigrate! That night, we stayed on a little complex called 'Univea Suites Confort' – proper houses with fully-fitted kitchens, washing machines, a communal swimming pool, and all linen included, again for a much better price than our budget chain hotels in UK. Travelodge et al – take note!

From Nantes, we drove up to Normandy in order to visit the Bayeaux Tapestry. We were struck by how similar the area was to our homeland of South Lincolnshire/Norfolk, with many pretty villages and cottages en route. Bayeaux is an attractive little town, with a Cathedral and interesting shops, as well as the museum housing the tapestry. The kids had been a bit moany prior to the museum – 'I don't wanna visit an old piece of sewing' (yes, they are all very uncultured, despite my best efforts!) – but were spellbound once in there. The audio guides have the option of an adult's or a child's narration, in many different languages, and the visitors kind of snake past each scene on the tapestry in a silent and respectful procession. The loving hours and sore fingers that had gone into creating this masterpiece were awe-inspiring. Also on offer in the museum was a mini film depicting a bit more of the history of the tapestry and the area, followed by a few more traditional rooms with a life-size boat, similar to the sort the French soldiers would have used when travelling to Britain, model towns and farms depicting what life was like back then, and many artefacts from that time period. We nominated it our best value tourist attraction of the whole holiday!

Leaving Caen on the Sunday morning, we headed to Boulogne-sur-mer, which is on the coast, just south of Calais. It's frequently referred to as one of the prettiest seaside towns in the whole of France, and I'd have to agree. The port area is bustling with market stalls and tourists wanting a boat ride (we'd hoped to go on a catamaran trip but found that they're booked up weeks in advance during the summer months, so we'll have to go back at some stage for that excursion) and we enjoyed a meander along the harbour side in the late afternoon sun. The bars and hotels were starting to liven up for an evening of entertainment, and the town took on an air similar to that of a rather garish British seaside town. Feeling slightly disappointed at this stage, in the claims that it was top of the list of seaside places to visit, we headed back to our apartment via a slightly different route, and this was when we discovered the true Boulogne-sur-mer that makes it a captivating place to visit. Set back from the port and harbour area, is a wonderful little shopping area, an exquisite church in the middle of a pedestrianised area, flanked by several cafes with tables spilling out onto the pavements. Set back

further still from this area, and directly opposite our apartment as it turned out, was the original fortified town, hiding many independent and artisan shops and eateries behind its walls, higgledy-piggledy cobblestone streets, and several of the shops still in existence from the origins of the city. It was clear that at one time, the city really could have existed quite successfully, fairly independent of the surrounding area, with only a few transactions each week of goods to import and export.

Our journey home the following day was uneventful, but marked by a dramatic increase in traffic on the British motorways that we'd not seen anywhere in France. My mood definitely dropped as we reached British soil, knowing that I'd got to face saying goodbye to dad, and before then, tackle the daunting task of writing a eulogy.

The family service at the crematorium, and the Life Celebration at my dad's church on the same day, were actually really positive and affirming experiences. The boys bravely took part in the service, reading out a poem and a piece that they had written themselves, I got through the eulogy with just a few cracks in my voice, many people got up to share humorous and touching memories of my dad, and it was comforting to catch up with old friends of the families who I hadn't seen since my teenage years, but who had such positive things to say about my best friend. Several people complimented me on my eulogy, along with the observation that 'You must be a teacher to be able to speak like that in public', which I couldn't quite figure out whether it was intended as a compliment or not. We finished the afternoon off with a balloon release of 100 black and gold helium balloons to honour my dad's lifetime obsession with 'The Wolves' football team. It was the sort of send-off I'd like please!

We'd originally planned to spend the final week of August camping at our favourite site near the coast, but I think the emotion of the previous month had caught up with me, and I just couldn't face having to be sociable with other campers over the washing up sinks. Not like me at all! So instead, we stayed at home and had day trips out, visiting Warwick Castle (the annual pass is well worth the cost, especially for a large family) and body-boarding at the beach.

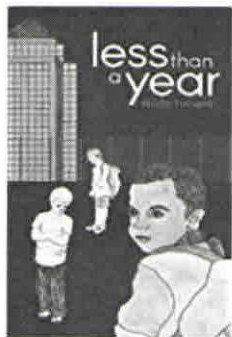
Since then, I've thrown myself back into the routine of home-ed, with as many weekly sports activities as I can fit in - I really am determined to get fit this year - and back to grappling with the huge DIY to-do list. Anything to keep my mind off the events of the summer really. My husband and kids are being almost angelic, ever-ready with hugs and kind words when they can see I'm struggling, and the faith I share with my dad is an amazing help. I'm not there yet, but I hope to regain something of my old self soon, albeit with a little of the old spark missing, and a little more wisdom under my belt. I'm learning that it's OK to give myself a break, that it's OK to be honest about how I'm feeling, that it's OK to take some time to sort through things in my head and my heart. It still smarts that I can't show dad the photos of France, or share our experiences with him, but it's a sad, albeit necessary, learning curve for the whole family.

'Frazzled Mum' [name and address supplied] photos © author



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

A book from a previous home educator:



**Less Than A Year**  
Stablegate Publishing

Peggy Thomas  
ISBN 978-0-995-6488-07 £7.95

This is a fictional novel based on the author's probationary-year experience at an East End primary school in London. Brimming with optimism on her first day in 1991, the book gives a very detailed description of the many events that led to her eventually leaving the school before the year was completed.

On the one hand it is hard to accept that the incredibly poor management and complete lack of consistent direction, funding and resources could be reality; whilst on the other, the constant curriculum administrative requirements are easily imagined. The author shows her continued frustration at the curtailment of creativity and the priority of systems and processes over learning, whilst trying to educate and enhance the lives of the children in her care.

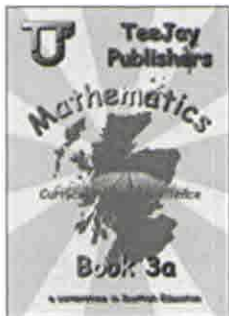
Despite all of this, Thomas describes some heart-warming times with the

children both in and, very occasionally, outwith the classroom. An excellent, but slightly disturbing read, though perhaps not surprising. Do schools like this still exist to-day?

Here are some Maths curriculums that you might be interested in:

**TeeJay Maths** T Strang, J Geddes & J Cairns  
TeeJay Publishers teejaymaths.com

TeeJay Maths provide both English and Scottish maths curriculum textbooks (and Australian!). These are available to purchase from the TeeJay website and are very reasonably priced. In England there are 12 Reception booklets (A1-12) for £9.60, Books 1A and B and 2A and B for year 1 and 2 (£5.95 each) and Books 3,4,5 and 6 for each subsequent year (£11.90 each). In Scotland, there are 12 year1 workbooks (£8.40) and Books 1A and B and 2A and B for CFE 1 and 2 (£10.45 each).



The books are split into subject chapters, each with a revision page at the beginning and a review page at the end. Each new topic has a short introduction, but will need some further explanation for a good understanding. The pages contain a lot of questions for each topic to enable plenty of practice and answers for the questions are provided at the end of the book.

The best features of these books are the colourful text and pictures that help brighten up the pages. TeeJay also provide homework (£40) and assessment (£30) packs for each level, with the latter containing a DVD to print copies in colour or black and white. This is a very affordable, comprehensive resource that many children will enjoy.



**Maths U See** Steven P Demme

Originating in the US, there is now a UK version of this maths curriculum with limited availability on Amazon. The books and levels are named after the letters of the Greek Alphabet, Alpha (single digit addition and subtraction), Beta (multiple digit addition and subtraction), Gamma (multiplication), Delta (division), Epsilon (fractions) and Zeta (decimals and percentages), with further books on Algebra, Geometry and Calculus. Each level has a Teacher Pack containing a manual and DVD (£23-30) and a Student Pack with a workbook and testbook (£19).

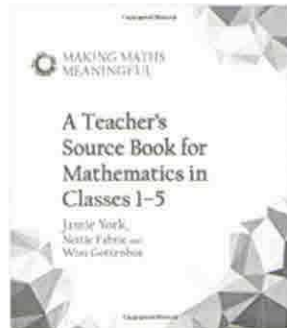
This system is unique in the way that it focuses on one core maths subject per level until it is 'mastered', so for example, the Epsilon book teaches fractions from the basics to multiplying fractions and solving unknowns with fractional coefficients. The student textbook has 30 lessons per subject and the test book has 30 tests.

The best feature of this method is the lesson instruction on the DVD where the author teaches each lesson in a very easy to understand and interesting way that children can watch as many times as required. Although a more expensive resource, focusing on one subject at a time may be the best system for some children to learn maths concepts. A slight downside is that the student material is all in black and white, however not a big issue.

**Making Maths Meaningful** Jamie York Floris Books

These books, (adapted for the UK, Europe, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand), have been written with the author's experience in teaching at Steiner Waldorf schools and are therefore based on the Waldorf philosophy. There are two Teacher's Source Books for Mathematics for classes 1-5 and 6-8 (£20.00 each) and a Student Workbook for each year (£9.99 each).

The student books are well set out by topic, e.g. arithmetic, measurement, geometry, etc... with 4 – 8 work sheets for each topic. There are no instructions or explanations in the workbook, so each topic needs to be taught. The Teacher's Source Book provides all of the teaching requirements in a very detailed and logical manner.



One of the excellent features of this curriculum are the clever maths tips that are provided by year and the author's understanding of how children learn maths. I found the formatting of the workbook a little frustrating in that the worksheets follow on from each other in the middle of pages – but perhaps this is just a personal frustration.

This is a very comprehensive and in depth maths curriculum that would be beneficial for those who have a higher level of understanding in teaching maths and for pupils who show strong maths ability.



### Wanted: Local Contacts for Education Otherwise



When my first child was three, I bumped into a woman at a workshop who had her children with her. It was during the school term time, and when somebody asked why her children weren't at school, her answer was the first I'd heard of home education. She gave me the details of the local contact for South East London. That chance encounter became a watershed moment in my life, and in those of my children, who as a result never darkened the door of a school.

I am fairly certain that we would not have taken the decision to home educate without the support of Education Otherwise. Now, nearly twenty-five years after my first contact with EO, I am the contact for SE London. The local contact is the person whose number is given to prospective home educators in their area by volunteers on the helpline. As all home educators know, it is when meeting others involved in home education – adults as well as children – that HE starts to make sense to those who are new to it.

Being the local contact for your area mainly involves responding to enquiries from people who are either new to home education or new to the area, and informing them of home educators' meetings or activities they can join. No expertise is necessary, just empathy and a bit of enthusiasm. There is backup available for those occasions when something more complicated turns up.

These are some of the areas for which there is no current local contact:

England: Dorset – Poole, Lancashire, London North West, Manchester & Stockport, Northamptonshire, Wiltshire and Yorkshire East.

Wales: Ceredigion, Flintshire, Neath, Bridgend & Glamorgan, Pembrokeshire.

If you would like to be the contact for one of the above areas, or a different area (some long-term contacts are ready to pass on the baton to enthusiastic others), please ring please ring 01978 661882 or mobile 07512 18 59 63 or email EO Enquiries <[eoenquiries@educationotherwise.org](mailto:eoenquiries@educationotherwise.org)> for more information.

We'd also be glad to hear from more volunteers for the EO Helpline rota.



# FROM THE ARCHIVES

Sarah Gathrie's cartoons about 'Educating Archie' appeared regularly in EO Newsletters for many years - this seems to be the first, from December 1978 - chosen to complement the articles on pages 4-5.

## EDUCATING ARCHIE

BY SEG



© SEG 1978 In EO NL No. 8 - the first to be produced in booklet form (1-7 were A4 stapled sheets) Anne

## EO PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE for LOCAL HE GROUPS

This benefit for Local Home Education Groups run by EO members continues at £10 per year *or part year* from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> August. You can join at any time of year but renewal date is always 31<sup>st</sup> August. Although by now you've missed nearly half a year, it's still good value compared with the cost of getting your own group insurance. As it is subsidised from EO funds (which means from the subscriptions EO members pay) there are some terms and conditions – for example, we ask for 3 EO family members from different households to sign up to take responsibility for the group and to keep in contact with us.

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

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

Also, EO insurance cannot act as an 'umbrella' for other formally constituted organisations. For example, if your group is a charity in its own right, you will need to take out separate insurance. Detailed guidance and an application form are available to download from the Member Home area of the EO website or by email from the Local Groups Insurance Co-ordinator [lgic@educationotherwise.org](mailto:lgic@educationotherwise.org)

If you decide to take up EO insurance now, please drop me an email when you post off your form and cheque; this helps me keep up with the administration. *Anne <[lgic@educationotherwise.org](mailto:lgic@educationotherwise.org)>*

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## LOCAL HOME EDUCATION GROUPS

### Parents Please Note ....

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

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### N.B. PLEASE check that your entry is up to date.

If you wish your group to be added on the Website and in EO Newsletter please visit the

Local HE Groups Directory on the EO website.

For queries contact Local Groups Co-ordinator:

[eolg@educationotherwise.org](mailto:eolg@educationotherwise.org) or NL Co-ordinator:  
[eonl@educationotherwise.org](mailto:eonl@educationotherwise.org)

## ENGLAND

### Bedfordshire

**BedHed** – for support and organising meet ups.

Contact Susan: [susanthrossell@msn.com](mailto:susanthrossell@msn.com)  
<http://bedhed.org.uk>

### Berkshire

**Expanding Horizons** – [www.expandinghorizonsuk.com](http://www.expandinghorizonsuk.com) regular meet ups, trips, activities, and information for other Local groups.  
Rebecca: 01494 882484, [expandinghorizonsuk@gmail.com](mailto:expandinghorizonsuk@gmail.com)

**Heroes-HE** – weekly Home Education Club at animal farm, with workshops, etc. [www.heroesberkshire.co.uk/homeeducators.html](http://www.heroesberkshire.co.uk/homeeducators.html)  
**Learn & Grow, Bracknell** – [ruth.newtongriffiths@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.newtongriffiths@gmail.com)

### Bristol

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

**Home Education in Bristol and the South West** – groups, events and activities in Bristol and the surrounding areas.  
Therese: [alternativeeducation.bristol@gmail.com](mailto:alternativeeducation.bristol@gmail.com)

### Buckinghamshire

**Free Range Education** – range of educational events and activities in Milton Keynes & North Bucks. Sarah: 07725 039981  
[www.freerangeeducation.org](http://www.freerangeeducation.org)

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

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

Georgeanne 01908 662256 [sienna-swift7@powernet.co.uk](mailto:sienna-swift7@powernet.co.uk)  
**South Bucks Home Educators** – (& surrounding areas)  
Taryn: [tarynearley@googlemail.com](mailto:tarynearley@googlemail.com)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/southbuckshomeed>  
**Expanding Horizons** (see Berkshire).

### Cambridgeshire

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

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

**Cambridgeshire Home Educators** – Website all about HE-ing in Cambridgeshire including local groups and how to them.  
[www.cambshomeed.co.uk](http://www.cambshomeed.co.uk) Jane: [cambshomeed@gmail.com](mailto:cambshomeed@gmail.com)  
**Little Learners (Duxford)** – Themed play-based meetings. Louise  
01223 837325 [louise@tartarus.org](mailto:louise@tartarus.org)

### Cheshire

**HE Meet Ups, Middlewich** – Leanna [le16@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:le16@hotmail.co.uk)

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

## Cornwall

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

## Cumbria

**West Cumbria Home Education Group** – friendly group, members from all over W. Cumbria, structured or free range – All welcome!  
Tallie: [metallienat@aol.com](mailto:metallienat@aol.com)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/WestCumbriaHE/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/WestCumbriaHE/)  
**West Cumbria Home Educators** (incl. Keswick) – mutual support for HERS in West Cumbria: [WestCumbriaHomeEd@gmail.com](mailto:WestCumbriaHomeEd@gmail.com)

## Derbyshire

**Chesterfield Home Education Group (CHEG)** – weekly meetings and days out for all ages. Sandy: [sandymariott@gmail.com](mailto:sandymariott@gmail.com)  
**Derby HE Group (DHEG)** – Weekly Gym Club at sports centre with instructor. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/derbyhe/>  
Lynsey: [lynseyvpic@ntlworld.com](mailto:lynseyvpic@ntlworld.com)  
**Home Ed Buxton Area** – Local meetings/activities for HERS and those considering HE  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/homeedbuxtonarea>

## Devon

**Dartmoor and SW Home Education Group**. Based in S. Dartmoor. All members may organise events and meet ups on our email list  
Email: [dartmoor.sw.he.group@gmail.com](mailto:dartmoor.sw.he.group@gmail.com)  
<http://dartmoor-sw-he.yolasite.com/>

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

**FLAGS Home Education Group** – Exeter, every Friday. Friendly group for children of all ages. Jo: [jo@fjgys.co.uk](mailto:jo@fjgys.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/)  
**Paignton and Torbay homeschooling** – social meet ups, play and activities, twice weekly. Tessa: [Tessacoales@hotmail.com](mailto:Tessacoales@hotmail.com)

**South Devon Home Education Group** – near Totnes

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

Ambuka: [ambuka5planets@yahoo.com](mailto:ambuka5planets@yahoo.com)

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

**Teignbridge and Torbay HE Group** – Teen creative writing group, meeting every fortnight. [taluhla@gmail.com](mailto:taluhla@gmail.com)

## Dorset

**Bournemouth HEED** – Weekly Monday meetings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Motcombe Free Rangers**: [ruth.beswarick@btinternet.com](mailto:ruth.beswarick@btinternet.com)

## Durham

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

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

**Durham HE** – Yahoo group. Get-togethers arranged in various areas of County

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/County-durham-homeed>

## Essex

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

Lena: [essexhomeedmod@btinternet.com](mailto:essexhomeedmod@btinternet.com)

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

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

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

**Southeast HE Group** – Meets weekly. Lots of outings and activities.

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

Email: [southeasthomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:southeasthomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk)

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

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

## Gloucestershire

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

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

**Glos HE** – HE links and local resources in and around

Gloucestershire. [www.gloshe.org.uk/](http://www.gloshe.org.uk/)

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

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

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

Nick: [nick@nickweir.co.uk](mailto:nick@nickweir.co.uk) 01453 840036

## Hampshire

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

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

**Basingstoke HE** – Academic club plus regular meet ups in different locations. Vanessa: [education@zee2a.com](mailto:education@zee2a.com)

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

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

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

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

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

**Hampshire FRHEBEEES (Free Range & Home Educated Bees)** –

West Hampshire area and borders to arrange meet ups and

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

Karen: 01425 652721

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

Range of activities + regular club. [homeednetwork@outlook.com](mailto:homeednetwork@outlook.com)

**North Hampshire HE Group** – Regular activities and meetings

organised, suitable for all ages. Email: [jakimparsons@gmail.com](mailto:jakimparsons@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

## Hertfordshire

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

## Hertfordshire

**Barnet Home Educators Hub** – where children can grow and develop together and friendships are formed. Eszter 07753 448488 [szteIn@yahoo.com](mailto:szteIn@yahoo.com)

**HedStart, Stevenage** – Sarah 07890 699562

[sarahbriant@btinternet.com](mailto:sarahbriant@btinternet.com)

**Herts Home Educators** – Yahoo! group for Hertfordshire home

educators. Email: [newhomeeducators@gmail.com](mailto:newhomeeducators@gmail.com)

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

resources and support to HE families in Hertfordshire and

surrounding counties. Mandy: [mandy.ansell@aol.co.uk](mailto:mandy.ansell@aol.co.uk)

## Isle of Wight

## Isle of Wight Learning Zone – Network of HE families

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

**IW Home Ed** – Facebook & yahoo group for any and all home educators on IoW. Karen: [Karen@curvespace.com](mailto:Karen@curvespace.com) or 01983 568516 <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IWHomeEd/> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/IWHomeEd/>

## Kent

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

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

**HEarts & Minds** – Hernehill, various games, arts, crafts and organised activities. Davinia: [daviniaedmunds4@gmail.com](mailto:daviniaedmunds4@gmail.com)

**Hernehill HE** – Alison: 07717502389 [alisonjryan@gmail.com](mailto:alisonjryan@gmail.com)

**Kent ASD Home Ed** – For parents/carers of ASD/Aspergers children who are educating them 'otherwise'. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/asd-home-ed-medway>

**Medway and Maidstone HE activity group** (HE Omega) – Group of home educating families in Medway and Kent.

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

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

**Rochester HE Group** – weekly meetings Tuesday afternoon. Sally: [sally\\_wilton@lineone.net](mailto:sally_wilton@lineone.net)

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

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

**South East Home Educators** – (Kent/Sussex) Meet regularly for trips, hall meets, swimming etc. To join Yahoo group email: [southeasthomeeducators-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:southeasthomeeducators-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

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

## Lancashire

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

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

**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>

**Kegworth HE** – [penny@mangolounge.com](mailto:penny@mangolounge.com)

**Leicestershire Christian Home Educators** – monthly meet up every 3rd Tuesday. Free play opportunity in a safe and fun place.

HE Off-Peak Pass available: £1.50 per child £5 per family, free drinks. All welcome! Email: [mrsamarshall@googlemail.com](mailto:mrsamarshall@googlemail.com)

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

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

## Lincolnshire

**Home Ed Lincs** – Yahoo newsgroup coordinating HE activities in Lincolnshire. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/home\\_ed\\_lincs/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/home_ed_lincs/)

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

## London

**Adventures with Education (Hackney)** – HE group <https://adventureswitheducationhackney.wordpress.com/>

**Brandram Roaders** – Weekly meetings in term time. [rubydraburn@hotmail.com](mailto:rubydraburn@hotmail.com)

**Bushy Hill Christian Homeschool** [knipehome@gmail.com](mailto:knipehome@gmail.com)

**Creativity Co-op** – Elizabeth 07973 446393 [elizabeth@interactsit.co.uk](mailto:elizabeth@interactsit.co.uk)

**Home Study Groups** – small group of HE families pooling resources for tutored home study groups.

Inge: [iberitt@gmail.com](mailto:iberitt@gmail.com) 0203 566 8706

**Kingston – Happy Learners.** [suemccormick@hotmail.com](mailto:suemccormick@hotmail.com)

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

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

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

## Norfolk

**Eureka!** Monthly themed activities. Emma 01485 544166 [emmaof1969@aol.com](mailto:emmaof1969@aol.com)

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

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

**The Barefoot Learners** – Games and activities for all ages.

Be Coffin: 07814 592 290 or 01263 73 99 83

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

## Northamptonshire

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

## Nottinghamshire

**Newark HE** – Suzanne 07739 013439 [suzie.english@gmail.com](mailto:suzie.english@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

## Oxfordshire

**Expanding Horizons** (See Berkshire).

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

## Shropshire

**Art Club** – Michelle: 07983410785 [art@michellewalklett.co.uk](mailto:art@michellewalklett.co.uk)

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

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

**Oswestry and surrounds.** Regular meetings around area. Katie 07584 052699 [llanfyllinhe@gmail.com](mailto:llanfyllinhe@gmail.com)

**Otherwise Engaged** – Online diary of activities, cultural events, workshops, resources and projects in Shrops and West Mids <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>  
**Shropshire Inspire** – [fellow-weir@megmag.plus.com](http://fellow-weir@megmag.plus.com)  
**Telford area HE** – Activities incl. Skating, football and drama sessions. Denise: 07866 888879

## Somerset

**Bath** - <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/BathHomeEducation/>  
**Bridgwater HE** – weekly social meet + ad hoc trips and activities. Contact: [Mfstainer@gmail.com](mailto:Mfstainer@gmail.com)  
**HEY Yeovil** – All HE families welcome. Lyn: 01963 23669 [heyeovil@hotmail.com](mailto:heyeovil@hotmail.com)  
**North Somerset HE Group** – Weekly children's gym, walks, outings etc. Yahoo! group for members. Vicky: 01275 848425 [victoria.preston@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:victoria.preston@yahoo.co.uk)  
**Taunton HE Group** – Regular events and meet ups in Taunton; range of classes and workshops across Somerset [www.tauntonhomeeducation.com](http://www.tauntonhomeeducation.com) Email: [tauntonhomeeducation@gmail.com](mailto:tauntonhomeeducation@gmail.com)  
**Wiveliscombe/Taunton** – Monthly meetings and regular outings. Maggie: 01984 624651

## Staffordshire

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

## Suffolk

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

## Surrey

**Bushy Hill Christian HE** – See London  
**Classical Conversations Leatherhead**: [suziedean80@outlook.com](mailto:suziedean80@outlook.com)  
**Classical Conversations Oxted**: [yinkahurst@gmail.com](mailto:yinkahurst@gmail.com)  
**Creativity Co-op** – see London  
**Dorking Home Educators** – fortnightly. Social and pre-booked activities, outings & trips. Amanda: [schrodingerscat81@hotmail.com](mailto:schrodingerscat81@hotmail.com) <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/DorkingHomeEducators/>  
**Epsom Wednesday Group** – Mary 07766 423064 [marywaldek@gmail.com](mailto:marywaldek@gmail.com)  
**Forest Families** – weekly meetings in Croydon. Sharing food, cooking & unstructured play in nature. Maria: [mariof.reyna@gmail.com](mailto:mariof.reyna@gmail.com)  
**Home Educators Learning Project (HELP)** – educational support, outings. <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/HELearningProject/>  
**Kingston** – see London  
**Leatherhead Home Education Group** – Leatherhead and surrounding area regular day trips and activities. Christie: [christabelthorpe@hotmail.com](mailto:christabelthorpe@hotmail.com) 07840285703  
**Sutton/Epsom HE group** – Meets weekly and also monthly for outings. Neia: [neia.glynn@btinternet.com](mailto:neia.glynn@btinternet.com)  
**SW Surrey Home Ed** – Group for HE families based in SW Surrey and surrounding area. Weekly gatherings Farnham or Godalming. <http://www.swsurrey-home-ed.co.uk/index.php>

## Sussex

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

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

<http://www.shinies.org.uk/>  
to an activity [www.harhe.btck.co.uk](http://www.harhe.btck.co.uk) Catherine: 01424 812213  
**HEDGE Home Ed Group** – Hastings/St. Leonards weekly social meetings + trips etc. [www.hedge-education.btck.co.uk](http://www.hedge-education.btck.co.uk)  
Beshlie: 01424 812870  
**JIGSAW** – social events, educational group excursions, curriculum support, etc. Email: [leliot@gmail.com](mailto:leliot@gmail.com)  
**Lunar Learning** – Alison 07967 212941 [lunarlearning@alisonpaul.plus.com](mailto:lunarlearning@alisonpaul.plus.com)

## Warwickshire

**Creative Youth Adventure Club (Coventry)** – monthly HE Group for all ages, activities and social get together. Also Arts Awards. Sarah: [sarah@nellyb.co.uk](mailto:sarah@nellyb.co.uk)  
**Warwick District HE** – Warwick/Leamington. Primarily for 0-11 but all welcome. Weekly meet for play etc. + trips etc. Alison: 07782 299181 <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/warwickhe>

## West Midlands

**Cradley HE Group** – small group of families meeting weekly for friendships and craft activities in Cradley Heath. Kate 07726 296865 [ktyblack@yahoo.com](mailto:ktyblack@yahoo.com)  
**HELM** – home education group located mainly within the Birmingham, West Midlands area. Any and all HE families welcome. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HELM\\_home\\_ed/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HELM_home_ed/)  
**South Birmingham HE** – Louise 07963 129943 [louise\\_bowden@hotmail.com/](mailto:louise_bowden@hotmail.com/)  
**Wolverhampton HE** – Sharon 07810 806418 [lifelarningsharon@gmail.com](mailto:lifelarningsharon@gmail.com)

## Wiltshire

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

## Worcestershire

**Bewdley HE Group** – Weekly meetings, social/activities etc. all welcome. Sophie [s.a.moore@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:s.a.moore@hotmail.co.uk) 01299 405196  
**Worcester Home Educators** – Meetings usually at least weekly throughout term time at various locations round the county. [www.worcestershire-home-educators.co.uk/](http://www.worcestershire-home-educators.co.uk/)  
**Worcestershire Home Ed** – Yahoo Group Email list for Worcs HERS <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/worcestershirehome-ed/>

## Yorkshire

**Free Range Home Education** – playgroup, babies to Bish, HE or considering it. Sheffield. Fi: 07518 357552 [fhennessy81@gmail.com](mailto:fhennessy81@gmail.com)  
**HENNEY (Home Education Network North East Yorkshire)** Regular meet ups around Scarborough and East coast area. Lisa: [lisa\\_riley@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lisa_riley@tiscali.co.uk) [henney-owner@yahooagroups.com](mailto:henney-owner@yahooagroups.com)  
**Huddersfield Art Workshops** – Monthly 8+ yrs. and  
**Huddersfield Book Group** – Monthly Marsden library. (for both) Jane: 01484 645034  
**Huddersfield Home Educators** – Monthly themed meetings. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wyhec/> or Mandy: [meandchi7@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:meandchi7@yahoo.co.uk) 01484 460026  
**NYHEC (group for HE parents)** – for parents HEing in North Yorkshire. Email: [nyhecowner@yahooagroups.com](mailto: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 HERS in & around S. Yorkshire. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RothHE/> Pauline: [collecandydog123@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:collecandydog123@yahoo.co.uk) 077764 06409  
**SYHEC** – Yahoo! group for parents HEing in South Yorkshire. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/syhec/>

#### **SYHEC South Yorkshire Home Education Communication**

Email group for home educators in the South Yorkshire area.  
Contact: [inglefamily@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:inglefamily@hotmail.co.uk)

**Wildlings** – Huddersfield. Drop-in group with Montessori resources, held in 10-week Seasons, for local HE families to meet othes and support their children's interests through play  
Penny 07775 803241 [pennyclarkson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pennyclarkson@yahoo.co.uk)

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

### **Regional Groups (England)**

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

inform & support HE families in E.Midlands.  
<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/emhe/info>  
Katya: [katyolamb@aol.com](mailto:katyolamb@aol.com)

**North East England – North East Home Educators** Thriving group with several activities in the region happening every day! We welcome new members. Treena: [treenafenwick@gmail.com](mailto:treenafenwick@gmail.com)

#### **South East**

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

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

#### **South West**

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

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

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

### **Isle of Man**

**Home Educating Network - Isle of Man** – informal group, Yvonne: [isleofmanlc@educationotherwise.org](mailto:isleofmanlc@educationotherwise.org)  
<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/hen-iom/>

**HE on the Isle Of Man**, Dawn: [sewellbunch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sewellbunch@yahoo.co.uk)

### **WALES**

#### **South East Wales**

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

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

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

**Discovery – Neath**. [cmboldon@gmail.com](mailto:cmboldon@gmail.com)

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

**Mountain Movers, Neath PT** – Erica: 07989945540  
[mountainmoverseducation@gmail.com](mailto:mountainmoverseducation@gmail.com)

**New Foundations** – HE group/charity, social & educational activities and support, Cardiff/South Wales. Every Mon 10am-3pm. All HE families welcome. [www.newfoundationshe.com](http://www.newfoundationshe.com)  
Jayne: [newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com](mailto:newfoundationshe@virginmedia.com) Or 07913 955583  
**Solid Foundations** (Neath Port Talbot) – Low cost or free activities, sessions and trips for all ages/abilities.

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

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

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

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

#### **South West Wales**

**Carmarthen HE Group** – Regular meetings in Johnstown, Carmarthen. Email: [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.  
Sarah: [birdgirlvintage@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:birdgirlvintage@yahoo.co.uk)

#### **Mid Wales**

**AbersHED (Aberystwyth Special Home Education)** Special needs group in Aberystwyth area. Anna: [annaandrich@googlemail.com](mailto:annaandrich@googlemail.com)  
**Cardiganshire** – Lampeter home-ed group meets one afternoon per week. Social with occasional activities.  
[thislittlelightofmine@phonecoop.coop](mailto:thislittlelightofmine@phonecoop.coop) Mia: 01570421529

**New Leaf HE Group** (Newtown, Powys) – Occasional meetings for varied activities all ages. Email: [Smilerkinners@gmail.com](mailto:Smilerkinners@gmail.com)

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

#### **North Wales**

**Flintshire HE** – Selma 01352 744843 [selmavh@gmail.com](mailto:selmavh@gmail.com)  
**Froncysyllte HE group** (Denbighshire) – Fortnightly group meets 10-4pm. Social play and chat. Email: [vivodsam@gmail.com](mailto:vivodsam@gmail.com)  
**Flintshire Home Education** – Regular meet ups activities & support. Email: [flintshirehomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:flintshirehomeeducation@yahoo.co.uk)  
**Langower HE Group** (Gwynedd) – Weekly meetings. Email: [rowenna73@hotmail.com](mailto:rowenna73@hotmail.com)  
**PLANT Conwy** – Weekly get together in the village of Conwy for Home edders - all welcome. Email: [lily@ogge.co.uk](mailto:lily@ogge.co.uk)

### **Regional Groups (Wales)**

**Cymru ALN - HE & EOTAS: (Wales, Special interest and SEN)** Wales-wide support group for Home Educators of children & young people with Additional Learning Needs, (SEN).  
Email: [cymrualn@gmail.com](mailto:cymrualn@gmail.com)

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

**Monmouth/Hereford/Gloucester** – for information about group activities contact Roxy: [cdsnhf@googlemail.com](mailto:cdsnhf@googlemail.com) 01989 768128

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

### **CHANNEL ISLANDS**

**Home Education Jersey** – Home education group.  
Jess: [homeeducationjersey@gmail.com](mailto:homeeducationjersey@gmail.com)  
**Guernsey Home Educators** – Group of home educators and those sympathetic to home education in Guernsey.  
Email: [legguernsey@gmail.com](mailto:legguernsey@gmail.com)

### **NORTHERN IRELAND**

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

## SCOTLAND

**Edinburgh & Beyond Home Educators** – <http://www.ebhe.org.uk>  
Large online network of families, wide variety of groups, many different social and educational activities in & around Edinburgh.  
Email: [@ebhe.org.uk](mailto:@ebhe.org.uk)

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

### International (UK based)

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

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## Who does What in EO

### Current Trustees [Council Members]

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

#### Tom Crellin (Treasurer, Secretary)

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

#### Graeme Evans (Membership Secretary)

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

#### Denise Kennell

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

#### Fe Mukwamba-Sendall (Chair)

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

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

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

### Membership

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

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

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

**2 Senlac Green, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1NN**

Address for general correspondence by letter:

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

**2 Senlac Green, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1NN**

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

**Webmaster:** Tom & Denise

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

## Other Useful Contacts

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

### Benefits & Work Guides:

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

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

### GCSE/Exams email list:

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

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

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

**EO Amazon Store:** VACANT

**Concessions Co-ordinator:** Cornelia Theunissen  
[c.theunissen@educationotherwise.org](mailto:c.theunissen@educationotherwise.org)

**Dyslexia Contact:** Iris Harrison  
[irisharrison6@aol.com](mailto:irisharrison6@aol.com)

**EO Stalls:** Habiba Willow  
<[habibawillow108@gmail.com](mailto:habibawillow108@gmail.com)>

**Flexi-schooling:** VACANT

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

**Local Group Insurance:** Anne Rix 01760 441810  
[lgic@educationotherwise.org](mailto:lgic@educationotherwise.org)

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

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

**School Anxiety Support:** VACANT

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

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

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

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

# 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): .....

Postcode: .....

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 as soon as possible to: **EO SUMs**, 2 Senlac Green, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1NN

*\* If known – N.B. Membership number is shown next to your name on NL address slip*

# education otherwise

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

Our principal aims are to:

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

Education Otherwise Association Ltd.

**2 Senlac Green, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1NN**

Helpline 0845 4786 345

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

Education Otherwise Association Ltd., Registered Charity No. 1055120

A company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales No. 01917107

Registered Office Address: 2 Senlac Green, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1NN

